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**Mine Dublin Group Report on Montenegro
October 2014**

The second MDG meeting this year was held on 20 October in the premises of the Hungarian Embassy in Podgorica.

Representatives of the following countries and organizations took part in the meeting: *EU Delegation to Montenegro, Austria, Greece, Italy, France, Romania, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and Hungary.*

The Head of Counter Drug Division of the Montenegro Police Directorate and his deputy gave an overview regarding the drug offences in Montenegro, newest developments and best practices in this field as well as final statistical data on seizures of drugs.

Marijuana (Skunk)

Smuggling and consumption of modified marijuana (Skunk) still dominate the drug related offences in Montenegro. **Country of origin of this substance is Albania** (with a production capacity of 900 tons/year) from where organized crime groups (OCGs) distribute the modified marijuana – also via **Montenegro, which is the first transit country on the route going through Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia.** Different Montenegrin OCGs were involved in the smuggling of “Skunk” in the past as well as currently. For 3 years this smuggle has been organized by Albanian OCGs, who recruit couriers from Greece, Belgium and Italy for the transport of “Skunk” to Western European countries along the so called “Southern path”. The aforementioned path leads from Albania via Montenegro to Croatia, and from there to the countries of the European Union. In the past the so called “Northern path” (the Green Border from Albania to Montenegro and from there also via Green Border to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia) was used more frequently, but since the couriers from GR, BE and IT are not familiar with the topographic situation in Montenegro, they prefer using the official border-crossing-points, namely Subokin, Vracenovici and Debeli Brijeg.

In 2014 the trend of smuggling Skunk has continued. Many OCGs prefer the trafficking of this type of drugs because it has a high profit rate and is relatively easy to smuggle. The Albanian – Montenegrin green and blue borders provide a relatively easy path to the local OCGs to transport higher amounts of marijuana through them.

In the first three quarters of 2014, 725 kgs of marijuana were seized on the territory of Montenegro, which is similar to the corresponding period of 2013. These drugs are typically trafficked in packages of 20-100 kgs.

In order to tackle the problem, Montenegrin authorities together with Serbian, Croatian and counterparts and the SELEC centre from Bucharest carry out operations targeting regional criminal groups (op. “Virus”, “Šetač 2”). According to the police authorities, marijuana from Albania remains a crucial problem in Montenegro.

Heroin

Heroin is not smuggled in large quantities in Montenegro. **In the first three quarters of 2014 1.2 kgs of heroin were seized**, but these are usually split up into relative small packages. The smuggling route leads **from Kosovo and Albania via Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to Serbia and Croatia**, but Montenegro cannot be considered as one of the main transit countries in the region. Consumption in Montenegro is still a major concern, there are 2.500 – 3.500 addicts in the country. In this field, Montenegrin criminal groups are connected to Kosovar, Serbian and Bosnian groups. Typical phenomenon is that heroin arrive from Turkey to Kosovo, where it is stored in large quantities and distributed further in small amounts. In 2014 the Montenegrin police carried out **operation “Kvart”** during which has been active of smuggling and distribution of drugs on the territory of Montenegro. 10 persons were taken into custody and 560 grams of heroin were seized.

Cocaine

Montenegrin authorities are regularly encouraged to show up results on the fight against cocaine smuggling, especially by EU partners. Police authorities claim that cocaine is not significantly distributed in or through the country. **Montenegrin crews of international vessels** are involved in the business, but their destinations are mainly bigger European ports (e.g.: Rotterdam). They typically hide the cocaine on the vessel and throw it in the sea near the seacoast. Montenegrin authorities have cooperated with EU countries on this case, Dutch police was mentioned in particular. On the other hand huge cocaine smuggling related money arrives in the country that is carefully monitored by the police. Concerning this phenomenon, the Montenegrin authorities would like to exploit more the legal possibility to charge somebody for crimes committed abroad.

Montenegro takes active role in the EUROPOL project called “Mozzarella”, which aims to fight against the smuggling of cocaine from South America by nationals of the former Yugoslavia. The last meeting of the members of the project was held **on 4 June 2014**, where the contribution and information provided by Montenegrin police authorities was positively evaluated. On the same day **227 kgs of cocaine were seized in the port of Bar**, which is the biggest seizure in the region so far this year. The Montenegrin police underlined that this was only the 5th case during the last 10 years in the port of Bar, and no trends of regular cocaine smuggling through this port can be observed.

Nevertheless, in accordance with the Action Plan on the accession chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security), the Montenegrin police together with customs and border police authorities will strengthen the inspection of shipments (focusing on containers) in the port of Bar.

Synthetic drugs

Smuggling of synthetic drugs is not characteristic in Montenegro, very insignificant amounts are found. In summer, during the tourist season foreign tourists bring some of these drugs with themselves. In 2014 530 grams of synthetic drugs were seized, which is – in spite of its small amount – a high increase related to the past years.

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF SEIZED DRUGS

(2012 – 2013 - Jan-Oct 2014)

TYPE	2012	2013	Jan-Oct 2014
-MARIJUANA	1 022 347,60gr	1 338380,84 gr	724483,56 gr
-HEROIN	8 045,63 gr	7175,77gr	7175,77 gr
-COCAINE	408,53gr	80,98 gr	227889,95 gr
-SYNTHETIC DRUGS	30,50 gr	142,64 gr	529,83 gr
-SUBOXON KOMADA		387 pcs	300 pcs
- HASHIS	6,80 gr	1,00 gr	n/a
TOTAL	1 030 839,06 gr	1 345782,03 gr (928 277 gr at borders)	960 079,11 gr

Major anti-drugs operations in 2014

In 2014 work has intensified with international partners in terms of exchanging information, common investigative activities and joint actions. 35 different operative meetings have taken place with partners from NL, UK, HR, BiH, ALB, SI, BE, DE, AUS, RSA, EUROPOL, DEA and SELEC Centre in Bucharest.

- In 2014 the biggest police operation was operation “Kvart” during which 10 persons were taken into custody, 560 grs of heroin, 2 kgs of marijuana and 300 pieces of Suboxon tablets were seized.

- A major inspection resulted in the seizure of 227 kgs of cocaine in the port of Bar.

In 2014 so far a total of 121 cases were made related to smuggling of drugs, which involved 154 persons.

MINI-DUBLIN GROUP MEETING
PRISTINA, KOSOVO
OCTOBER 2014

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held in the premises of the European Union Office in Kosovo, Pristina on 15 October 2014 from 11:30 to 12:30 hours.

Participants: *HU (Chair), AT, BG, FR, GR, HR, LUX, NL, NO, SE, SK, SWI, Kosovo Police (further on referred to as: KP), EULEX, EU Office in Kosovo.*

1. General situation in Kosovo

1.1. Domestic production of drugs

KP informed the delegations that currently there is no information about cannabis being planted in the territory of Kosovo. Cannabis had been planted in the past because of its use in textile manufactory. However, this practice was abandoned and KP knows these locations exactly.

