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#### NOTE

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From: Austrian Regional Chair of the Dublin Group (Co-Chair: Hungary)  
To: Dublin Group

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Subject: Regional Report on the Western Balkans

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#### Western Balkans Region

- The so-called “Balkan Route” of drug trafficking dominates this area. Through this route hard drugs are shipped from their original production sites in Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran via Turkey and the Balkans to Central and Western 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.
- International cooperation especially with EU Member States is considered to be successful by most of the countries in the region. This takes place mostly on a case by case basis in the field of police operations (for example aerial investigation of areas of cannabis cultivation).

**Albania:**

- Drug crimes remain a serious problem for Albania. The country continues to be both a country of origin (for cannabis and its derivatives) and a transit route (for hard drugs like Cocaine and Heroin).
- The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies.
- The main focus of the new National Action Plan against Cannabis Cultivation and Trafficking (NAPC) 2017 - 2020, presented in February 2017, is the joint interinstitutional effort to identify, detect and dismantle criminal groups and networks that are active in the cultivation and trafficking in cannabis.
- In 2017, the government continued restructuring the police. Training and equipment of the Albanian Border Police further improved, resulting in more seizures.
- The government continued to run several drug prevention and awareness programs.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

- Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of transit and final destination of drugs / narcotics into the EU and other parts of Western Europe.
- While almost all types of narcotic drugs can be found on the black market in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is dominated by products of cannabis, heroin and synthetic drugs.
- Due to limited financial possibilities of (young) drug users harder drugs play a less important role while demand for amphetamines and other softer drugs is significant.
- Drug demand reduction is of extreme importance, also due to the considerable social problems in the country (low income, high rate of unemployment).
- The draft for a *National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs* was submitted to the Entity bodies for their consent. It is expected that it will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers at the beginning of December 2017.

**Kosovo:**

- Heroine transit through Kosovo (the Balkan route) has been reduced over the last years, especially in 2016 and 2017: Traffickers don't have much interest in trafficking heroin across Kosovo since proceeds from marijuana trafficking are bigger and the sentences much lower.
- Marijuana is the most common drug in Kosovo. The cultivation of cannabis in Albania had an additional impact on Kosovo.
- Kosovo remains a transit country for Marijuana to Western Europe (about 10% goes to the domestic market). The mode of marijuana trafficking has changed recently to using furniture manufacturing companies.

**Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:**

- Compared to the same period last year, seizures of marihuana, cocaine, synthetic pills and stems "cannabis sativa" have increased while those of heroin have decreased.
- The fight against illicit drug trafficking in the first nine months of 2017 was one of the strategic priorities of the Ministry of the Interior.
- Due to the current political crises in the country the implementation of the National Drug Strategy was slowed down in all five segments: demand, supply, coordination, research and analysis, international cooperation.
- External assistance is needed to support capacity building (especially in the area of control of "new drugs")

**Montenegro:**

- Montenegro is mainly a transit country of drugs (cannabis products) and - because of its size – only a small market for cannabis, heroin and cocaine. Drug consumption reaches its peak during the summer holiday season because of incoming tourists that also introduced synthetic drugs to the market.
- In 2017 a new record high of drug seizures was reached due to increasing cannabis production in Albania as well as successful international police cooperation.
- Montenegro has passed the *Law on the Prevention of Drug Abuse* in order to protect public health and to harmonize its national legislation with international standards.

**Serbia:**

- Organized drug trafficking and smuggling is still the most widely spread form of organized crime in the Republic of Serbia and the so-called „Balkan route“ is still most popular and most frequently used for narcotics smuggling.
- Heroin mostly originates from Turkey, with growing tendencies from FYROM, Kosovo, and Metohija. Heroin prices have not significantly changed and are about € 20,000.00 per kilo, depending on its quality.
- Marijuana was predominant again in 2016 in the field of psychoactive controlled substances. It is still mainly smuggled from the territories of Albania, Montenegro, AP Kosovo, and Metohija. Kosovo and Metohija.
- Illegal laboratories for the production of the narcotic drug „skunk“ are more often seized on the territory of Serbia. Equipment in these laboratories ranges from home production to well equipped laboratories according to highest standards.