In general, Kosovo is not suitable for cannabis planting due to inappropriate climate, small country territory and increasing population.

There is still no information on whether synthetic drugs are produced in Kosovo.

1.2. Drug-related statistics

Confiscation data

Year	Heroin (g)	Marijuana (g)	Hashash (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
Total	489kg 143.4g	2247kg 047g	2kg 084.1g	35kg 179.86g	157726	3275	73kg 609.75g

a) Suspects and cases 2004-2013

	Cases	Suspects	Albanians	Serbs	Other	Male	Female	Age	Possession	Number
2004	213	260	209	40	11	250	10	52	142	19
2005	232	354	340	6	8	342	12	71	145	16
2006	284	511	479	18	14	495	16	93	173	18
2007	306	538	513	20	5	516	22	84	187	35
2008	203	336	321	9	6	323	13	76	104	23
2009	272	414	393	5	16	391	23	90	147	35
2010	313	463	419	22	22	448	15	125	146	42
2011	407	547	507	13	27	529	18	143	234	53
2012	527	818	744	19	55	793	25	153	348	59
2013	513	756	694	6	56	731	25	119	428	31
Tot.	3270	4997	4619	158	220	4818	179	1006	2054	331

According to the information provided by KP, 15 groups were detected in 2013 and 17 groups in 2014. In 2013, 84 cases were opened, while in 2014, the number was 112.

b) Age and gender of suspects

No new statistics were presented in this area. The last available statistics are:

Age	Number	%
14-18	116	15
19-21	201	27
22-35	249	46
35-	90	12
2013	Number	%
Male	731	96,7%
Female	25	3,3%

c) Statistics for 2014

2014	Cases	Suspects	Arrested	Detained	Albanians	Serbs	Other	Male	Female	Operations	Criminal groups	Trafficking	Possession	Cultivation
Jan.	57	84	60	10	82	1	1	84	0	24	0	12	56	0
Feb.	59	72	67	14	66	0	6	70	2	10	0	9	59	0
Már.	52	76	65	32	64	1	11	75	1	16	3	12	48	0
Apr.	44	59	48	24	53	1	5	58	1	41	3	14	44	1
May	51	71	52	30	64	1	6	70	1	48	4	15	50	3
Jun.	40	59	48	33	54	2	3	57	2	37	5	16	33	8
Jul.	51	54	45	25	48	-	6	52	2	50	1	11	45	13
Aug.	73	100	72	27	89	1	10	98	2	73	1	8	62	15
Sep.	56	74	57	26	66	6	2	73	1	54	0	15	45	11
Tot.	483	649	514	221	586	13	50	637	12	353	17	112	442	51

	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Cannabis seeds	Cannabis plants	Ecstasy	Other	Weapons	Money	Vehicles
2014										
Jan.	61.3 g	21kg 551g	11.1g	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Feb.	40.1 g	61kg 653g	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	2
Már.	1kg 37.6 g	128 kg 150.3 g	39.8 g	0	0	0	16.2	2	4310 €	8
Apr.	0	166 kg 894 g	2565	10	4		11	6	684 €	7
May	0	26 kg355.8 g	22	0	9	0	1	0	18550€	3
Jun.	40 g	75 kg 016.7g	18 kg 235 g	0	1184	0	5 kg 955 g 254 L	14	1800 €	5
Jul.	0.43gr	128 kg 578g	16gr	65	3712		20	1	5416.75 €	5
Aug.	164.32 g	56 kg 947.2 g	53.2 g	0	940	3	790	2	300 €	5
Sep.	357 g	7kg 377gr	2	0	269		4300	1	9510 €	3
Total	1kg 700.75 g	672 kg 523 g	20kg 943.1 g	75	6118	3	69.2g	26	40570.75€	42

There is no national database for drug users in Kosovo. According to KP's estimation, 3000-5000 people are using heroin and around 10000 people are using marijuana. In 2013, there were 315 cases, in 2014, 442 cases regarding drug possession.

The users are treated with methadone. There are six institutions where treatment of drug users can be solved.

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

According to KP, there are special inspectors who supervise the use of methadone.

d) Current market prices in Kosovo

According to KP’s information there has been no change in the price of the drugs in recent years.

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)

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

1.3. Trafficking routes

KP confirmed that main source of drugs is still the Afghanistan – Pakistan – Iran triangle. Drugs are being transported to the Balkans either through countries in the region of the Black Sea, or on sea transport around the Arabian Peninsula. Then from the Balkans, the drug is transported to Western European countries (method of dual step).

Kosovo is further regarded as a transit-country, however, significant steps have been made in order to tackle organized crime. Besides this, KP stated that according to results of special police operations, there is no large amount of drug stored in the country. It can be assumed that organized crime groups are only able to smuggle small amounts of drugs into Kosovo.

a) Heroin route

Offer for heroin was significantly reduced due to visa regime, integration process of the region, better infrastructure, intensified border control and operations of law enforcement agencies. The Balkan route cannot be mentioned among main routes of heroin any more.

Routes of heroin to Kosovo according to KP:

- Towards Turkey – Bulgaria – Serbia – Kosovo
- Towards Turkey – Greece – Macedonia – Kosovo
- Towards Turkey – Greece – Albania – Kosovo

Afterwards, the heroin is transported to Montenegro, Serbia and Albania.

b) Cocaine route

N/A

c) Marijuana route

Transport to Kosovo is flowing mainly through the border between Albania and Kosovo into the South and West of Kosovo and then leaving the country in North and East directions towards Montenegro and Serbia. However, due to recent actions taken in the region of Lazarat, Albania, there is a decrease in marijuana supply.

d) Methods of drug smuggling:

According to the cases that KP presented in pictures, the following methods can be mentioned:

- Small amount carried through the green land border on feet;
- Bigger amounts hidden into tyres of bigger vehicles;
- Smaller amounts hidden into batteries of cars;
- Drugs hidden under seats and other plastic parts of a car;
- Drugs hidden into sport bags.
- Drugs hidden in secret rooms of houses.

2. Update on Kosovo's anti-drug strategy

National legislative background

- Kosovo Penal Code
- Kosovo Penal Procedure Code
- Law on narcotic medication and psychotropic substances
- Law for the peace and public order
- Law on Police
- National Strategy fighting Drugs 2012-2017
- Action plane (annual strategy) 2012-2017
- DITN Annual Strategy
- SOP
-

Institutional change

The regional directorate in North-Mitrovica is operational, so there are altogether seven regional directorates now under the Narcotics Investigation Directorate of KP.

Objectives

No changes have been made in this area.

1. Demand Reduction

- Prevention and Education
- Treatment
- Monitoring and research

2. Reduction on Supply and Offer

- Initiation of cases,
- Investigation,
- Operational actions
- Disclosure cases

3. Cooperation and Coordination

- Inter-institutional cooperation
- International cooperation
-

Prevention activities

Among prevention activities, KP carried on paying more attention to schools in 2014. Several lectures were made, where specially trained police staff took part. Besides this, KP informed the participants that they began to use dogs for border controls.