## Albania

### Report by the Tirana Mini-Dublin Group

January - September 2017

*This Report by the Tirana Mini-Dublin Group on the situation and the developments in Albania in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking covers the period January to September 2017 and was jointly coordinated by the Embassies of Austria and Hungary.*

#### 1. General situation

- In 2017 drug crimes have 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 like Cocaine and Heroin). In 2017, however, the substantial number of drug seizures and arrests increased further.
- The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies. The government of Edi Rama, which was re-elected this year, has repeatedly confirmed their commitment to engaging in intensive efforts to strike organized crime and trafficking in narcotics.
- The new National Action Plan against Cannabis Cultivation and Trafficking (NAPC) 2017-2020 was presented by the Albanian government in February 2017. The Progress Report of the European Commission for 2016 highlights that Albania has intensified the fight against cultivation of drugs (mainly cannabis sativa), but it still remains a serious challenge.
- Continuing the trend of the previous years, Albania achieved tangible results fighting illegal drugs in 2017. Both the volume of drug seizures and arrests remained very high. From January - September 2017, over 68 tons of marijuana were seized. Seizures and arrests also increased substantially in neighbouring EU countries.

- In 2017, the government continued restructuring the police and the modernization of police equipment. Training and equipment of the Albanian Border Police further improved which had a positive impact on the effectiveness of the border control and the number of seizures.
- Albania continued to receive assistance from several countries to enhance its counter-narcotics capacities. A number of joint international operations were conducted.
- The government continued to run several drug prevention and awareness programs.

### **1.1. Legislation and coordination**

Albania has a wide-ranging legal and sub-legal framework, as well as a considerable number of strategic documents that address the narcotics issues.

The criminal legislation in force is almost complete. The country has acceded to the United Nations Conventions “Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances” of 1998, “On Psychotropic Substances” of 1971, and the “Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs” of 1961. The Criminal Code has been amended from time to time and specific conventions, laws, by-laws were approved; strategic documents and programs were being developed, thus creating the necessary regulatory framework in the fight against cultivation and trafficking in narcotic plants.

Developing a new National Action Plan against Cannabis Cultivation and Trafficking (NAPC) 2017 - 2020 arose from the need to prevent, fight and eradicate this phenomenon, which continues to be present despite the major blows it has suffered over the years. The evaluation of the implementation of the National Anti-Narcotics Strategy 2012-2016 concluded that it was a partial approach and that its outcomes did not meet expectations and possibilities. Instead of developing a new strategy the Albanian Government has decided to approve and implement the new National Action Plan against Cannabis (NAPC).

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 seen. The Adriatic and Ionian Sea area, however, remained an important route for narcotics smuggling from Albania to Italy.

## 1.2. Strengthening of capacities

### Inter-institutional cooperation and coordination

A joint 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).

The main focus of the NAPC 2017- 2020 is the joint interinstitutional effort to deal a multifaceted blow in order to identify, detect and dismantle criminal groups and networks that are active in the cultivation and trafficking in cannabis.

### Fight against narcotic plants cultivation: Airborne Remote Sensing for Detection and Monitoring Albanian Cannabis plantation - Flight Mission 2017

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 and took place in the period from May 15 to September 15, 2017. The percentage of air surveillance of Albanian territory in 2017 was 23,77%. This percentage includes the scanned area of the Albanian territory by means of hyperspectral sensor and territory screening, excluding urban areas, lakes, streets/road and spots where any kind of cultivation is impossible. In total 53 flight missions (flight hours in total: 129 h 15´) were performed and the overflowed and scanned area amounted to 683.249ha. In total 88 suspected Cannabis plantations with a total area of 1.971ha were detected; 4.844 Cannabis plants were destroyed. In comparison with the year 2016, when in total an area of more than 213ha Cannabis plantations was detected, a considerably smaller area of suspected Cannabis plantations was noticed this year (1,971 ha).

### 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 like Cocaine and Heroin). According to the Albanian Police, in 2017 the trafficking of marijuana was the number one problem. Cannabis was still cultivated all over the country, albeit in much smaller amounts than in 2016.

In 2017 the production of marijuana has decreased significantly. Considering the large amounts that were seized by the police this year, it can be deduced that large amounts of 2016's substantial harvest are still in circulation (or stocked) and are being trafficked to other countries.

In 2017, exchanges of mutual accusations of the political powers about alleged involvement of current and former government officials in organized drug trafficking continued, thus highly politicizing the issue of the fight against drugs.