Besides this, the following can be mentioned:

- Trainings to local police officers;
- Patrolling the border line;
- Debates with citizens;
- Awareness campaign;
- Operational plans.

Reacting activities

- Collecting and analyzing information
- Initiation and investigation of cases
- Operational actions
- Discovery and prosecution

Inter-institutional cooperation

- Joint operations with Customs, Border Police and K9
- Joint operations with the KMAP (Kosovo Agency for Medical Products)
- Regular meetings with relevant agencies
- Meetings with NGOs.

3. International Cooperation

- **Cooperation with EULEX**
- **Cooperation with KFOR**
- **Information exchange with police authorities of other states**
- **Trainings, seminars**
- **Conferences**
- **Joint investigations (see further information below)**
- **Study visits were carried out (i. e. in the past few years to Bratislava, Riga, Brussels, Vienna)**

Cases closed in 2011/2012:

1. Case Codename “Kulla” - cooperation with Montenegro authorities;
2. Case Codename “Trekëndeshi” - cooperation with Albanian authorities;
3. Case Codename “Harku” - cooperation with Macedonian authorities;
4. Case Codename “Patkoi” - cooperation with Albanian authorities;
5. Case codename “Pisha” - cooperation with Swiss and Czech authorities and EULEX;
6. Case codename “Vazhdimi- Bavaria” - cooperation with German authorities and EULEX;
7. Case Codename “Era” - cooperation with Albanian authorities;
8. Case codename “Merimanga” - cooperation with German authorities;
9. Case codename “Parajsa” - cooperation with Albanian authorities;
10. Case Codename “Tentativa” - cooperation with Austrian authorities;
11. Case codename “Enigma” - cooperation with Macedonian authorities;
12. Case codename “Sitnica- Merimanga” - cooperation with German authorities and EULEX;

During 2013, the following actions were taken:

- 10 joint investigations
- 7 joint operations
- 10 ST message
- 18 feedbacks

In 2013, two main **joint international projects** were finished.

The “**ELENIKA**” project was carried out in cooperation with ALB, BiH, HR, SI and AT. 117 searches were carried out also in IT. As a result, 71 people were arrested, 600 kg of heroin and 500 kg of marijuana were seized. In Kosovo, also three automatic weapons and one machine gun was found.

The so called ‘**Transit**’ case was carried out in cooperation with ALB, IT and SWI authorities. 6 persons were arrested and 127 kg of Marijuana was seized, out of which 25 kg in SWI and 102 kg in Kosovo.

In 2014, the following investigations were carried out.

In the so called ‘Perëndimi’ case, 110 kg of Marijuana was found and 3 people were arrested. The investigations were done in cooperation with the Albanian authorities.

The ‘Ari’ case was carried out in cooperation with DE. 8 kg of Marijuana was found, 1 vehicle was confiscated and 2 persons arrested.

The case ‘Mekaniku’ was carried out in cooperation with AT. As a result, 201,5 kg of Marijuana was seized and 10 persons arrested.

Currently 2 projects are ongoing on the field of Marijuana investigations:

- Case ‘Tony’ – joint investigation with EUROPOL
- Case ‘Ura’ - joint Investigations with MK

The case ‘Villa’ is still in preparation phase; it will be carried out with DE.

Among Cocaine cases, the following cases can be highlighted.

As the result of the so called ‘Colombian’ case, 1 person of Colombian nationality was arrested, due to the fact that he wanted to smuggle 2,5 kg of cocaine into Kosovo in April 2014.

The ‘Cocaine’ case was carried out in cooperation with Albania. 18 kg and 235 g cocaine, furthermore 5 kg and 955g precursors and also 261 liters of acids were found. 4 people were arrested.

4. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Challenges:

- **Political situation (especially in the Northern part of the country)**
- **Impossibility of the membership of Kosovo in regional and international organizations (SECI Centre, EUROPOL, INTERPOL)**
- **The impossibility of Kosovo to contribute in reports of the field of Organized Crime**
- **Controlling of the borders**
- **Illegal phone operators (according to KP, criminal groups often use communication lines of SRB).**

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

KP reported that international cooperation is good. Besides specific cases and joint investigations, there is smooth information exchange with EU member states. The competent body for international cooperation for police matters in Kosovo is ILECU.

Further steps could be achieved on the fields highlighted in point 4, especially on the field of regional cooperation (SRB).

Similar to previous meeting, experts asked KP if there are any synthetic drugs in Kosovo. KP confirmed that there is still no information whether such drugs have arrived to the country.

Pristina, 15 October 2014

**MINI-DUBLIN GROUP MEETING, SKOPJE,
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
OCTOBER 2014**

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held in the premises of the European Union Delegation in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 14th of October 2014 from 13:00 to 14:00 hours. Participants: *HU (Chair), IT EU PRES, SK, CZ, EL, FR, UK, SI, CH, USA, UNODC, OSCE, MARRI, EU Delegation in Skopje*. Altogether 9 Mini Dublin member countries, UNODC, OSCE, MARRI and the Delegation of the European Union accepted our invitation, so in total 24 participants attended the meeting.

Guest speakers from the side of local interlocutors included representatives of local MoH, MoI and Customs Administration. *Ms. Tatjana Petrusevska* Head of Sector for controlled substances, Vice President of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for control of narcotics offered an expert presentation based on a comprehensive account on the current developments, statistics and trends on the field of drug related offences in the host country.

On the margins of the MDG plenary session, a field trip was organised in the morning hours on the same day to the National Forensic Institute, Skopje. The programme included professional presentations and a round-trip inside the institution offered by the director *Prof. Alexei Duma*. A good number of possibilities for further international cooperation were identified during the field trip and information related to the drug situation in the country was exchanged.

1. General situation in the host country

The EU Progress Report of 2014 stated progress regarding cooperation in the field of drugs. In the meantime, a constant underlying hazard stems from the reality that all main Balkan drug trafficking routes intersect the country. As a possible result of stepped up efforts in the form of successful international police and customs operations to interrupt international drug trafficking channels, drug, notably heroin seizures have decreased in the past period. However, participants at the MDG meeting could not confirm recent reports about a shift of heroin transit routes taking place in the direction of a TRK-BG-RO axis, eventually bypassing the host country.

It should be noted that the political developments in Skopje were dominated by the political changes due to the presidential and parliamentary elections, which took place in the first half of the year. Despite these political developments significant and concrete progress could be registered in the field of drug policy since the last meeting of the Mini-Dublin group in October 2013.

Highlights in the period since the last MDG meeting (November 2013): see ANNEX 1.

1. EU Progress Report

As regards **cooperation in the field of drugs**, the new National Strategy on Drugs 2014-2020 and the Action Plan 2014-2017 were adopted in May 2014. A good cooperation continued between the national focal point and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) including participating in different trainings. Successful joint cooperation between the National Police and Customs Administration on drugs seizures have continued. The Illicit Drugs Department in the Ministry of Interior was reinforced by two new employees. Staffing was also increased at the local level.

In the area of **police cooperation and the fight against organized crime**, regional and international law enforcement cooperation through EUROPOL and INTERPOL continued in the reporting period. Some 225 international arrest warrants were issued in 2013. The SIENA connection for secure exchange of sensitive and operational data with EUROPOL became operational. A liaison officer has been assigned to EUROPOL.

Amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs introduced a merit-based career system for the police, based on job competencies. A strategy on human resources management and a merit-based recruitment policy were adopted. The Public Security Bureau at the Ministry of Interior was reorganized to strengthen capacities, improve police performance and to implement European standards.

New standard operating procedures and guidelines were issued in order to improve the standard of investigations carried out at regional, local and central level and also to ensure more effective and efficient sharing of information. New procedures for the submission of requests for special investigative measures were issued. In the framework of the new Law on Criminal Procedure, which started from the end of 2013, training of police and public prosecutors has continued. A Protocol for cooperation in criminal procedures was signed between the Ministry of Interior, the Public Prosecutor and the local Customs Administration.

In 2013, the Department for the Fight against Organized Crime submitted 85 criminal charges against 603 persons specialized Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for the Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption. Staffing of the Department continued to improve. A number of successful operations were carried out against organized crime groups involved in drug smuggling, extortion, smuggling of migrants, facilitating abuse of the visa-free regime, falsification of passports and money laundering. Four operations succeeded in cutting off international marijuana trafficking routes.

There were positive developments in the area of **customs cooperation**. The customs administration took part in four international operations and two separate projects to detect illicit trade in counterfeit goods, drugs, explosives and high-risk chemicals. Cooperation and exchange of intelligence with the customs authorities of neighbouring countries and wider region intensified in the reporting period.

2. Drug supply reduction

2.1.Domestic production of drugs

The representatives of the Interministerial Commission for Narcotics and Drugs (IMCND) highlighted the already known fact that self-cultivated marijuana is the major illegal source of production of drugs, mainly for consumption within the country.

Licit poppy straw and poppy straw concentrates for medical purposes are continuously produced in the central and Eastern parts of the country in an area of approximately 1000 hectares, which itself is not enough for the needs of domestic pharmaceutical manufacturer, with GMP (Good Manufacturing Production) from primary type – extraction of alkaloids. Additional necessary quantities are imported predominantly from Spain or Australia. All activities are strictly controlled by the MoH and reported to INCB in Vienna on a quarterly and annually basis. 24 companies/institutions dealing with the import, export or transit of drugs and/or precursors have been registered in the country.

2.2. Drug-related statistics

- e) Data for seizures for 2014 presented on 6 month basis reported by the Police and Customs Administration – (2013 data)

In the first six months of 2014 MOI and Customs Administration seized **100 kg 197 g of marijuana** (923kg 480g), **11 kg 535 grams of heroin** (13kg 833g), **274 g of cocaine** (15,35g and 150 ml cocaine liquid), **96 tbl methamphetamine** (3tbl and 7,1g), **36g 1 kg of amphetamine** (63tbl and 933,6gr), **151 tbl ecstasy** (142 tbl), 66 pieces of LSD (-).

In the analyzed period, measures of prosecution by the Ministry of Interior were taken against 156 offenders, of whom 153 are host country nationals and three of them are foreigners: two nationals from the Republic of Bulgaria and one from Albania. Seized drugs were inside the country and only in three cases took the drug seizure place at border crossings. The largest quantities of drugs seized by the Interior Ministry were hidden inside a passenger vehicle. The drugs in most cases are seized during personal searches on offenders and drug users who usually keep the drug hidden in their clothes or belongings.

In the reporting period, measures of prosecution by the Customs Administration were taken against 13 perpetrators, of which 6 were local nationals and seven foreigners: two citizens of BiH and five of Albania.

In terms of location, seizure of drugs at border crossings showed the following pattern: 5 cases at Tabanovce (border with SRB), 1 seizure at Bogorodica (border with GR), 1-1 at Deve Bair (BG) and Blace (KOS). 5 cases were registered at entry and 3 at exit crossing points.

f) Confiscation data - All Law Enforcement

See ANNEX 2.

g) Data on prices

See ANNEX 2.

2.3. Trafficking routes

The Ministry of Interior identified the seized drugs as coming from the Afghanistan – Pakistan – Iran region. Heroin routes with a final destination in Belgium and the Netherlands intersect the country and thus affect also affect the local drug situation.

- e) Heroin route:* seizures in the covered period have been reported in connection with land routes originating from Greece (at the border crossing point of Sv. Bogorodica).
- f) Cocaine route:* seizures in the covered period have been reported in connection with the air and land routes.
- g) Marijuana route:* transport to the host country is moving mainly through Albania into the Western border region and then leaving the country northward, towards Serbia (via the border crossing point in Tabanovce).

3. Drug Demand Reduction

3.1. HIV/AIDS

The number of infected people with HIV / AIDS increased to 31 this year. The rise alerted epidemiologists that in a time frame of 8 months in 2014 the registered cases compared to 2013 rose by 27 cases. While in the past most of those infected were concentrated in Skopje and Tetovo, according to the Institute for Public Health and the new cases are registered in the Eastern part of the host country. According to epidemiologists these numbers are alarming and the mode of transmission of the disease also raise concerns. The transmission is MSM (among men): one intravenous drug user has also been identified.

3.2. Number of patients (problematic drug users) in the host country

A comprehensive network, diverse models of treatment intervention exists in the host country. The total number of OST patients in 2013 in all treatment facilities was **1857** (1356 are in public, 141 in private, 360 in prison settings) 10% are on Buprenorphine and 90% are on Methadone. 52% are in the age group of 20-34. The ratio of male to female heroin clients is 9:1. 162 are female (9 %). 107 (66%) persons are under treatment in the age group 20-34. The average number of OST patients is 0.1% of the total population in each of the 10 cities analyzed. The median age of first heroin use is 18 years. 40% of the patients have not passed high school and can be considered as school drop-outs. 65% of OST patients reside with their family; 487 patients (36%) have children. 80% of the patients use benzodiazepines.

3.3. Drug Related Deaths

According to surveys conducted by National Focal Point, Sector for Controlled Substances, Ministry of Health and the Institute for Forensic Medicine during the period of 2002 - 2013, 165 positive narcotic samples were identified from forensic toxicological investigations in the host country.

BZD (dominantly diazepam) was implicated either as a single substance or combined with another drug (Methadone) in 40 deaths. A substantial increase of 35% in BZD related deaths (14 cases) was registered in the year 2013, compared with only 4 cases in 2011 (producing a steep rise of 25%).