As for hard drugs, Albania remained a transit country. Local consumption, especially of cocaine, is increasing; seizures were performed mainly on border crossing points. Seized drug shipments of hard drugs were most probably destined for Western European countries via Albanian middlemen.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
<i>Heroin</i>	<i>18kg 559,12g</i>
<i>Cocaine</i>	<i>3kg 46,41g</i>
<b><i>Marijuana</i></b>	<b><i>68t 234kg 368,33g</i></b>
<i>Hashish</i>	<i>122kg 580g</i>
<i>Cannabis seeds</i>	<i>5kg 105,2g</i>
<i>Extasy</i>	<i>3,4g</i>
<i>Hashish Oil</i>	<i>7l 124ml</i>
<i>Methadone</i>	<i>1ml</i>

*Statistical table on seized quantities of drugs, Jan - Sept 2017 (Source: Albanian government)*



In the period January to September 2017, a total of 1.390 cases of sales of narcotics were detected, 1.218 (88%) of which have been clarified. 1.693 offenders are involved in these crimes, 1.014 (60%) of these have been arrested, 569 (34%) have been prosecuted at large and for 110 (6%) search warrants have been issued.

Offense	Detected	Clarified	Detection rate	Arrested	Prosecuted	At large	Escaped
Production and sale narcotics	1209	1097	184,66%	809	74	512	92
Trafficking of narcotics	150	91	60,67%	100	16	36	18
Other narcotics related offenses	31	30	96,77%	15	0	21	0
Total	1390	1218	87,63%	924	90	569	110

*Statistical table on offenses and suspects prosecuted, Jan-Sept 2017 (Source: Albanian government)*

From January to September 2017, 63 criminal gangs involved in the production, sale and trafficking of narcotics (excluding cultivation) were discovered and 316 offenders were identified, 245 of which have been detained. In comparison with the same period in 2016, this amounts to a plus of 24 criminal gangs discovered, a plus of 128 identified offenders and a plus of 80 offenders which were detained.

### Investigations using special techniques

The forces in charge of investigating narcotics have initiated criminal proceedings in 154 cases and conducted proactive investigations against narcotics using special techniques.

In comparison with the same period 2016, 78 more cases were taken up, in 74 of which criminal proceedings were initiated.

### International operations

Altogether 29 operations with international cooperation were conducted, some of which have not yet been concluded.

## **1.4 Police operations against drugs production**

According to international experts, the fight against drug cultivation (mainly cannabis sativa) has been intensified further over the last year. However, police and prosecutors do not go further up in the chain of drug supply but remain at the lower level. Moreover, the investigations are not systematically accompanied by parallel financial investigations (even if it was observed that Prosecutor Offices (PO), Albanian State Police (ASP) and the Anti-money laundering Department of the Ministry of Finance started to ask cooperation in order to localize assets or criminal records of subjects involved in suspicious transitions).

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 (53) were conducted under the Italian Ministry of the Interior - Department of Public Security coordination by the Italian Guardia di Finanza pilots, in cooperation with the Albanian State Police and an Italian Accademic Consortium (BENECON). Aerial photographies made during these flights (close to 24% of the Albanian territory) were the key means of localizing potential cultivation areas and enabled ASP to intervene on the spot.

### Data from the Directorate for Public Security concerning cannabis cultivation

267 offenses concerning the cultivation of cannabis were detected, 228 offenders were identified, 125 of which have been arrested, 11 detained, 29 are being prosecuted at large and for 63 search warrants have been issued.

99 offenders (public servants at municipalities and forest administration offices) are being prosecuted because of abuse of authority and concealment of crime. Out of these, 13 have been arrested, 1 detained, 82 are being prosecuted at large and for 3 of them search warrants have been issued.

In the period from January to September 2017, 267 offenses and 63.307 cannabis plants were detected. During the same period in 2016, 1.589 offenses and 2.408.221 cannabis plants were detected. This represents a minus of 1.322 cases and 2.344.914 plants in comparison to 2016.

#### **1.5. Police prevention activities**

The program „education, awareness building and reduction of demand for drugs and other harmful substances“ has been implemented in schools (up to grade 9) according to a cooperation agreement between the Albanian Ministry of Education and Sport and the Ministry of Interior.

#### **2. Tirana Mini-Dublin Group recommendations for 2017**

- 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 regarding functioning structures and skilled staff (including training activities) as well as improved technical equipment (e.g. in forensics) are necessary.