4. Co-ordination

As the Mini – Dublin Group has indicated in its first report this year, diverse models of multi-sectoral cooperation exist in the host country with the aim of working on improving activities in the domain of justice, freedom and security (also involving health and reducing inequalities, increasing security and combating money laundering etc).

The main coordination body covering all aspects connected with narcotic issues is the **Governmental Commission - National** Commission for Fight Against Illegal Production, Trafficking and Use of Drugs, coordinated by the MoH. This body includes representatives of 10 line ministries (i.e. justice, internal affairs, health, local self-government, environment, foreign affairs, education and science, labor and social policy, agriculture, forestry and water economy, finance, the customs administration and agency for youth and sport). Roles and responsibilities of the IMCND are in particular:

- *coordination, planning and monitoring of the implementation of programs in the area of prevention, treatment and suppression of drugs abuse at the local level;*
- *elaboration of the implementation of the National Drug Strategy and Action Plan;*
- *international cooperation.*

In general, working documents for the Commission are prepared by the sector for controlled substances in the Ministry of Health, where one of the departments is the National Drug Observatory Centre – *National Focal Point (NFP)* – for monitoring of drugs and drug addiction.

This being a collaborative body of EMCDDA. NFP unites data from all existing databases and registers, among them the Institute for Public Health, Centres for Public Health (10), the Clinic for Infectious Diseases, the Clinic for Toxicology, the Clinic for Nephrology, the Psychiatric Hospital in Skopje, the Institute for Forensic Medicine and its sub-branches (4), Treatment services for injection drug users, i.e. IDU's (20), NGOs active in the field of vulnerable population (14) and the Ministries of Education, Labor and Social Policy. Research is carried out for 5 epidemiological indicators: (1) the prevalence of drug use among the general population; (2) problematic drug users; (3) treatment; (4) drug related death; (5) drug related infectious diseases,. The main target group is the vulnerable "risk group" population, notably IDU's, people with HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis. NFP is also receiving and elaborating data for supply indicators.

5. International Cooperation

Key findings:

- the host country's National Police has established a good level of cooperation with other national police directorates in neighbouring countries (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece);
- 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, SEPCA, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, DCAF, UNODC;
- cooperation with these above mentioned 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;
- this type of data has by now proven to be able to identify "hot spots" and linked "series of crimes" supplying information that helps identify preventive measures; evidence linking offenders to crimes;
- 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).

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

- Starting in September 2012 – for the first time ever - Ministries of Justice and Interior of the host country participated together with Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, EUROPOL and EUROJUST in a “Joint Investigation Team” (JIT) focused on disruption of organized crime networks trafficking heroin to Western Europe;
- Starting from December 2007 and ongoing excellent cooperation has been established with EMCDDA and National Focal Point, Ministry of Health.

6. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Challenges:

Integration into the European Union is crucial for all aspects concerning the field justice and home affairs. All in all, the below areas prevail as target areas for external assistance:

- **continuation of the cooperation with EMCDDA;**
- **capacity building (especially in the area of control of “new drugs”);**

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

The attending Italian Liaison Officer informed the representatives on Italian institutions’ regional and local efforts aimed at combating drugs effectively. Representative of UNODC referred to projects carried out by the United Nations and also highlighted the major findings of “*The Illicit Drug Trade Through South-Eastern Europe*” recently published comprehensive report. The EU Delegation indicated that Brussels is fully aligned to the concept of assisting the country. In essence, the problems identified were mainly related to the transit role of the country in the region, the emergence of new types of drugs and the abuse of illicit drugs among juveniles.

Recommendations:

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

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

Support for increasing awareness and level of information among general population against psychoactive substances – narcotics.

No other specific assistance needs were identified since the last mid-term review meeting held in March 2014 presented by the Embassy of Hungary in Skopje.

Skopje, 14 October 2014

Highlights in the period since the last MDG meeting (October 2013):

- *EU Progress Report for MKD 2014 made positive remarks for Chapter 24 (Justice Freedom and Security), also referring to the cooperation in the field of drugs;*
- *number of infected HIV / AIDS increased to 31 this year. Epidemiologists alerted that in the first 8 months of 2014 an increase has been registered that is 27 cases more than in 2013;*
- *new psychoactive substances¹ were detected: - Anadenanthera peregrina, also known as Yopo beans. It is a hallucinogen that setms from the [Anadenanthera](#) genus native to the [Caribbean](#) and [South American](#) ecosystem. The second detected psychoactive substance is AB-FUBINACA - [synthetic cannabis](#);*
- *the preparation of amendments to the law on drugs and psychotropic substances is in process, with a special accent on the new psychoactive substances (“legal highs”). Modifications will be in line with the proposal for Directive of the EU Parliament and the EU Council;*
- *the New National Drug Strategy for the period of 2014-2020 and Action Plan 2014-2020, prepared by the Sector for Controlled Substances in the Ministry of Health (MoH), were adopted by the Government on its 209th session, held in May 2014;*
- *the National Report on drugs is being issued, completely in line with EU standards, offering a comprehensive situation overview (on 90 pages) concerning 5 epidemiological indicators as well as supply reduction indicators, prepared by NFP and submitted to EMCDDA. It will be promoted and available on the web page of EMCDDA www.emcdda.europa.eu from the beginning of December, as part of a finalization of a related IPA Project.*

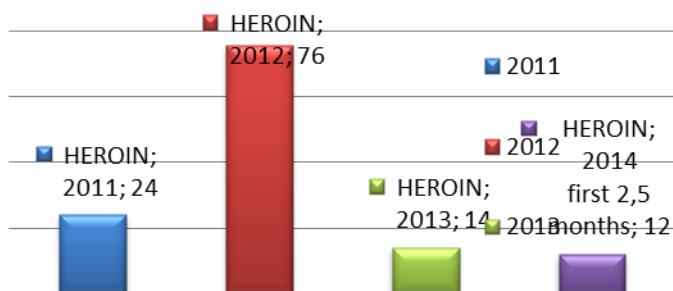
¹ New psychoactive substance': A new narcotic or psychotropic drug, in pure form or in preparation, that is not controlled by the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat comparable to that posed by substances listed in these conventions. Council Decision 2005/387/JHA of 10 May 2005 on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances [Official Journal L 127, 20.5.2005].

ANNEX 2

h) Confiscation data - All Law Enforcement

i)

Table 1. Trend in seizures of Heroin within 2011-2014 (first 2,5 months)



Source: NFP evaluated data received from MoI and Custom Administration

j) Data on prices

k)

Table 32 Price of narcotics

HEROIN		MARIJUANA					COCAINE	ECSTASY	Buprenorphine	Amphetamine
1 gram	0,25 gram	100 gram	3 gram	Joint 1	Joint 2	Couple matches	1 grams	1 tbl		1g
11-15 EUR	300-500 den	4000 den	500 den	150 den	250 den	100-200 den	50 EUR	300-500 den	1tbl x 2mg 200-300den 1tbl x 8mg 500 den	800-1000 den

Source: NFP evaluated data received from MoI

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
COUNTRY REPORT BY THE MINI-DUBLIN GROUP SARAJEVO
OCTOBER 2014

Following written consultations, the Mini-Dublin Group Sarajevo finalized the attached Country Report with the aim to evaluate the progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina in fight against drugs and drug trafficking since the finalization of the group's last report in March 2014. The consultations were coordinated by the Embassy of Hungary. The drafting of the report and the compilation of relevant information was kindly supported by the EU Delegation/EUSR Office and the Member States.

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

In general, the situation remains unchanged to the previous reporting period. The Ministry of Security has produced the 2014 National Report to the EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drug Addiction) containing the 2013 data which supports this statement.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is part of the drug trafficking 'Balkan Route' which connects drug production centres in Asia and the markets in Western Europe. The country is still primarily a transit country. Drug trafficking has the biggest share in drug related offenses in BiH, mainly because of high profit margins. BiH citizens are mostly involved in the trafficking and storage of drugs. The domestic market for and production of drugs is still small. The only drug produced in BiH is cannabis. Organised criminal groups cooperate with each other within BiH and in the region as well. Persons from all ethnic groups and constituent peoples are involved in the narcotics trade, often collaborating across ethnic lines.

Heroin and herbal cannabis are still the most common illicit drugs in BiH, in terms of their smuggling and in terms of their use, while other illicit drugs are distributed to a lesser extent.

Herbal cannabis available on BiH market originates in Albania and is smuggled by organised criminal groups through Montenegro into BiH and onward to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. A small proportion of herbal cannabis is produced in the country. Heroin is transported to BiH mainly from Albania and Turkey, while synthetic drugs, especially ecstasy, usually come from Western Europe. The EU accession of Croatia has not had an impact on current drug routes in the reporting period, the developments will be monitored closely.

In 2013 the number of criminal offences related to the drugs abuse increased. The number of criminal reports on trafficking and possession of drugs decreased to 1480, compared to 1629 in 2012. The number of confirmed indictments decreased from 1184 in 2012 to 1039 in 2013 and number of convictions decreased from 1072 to 1050. Criminal offences are predominately linked to possession and enabling the use of drugs, but there has also been a significant effort to detect organised crime networks relating to the illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

The Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina keeps a registry of people who have been sentenced for criminal offences related to narcotic drugs. In 2012 some 407 people were sentenced for such offences. In 2013, 316 people were sentenced for criminal offences related to narcotic drugs, majority of them (88%) were young adults in age from 18 to 39.

Street prices have not changed compared to the previous reporting period, cannabis costs € 3-7.5; 1 gram of heroin costs € 20-30, 1 gram of amphetamine powder costs € 10-25.

1)Legal framework - administrative capacity

Individual law enforcement agencies are showing improved capability to identify and disrupt organized drug trafficking operations. 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 this regard. However, continued political and administrative support to ensure its full operational capacity is vital. This would include an increased financial support for the Directorate.

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

The Commission for Suppression of Abuse of Narcotics has not been convened in the reporting period – altogether in 2 years – partly due to the members' unavailability, lack of formal appointment by the CoM and lack of political will. To circumvent such obstacles, the new draft Law on Prevention and Suppression of Abuse of Narcotics will enable the appointment of deputy members to facilitate the convention of the Commission. In order to substitute the absence of Commission, in certain aspects, the national focal point for the EMCDDA has been working within the Ministry of Security in a provisional status. Also, the draft guidelines for the treatment of drug addicts have not been put into practice.

The Rulebook on the destruction of seized narcotics was adopted in 2012 and is now in use. Certain deficiencies in the provisions were noted, and the changes will be proposed. Furthermore a change in the composition of the Commission for the destruction of seized narcotics which supervises the destruction of narcotics is expected to increase organisational efficiency. The Commission for the Destruction of Seized Narcotics was reappointed however, due to link of the membership in the commission with appointing positions the new Chairman, the deputy minister of Justice is to be appointed after the elections.

As a result of successful operations by law enforcement agencies, 31000 liters of chemical precursors were confiscated and destroyed. A large quantity of drugs seized by order of different courts throughout BiH is awaiting destruction.

In the reporting period, the new Law on Prevention and Suppression of Narcotic Drugs has not been passed. The Working Group held last meeting in November 2013, however, due to differing stances between Ministry of Security and RS Ministry of Interior the work was suspended. The agreement on the creation of the structure that should act as a focal point for cooperation with EMCDDA has not yet been reached, although Ministry of Security and RS MoI reconciled their disputes.

The mandate of the Working Group for drafting of the law expired in December 2013 and was not extended yet by the Council of Ministers. The majority of the text of the law was drafted and it is aligned with the EU *Aquis*. The election year is likely to cause further delays in the debate and adoption of the Law.

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

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

a)Legislation

Currently the following legislation is in place:

- Law on Medicines
- Law on Production and Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs FBiH and RS(certain parts that are still in force)
- Law on Health Protection FBiH and RS
- Law for File Records in Health
- Law on Prevention and Suppression of Abuse of Narcotic Drugs
- Criminal Code BiH article 195, Criminal Code FBiH, article 238, Criminal Code RS, article 224 and 225, Criminal Code Brcko District, article 232

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.

As already outlined, the new Law on Prevention and Suppression of Abuse of Narcotics has not been adopted in the reporting period – altogether for 2,5 years – it is awaiting to be adopted.

b) 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 organizations are engaged as well, both directly and indirectly.

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 and it is the national contact for Interpol and Europol. The system on exchange of information between police and prosecutors' offices is not yet fully implemented.

Since the adoption of the Law on the Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs, 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 phenomenon, of collecting and processing data required for preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking and the criminal offences related to the abuse of narcotics.

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

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

Participating in an early warning system regarding trends on the drug market and working with TAIEX to increase the credibility of Ministry of Civil Affairs' recommendations continue to be goals on the long term.

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

The national strategy on supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs in BiH for the period 2009-2013 has been concluded. The new Strategy needs to be drafted. The decision on appointment of the members of the Working Group has been pending appointment before Council of Ministers. IPA Strengthening of Law Enforcement Projects produced an analyses of implementation of current Strategy. UNODC shall provide assistance in drafting of the new Strategy as well. The strategy should take into consideration main commitments from the EU-Western Balkans Action Plan on Drugs (2009-2013).

Drug prevention is part of the curriculum in schools. In RS it takes place in the 7th grade whereas in FBiH it takes place in the 9th grade. However, it is not standardised and it depends entirely on the teachers' approach to this subject matter. The Department for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs at the Security Ministry has been participating in the UNODC programme that launches drug prevention projects in the region. In January a pilot project will be launched in 5-5 schools of the RS and FBiH. Currently, there is no helpline for children or teachers to turn to in case of drug abuse or suspected drug abuse.