- Therefore the establishment of an independent directorate to combat drug crime and the strengthening of the Security Academy should be considered.
- Lack of communication and cooperation between police and state prosecutors constitutes a problem in Albania which makes the follow-up of police operations difficult and opaque. Therefore a special public prosecutor's office to combat drug crime should be established.
- Besides investigating people involved in drug production, effective measures should be taken to investigate (with parallel financial investigations) and prosecute the leaders of criminal networks dealing with drug production and trafficking. This process needs to be monitored by the international community.
- Efforts undertaken by the Narcotic sector of the Directorate of Narcotics and Illegal trafficking should be strengthened and encouraged by foreign partners.
- Particular attention should be paid to Heroin and Cocaine trafficking by reinforcing international operational cooperation.
- Continued efforts should be undertaken in prevention, for example by increasing the impact of existing anti-drug campaigns.
- Security of seized drugs' storage and effective destruction procedures need to be ensured and arrested persons need to be properly indicted and convicted.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### **Update by the Sarajevo Mini-Dublin Group**

**November 2017**

*This Report by the Sarajevo Mini-Dublin Group on the situation and the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking was coordinated by the Embassy of Austria.*

#### **1. General observations**

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be a country facing particular security challenges, which also influence its fight against drugs. It has never played a central role as a transit country for migrants, but the Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo is aware that this can change in the future. Almost all types of narcotic drugs can be found on the black market in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA), while it is dominated by products of cannabis, heroin and synthetic drugs. Based on the analysis of the organized criminal groups' modus operandi that have been discovered, investigated and processed by the police and partially by the judicial authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as gathered intelligence, international trends, and pathways of movement of drugs, BA is a country of transit and final destination of drugs / narcotics into the EU and other parts of Western Europe. However, apparent productions of smaller quantities of marijuana have also been observed. In the period from 2013 to present, according to investigations conducted by judicial and police agencies, marijuana plantations and artificial laboratories for the production of marijuana have been found in different parts of BA. However, the highlight here is that the Mini Dublin Group sees no real downturn in BA criminals involved in the transit of heroin and cannabis. Furthermore, the production of synthetic drugs in BA seems to increase.

The fight against money laundering should be reinforced, since money laundering is essential for drug dealers to make sure that revenues are hidden. Austria is, together with Slovenian counterparts and competent authorities of BA, implementing a twinning-project in this field. The EU is supporting the establishment of an Early Warning System and the creation of a National Drug Observatory.

The Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo still believes that drug demand reduction is of extreme importance, also due to the considerable social problems in the country (low income, high rate of unemployment). These can lead to an increased demand for drugs; therefore all Bosnian authorities should be assisted in their fight for drug demand reduction.

Harder drugs continue to play a less important role in Bosnia and Herzegovina, due to limited financial possibilities of (young) drug-users. In so far the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina differs from that in many central European countries. Demand for amphetamines and other softer drugs continues to be significant. Since demand for softer drugs is higher, there is a strong tendency to exchange hard against soft drugs. Organized criminals are highly active in this field. Furthermore, there is a tendency that drugs are exchanged against firearms on the black market.

BA continues to be a country where larger amounts of drugs are stored, in particular coming from Montenegro and Albania. On the other hand, it seems that dominant members of drug cartels from Serbia and Montenegro are increasingly cooperating with BA authorities on a higher level.

The *National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in BA* was drafted by the Working Group and submitted to the Entity bodies for their consent. It is expected that the strategy will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers at the beginning of December 2017.

The *BA Commission for Suppression of Abuse of Narcotic Drugs* became operative. It held sessions to discuss the issue of legalization of marihuana for medical purposes.

## **2. The Anti-Drug Conference of the OSCE, Vienna, 10/11 July 2017**

The OSCE Anti-Drug Conference which took place in Vienna on 10/11 July 2017 proved to be also of particular relevance for the fight against drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was stressed that the illegal deal in drugs is still an important source of income for many criminals, also in the Western Balkans. In many cases there is a close context between drugs and other illegal sources of income (money laundering, smuggling of migrants and weapons, etc). Darknet offers new possibilities to buy drugs, i.e. to use artificial currencies like Bitcoin to purchase them, and to get them delivered by regular mail.

## **3. Conclusion of the Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo**

- The Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo strongly urges the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance cooperation between the various layers of public administration in the fight against drugs. It had to be noted, as already in previous years, that there is a certain lack of coordination between police authorities on state level, in the entities and in cantons in the Federation. This impairs the efficiency and effectiveness of police and other authorities in the fight against drugs. However, the Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo is aware of the fact that thorough constitutional changes, which would perhaps make the fight against drugs easier, are not possible in the foreseeable future.
- The Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo believes that it is of paramount importance to enhance the fight against corruption, since corruption undoubtedly impairs the work of police authorities, as well as the work of other authorities included in the prevention and suppression. It acknowledges the endeavours of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in this field, which are, however, still insufficient. It also believes that it is important to support NGOs in the fight against corruption.
- Furthermore, the Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo urges Bosnian authorities to strive harder to draw up reliable statistics. Due to the highly federalist structure of Bosnian police authorities, this is a difficult task, to which more attention should be paid.