Data collection of drug-related deaths has not yet been implemented in BiH. There are two main problems: the lack of uniform procedures for autopsy and toxicological analysis in (suspected) drug-related death cases and a lack of equipment in forensic toxicology laboratories to analyse biological material taken from cadavers.

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

III. 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 economy. A number of large-scaled operations were nevertheless successfully conducted, thanks to the cooperation amongst different law enforcement agencies. Implementation of the strategy for the fight against organized crime continued. However, lack of adequate resources limits its effectiveness. Legal and institutional obstacles to more systematic use started to be addressed. The Council of Ministers adopted a decision allowing the establishment of a network of police liaison officers in neighbouring countries, with Europol and in some EU countries.

The aim of this network is to improve international cooperation and exchanges of information on fighting transnational organized crime.

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

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

Furthermore there are several regional police cooperation centres for cooperation with Croatia. Despite geographic proximity Montenegro currently cannot join this cooperation for financial reasons.

International cooperation

The Ministry of Security has an excellent cooperation with the EMCDDA, together with the provisional focal point the 2014 National Report to the EMCDDA was produced in October 2014. Ministry of Security also fosters a great cooperation with the UNODC. The Department for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs at the Security Ministry has been participating in a UNODC project that launches drug prevention projects in the region. BiH regularly reports to ICNB.

The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina finally approved the application of Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the Pompidou Group. The celebration of the accession will take place in Strasbourg on 19th November 2014, attended by the Deputy Minister of Security of BiH and the Ministers of Interior of the entities.

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.

Council of Ministers approved a decision establishing a negotiation team for conclusion for an operational agreement with EUROPOL.

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

Under the instrument for preaccession (IPA) the EU has prepared a large project in support of the area of law enforcement, including institutional support to the Office for narcotics, which started in May 2012 and was accomplished in September 2014. Twinning assistance strengthened 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, at strategic and operational level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. A 5-days study visit to the Italian Central Directorate for Anti-drug Services was conducted in 2012.

France organized a week-long training in Bratunac for drug dogs at the end of October 2014. In November 2014, the French Gendarmerie will send a drug prevention expert to Sarajevo for one week, and in cooperation with the police of the Sarajevo's canton. The presentation will be done by the gendarme and the policemen together in the frame of Community Policing. The target will be students of the international and Bosnian schools.

Furthermore, the Pole of Belgrade (a strategic and inter-ministerial French diplomatic group) has published a report on the different cannabis routes in the Balkans. Cannabis from the Balkans (ie. Albania) is very well appreciated in Western Europe and in concurrency with Moroccan cannabis.

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 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 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 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 U.S. embassy also provides other forms of justice and law enforcement training in BiH.

Italy continued to offer during 2013, several trainings in the field of special investigation techniques and fight of drug trafficking on the web with the support of Central Directorate for Antidrug Services. Moreover, Italian and Europol antidrug experts, in the framework of the EU project EMPACT Western Balkans, organized a specific workshop with SIPA aimed at exchanging best practices in relation to antidrug investigations.

IV. Prioritized 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.

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 prompt implementation of the BiH Strategy and Action Plan for drug control, suppression and prevention, including the establishment and operation of focal point for 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 remains weak. A coordination mechanism has been set up between police directors, the chief prosecutor and the Ministry of Security, however, that mechanism needs to be further strengthened. Results of police operations have not been adequately converted into successful prosecutions and convictions. The need for full implementation of the National Intelligence Model, to oblige bodies to share information and intelligence would go a long way to solving the communication and cooperation issues.

The recent years have seen a continued trend of especially the Republika Srpska 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.

Sarajevo, 17 October 2014

ALBANIA
**REPORT BY THE TIRANA MINI-DUBLIN GROUP FOR THE YEAR 2014 (JANUARY-
SEPTEMBER)**

1. General situation in the country

- In 2014 drug crimes remained a serious problem for Albania. The country continued to be both a country of origin (for cannabis and its derivatives) and a transit route (for hard drugs). Cannabis in the vicinity of Lazarat had been cultivated at large scale until the summer of 2014 when massive and successful police operations were conducted to eliminate these activities.
- 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 of engaging in intensive efforts to strike the organized crime and the 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. The government adopted in 2013 a new Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime which is under implementation. In 2014, an Action Plan on the prevention and suppression of the criminal activity of cultivation of narcotic plants was also approved.
- Continuing the trend of 2013, Albania has been achieving tangible results against illegal drugs in 2014. Both the volume of drug seizures and arrests remained high. The quantity of marijuana seized in 2014 exceeded the total quantity seized during the last 9 years (94 tons). Cannabis seeds seized in 2014 made up a total of 530 thousands, thus exceeding the total quantity seized the last 6 years.
- In 2014, the government has continued the restructuring of the police. The modernization of police equipment also continued. Training and equipment of the Albanian Border Police has further improved and had a positive impact on a more effective control of borders 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 has continued to run several drug prevention 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 has continued, having a great impact on pupils, teachers, parents, media and police officers. The project was presented to all 188 public elementary schools reaching over 26 400 6th graders.

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, taking up their duties in September 2013, adopted in 2013 a new Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime. The government announced 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.

In March 2013, an Action Plan for Prevention and Fight against Cultivation of Narcotic Plants was approved by the Minister of the Interior and was started to be implemented. Under the new government, a new Program on 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 counterparts, 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.

In 2014, an Action Plan on the prevention and suppression of the criminal activity of cultivation of narcotic plants was approved.

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, 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.

Fight against narcotic plants cultivation

Monitoring the terrain from the air has continued to be the most important measure to identify areas of cannabis cultivation. Flights were conducted by the Italian Guardia di Finanza. According to the Albanian police, by September 2014, 89 percent of the country’s territory was searched. This year 39 flights were conducted thanks to which a total of 798 plots with cannabis cultivation was identified.

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, during 2014 the production and trafficking of marijuana has been the number one problem. Cannabis had been cultivated at various parts of the country, mostly in remote, hidden places. In the vicinity of the Southern Albanian village of Lazarat, however, cannabis had been cultivated at large scale on public and private properties throughout the whole territory of the village. The yearly production of marijuana in Lazarat had been estimated up to 800 metric tons (the total quantity of seized marijuana in 2013 was 20,7 tons). A few thousand local people had been working on the plantations and had been involved in harvesting and processing the cannabis. Market-ready marijuana had been trafficked to the Western European countries via the neighboring countries (mainly Greece and Italy but also Kosovo, FYROM and Montenegro).

In 2014, a series of exchange of mutual accusations of the political powers about alleged involvement of recent and former government officials in organized drug trafficking took place, 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 drug shipments of hard drugs were most probably supposed to be sent to Western European countries via Albanian middlemen.

Statistical tables on offenses and suspects prosecuted, as well as seized quantities of drugs for the year 2014 (January-September): (source: Albanian government)

Type	No. of cases	Detected	Quantity	Perpetrators	Arrested/detained	On bail	Wanted
Heroin	56	55	53 kg 878.8 gr	80	67	9	4
Extasy	1	1		1	1		
Cocaine	37	35	10 kg 013.6 gr	46	43	3	0
Marijuana	903	808	93 861 kg 339 gr	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	
Total	1008	906		1203	714	372	117

Statistical tables on offenses and suspects prosecuted, as well as seized quantities of drugs for the year 2013: (source: Albanian government)

Type	No. of cases	Detected	Quantity	Perpetrators	Arrested/detained	On bail	Wanted
Heroin	95	95	47 kg 325 gr	113	102	9	2
Methadone	2	2	137.7 gr	2	1	1	0
Phentermine	1	1	1.2 gr	1	0	1	0
Cocaine	42	41	16 kg 104.6 gr	59	49	10	0
Marijuana	949	888	20 672 kg 916.9 gr	1137	634	455	48
Hashish	6	6	32 kg 440.2 gr	9	8	0	1
Hashish Oil	1	1	359 ml	1	1	0	0
Cannabis seeds	6	6	700 gr	6	5	1	0
Papaver somniferum seeds	1	1	5 kg 288.9 gr	1	1	0	0
Mixers	2	2	1 kg 742.8 gr	2	2	0	0
Total	1105	1043		1331	803	477	51

The quantity of seized heroin increased from a yearly total of 47 kg in 2013 to 53 kg by the end of September 2014. The quantity of seized cocaine was about the same pro-rata, comparing with the same period of year 2013. The number of cases in heroin and cocaine trafficking did not show a significant change comparing with last year (56 and 37 this year, respectively).

The quantity of seized marijuana was significantly higher than in last year (94 metric tons vs. 21 metric tons) to which seizures of considerable amounts, after the successful operations on Lazarat and other regions in the country, have contributed. The same applies to cannabis seeds (1745 g vs. 700 g).

Already by the end of September 2014 the number of criminal cases has exceeded the total number in 2013. Almost 90 percent of the cases and the perpetrators were marijuana-related crimes.

During the year 2014 (until the end of September):

- 111 operations by implementing special investigation technique have been concluded (65 such operations concluded in 2013).
- 49 criminal groups of trafficking and distribution of narcotics substances have been defeated with 149 persons arrested (in 2013, 33 criminals groups with 170 persons have been defeated).
- 50 operations by implementing the special investigation technique have been concluded. (Same amount concluded during 2012).
- 51 operations using various forms of international cooperation have been successfully concluded (2 with Italy, 1 with Greece, 2 with the US, 2 with Kosovo, 1 with Austria), and resulted in 60 persons arrested in Albania (during 2013, 33 international operations were concluded with 49 people prosecuted in Albania).

Criminal Code Article	No. Criminal Offences			No. Perpetrators		
	2012	2013	2014 I-IX	2012	2013	2014 I-IX
Article 283 (manufacturing, selling narcotics products)	850	948	908	1071	1134	1033
Article 283/a (Traffic of narcotics products)	106	153	98	166	193	168
Article 285 (Possession of chemical substances and equipment)	6	2	n.a.	8	2	n.a.
Article 285/a (facilitating the drug's use)	0	2	1	0	2	1
Total	962	1105	1008	1245	1331	1203

The following data reflect the results considering the period of September 2013 – September 2014:

2214 parcels with cannabis destroyed countrywide

798 parcels identified with the help of INTERFORZA

530177 cannabis sativa plants destroyed

101.7 tons of marijuana seized

62 kg heroin seized

23 kg cocaine seized

Market value of the marijuana seized: 6.4 billion EUR

Total value of all narcotics seized: 7 billion EUR

According to the Albanian police, the amount of cannabis sativa destroyed in this one-year period exceeded the total amount destroyed during the period 2008-2013. Similarly, the amount of proceeded marijuana seized in this one-year period exceeded the total of the period 2005-2013.

From the neighboring countries Italy reported to have seized 7.3 metric tons of marijuana and 0.5 kg of cocaine originating from Albania (January-August 2014).

1.4. Police operations against drugs production

In 2013, cannabis cultivation in the vicinity of the Southern Albanian village of Lazarat was continuing at large scale. Although no official data on the quantity of the cultivated cannabis exists, international experts estimated the yearly production up to 800 metric tons (note: 21 tons of marijuana was seized in 2013 in Albania) on 319 hectares. Local sources reported 4-5000 people working on a daily basis on the plantations. The former Albanian governments had failed to leave off these activities.

The recent Albanian government confirmed its commitment to take effective measures to eliminate the situation. Significant quantities of marijuana originating from Lazarat were seized during police operations already in 2013. In 2014, massive and successful operations were conducted to eliminate the extensive cannabis cultivation in Lazarat and in the Dukagjin area in Northern Albania. In the village of Lazarat alone a total of 133 thousand cannabis plant was discovered and destroyed as well as 71 metric tons of marijuana, 4.395 kg of cannabis seed, 16.8 liters of hashish oil and 5 kg heroin.

Five laboratories for drug processing were also discovered and a significant number of weapons, ammunition and explosives were confiscated (424 firearms, including heavy machine guns, grenades and anti-tank missiles).

Similar police operations were taken place in other regions of the country, as well. In Dukagjin area, in five villages 296 plots were identified whereas a total of 134 thousand cannabis plants were destroyed.

After finishing the operations, investigations and prosecutions have started against a significant number of perpetrators with the main objective to eliminate the drug trafficking criminal networks.

1.5. Police prevention activities

Apart from former governmental programs and action plans, the Action Plan no. 301, dated 06.03.2014 was approved by the Director General of the State Police "On the prevention and suppression of the criminal activity of cultivation of narcotic plants during 2014." The action plan foresees the following measures to be taken.

First stage:

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

The Drug Awareness project has been continuing in 2014 to grow since its inception 4 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 to all the regions was opened. The project is now concentrating on informing the students of 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 2014

- **Continued efforts should be undertaken in prevention, for example by increasing the impact of existing antidrug campaigns.**
- **The two successful large police operations in Lazarat and in Dukagjin were not presented well enough to the public, the Albanian police needs better PR, also to create more awareness among the population.**
- **There were not enough prosecutors present during the Lazarat operation. The lack of communication and cooperation between police and the state prosecutors is a general problem in Albania which makes the follow- up of the police operations difficult and opaque. 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 distruction of the cannabis plantations is needed.**

- **Albania's efforts and the assistance of the International Community have led to progress in the fight against drugs. However, continued efforts and support, including training activities and updated technical equipment, are necessary.**
- **Corruption and organized crime remain a major concern in Albania; a comprehensive overall strategic approach towards tackling these issues needs to be established.**
- **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.**
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Tirana, October 22, 2014