In order to overcome the problem of different models of data collection, regarding the supply indicators, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) organized a specific training at the end of 2016 regarding the collection and analysis of data concerning drugs seizures, in line with the EU protocol and the standardized data collection tool. Several follow-up training sessions in the first semester of 2017 have been organized, at which all law enforcement bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina attended. Following these training sessions, the decision to use the EMCDDA standard data collection tool for drugs seizures, from 1 July 2017 onwards, has been taken. It is still too early to evaluate the effects of the new and unified data collection method.



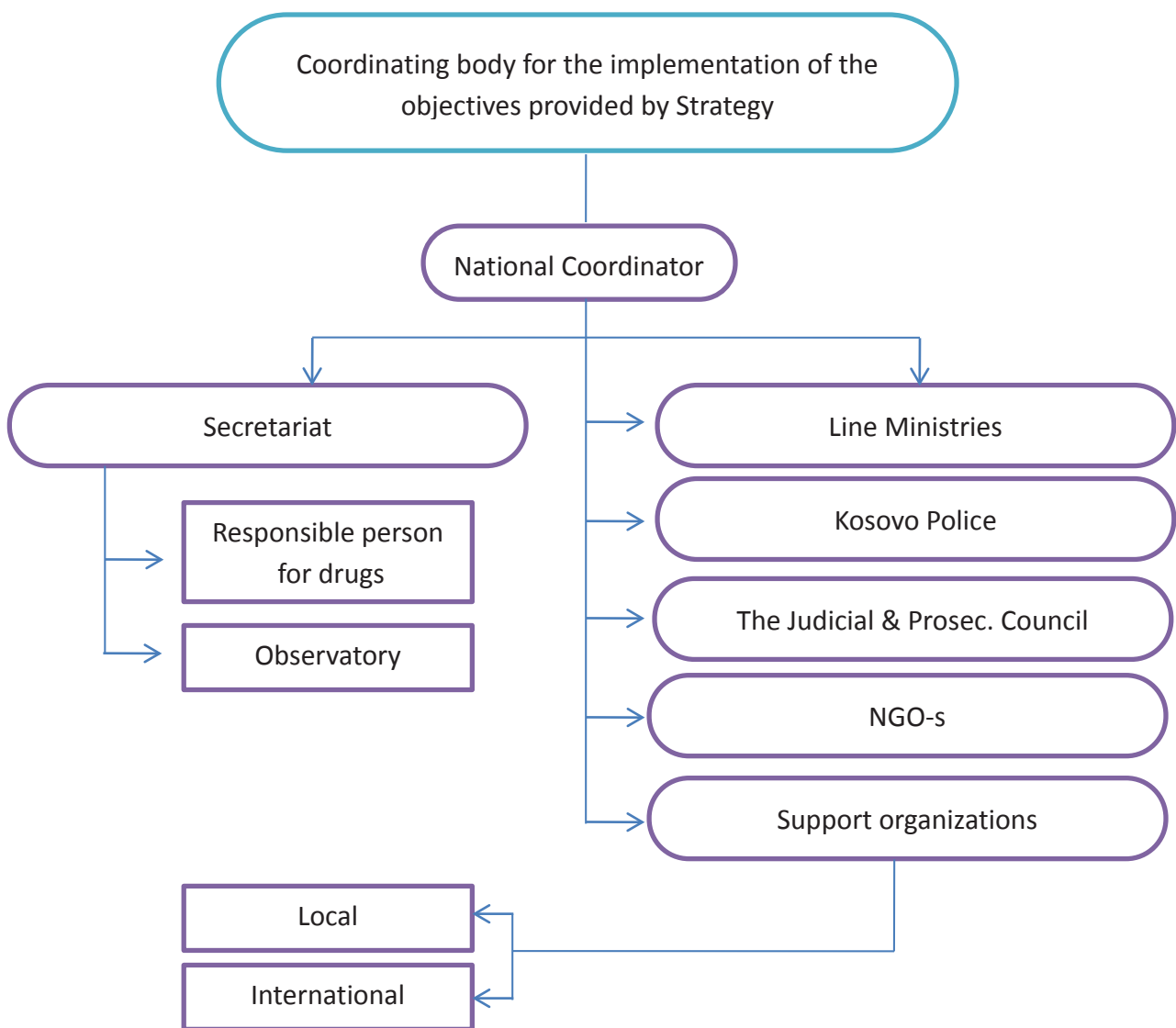
**Kosovo<sup>1</sup>**

**Report by the Pristina Mini-Dublin Group**

**November 2017**

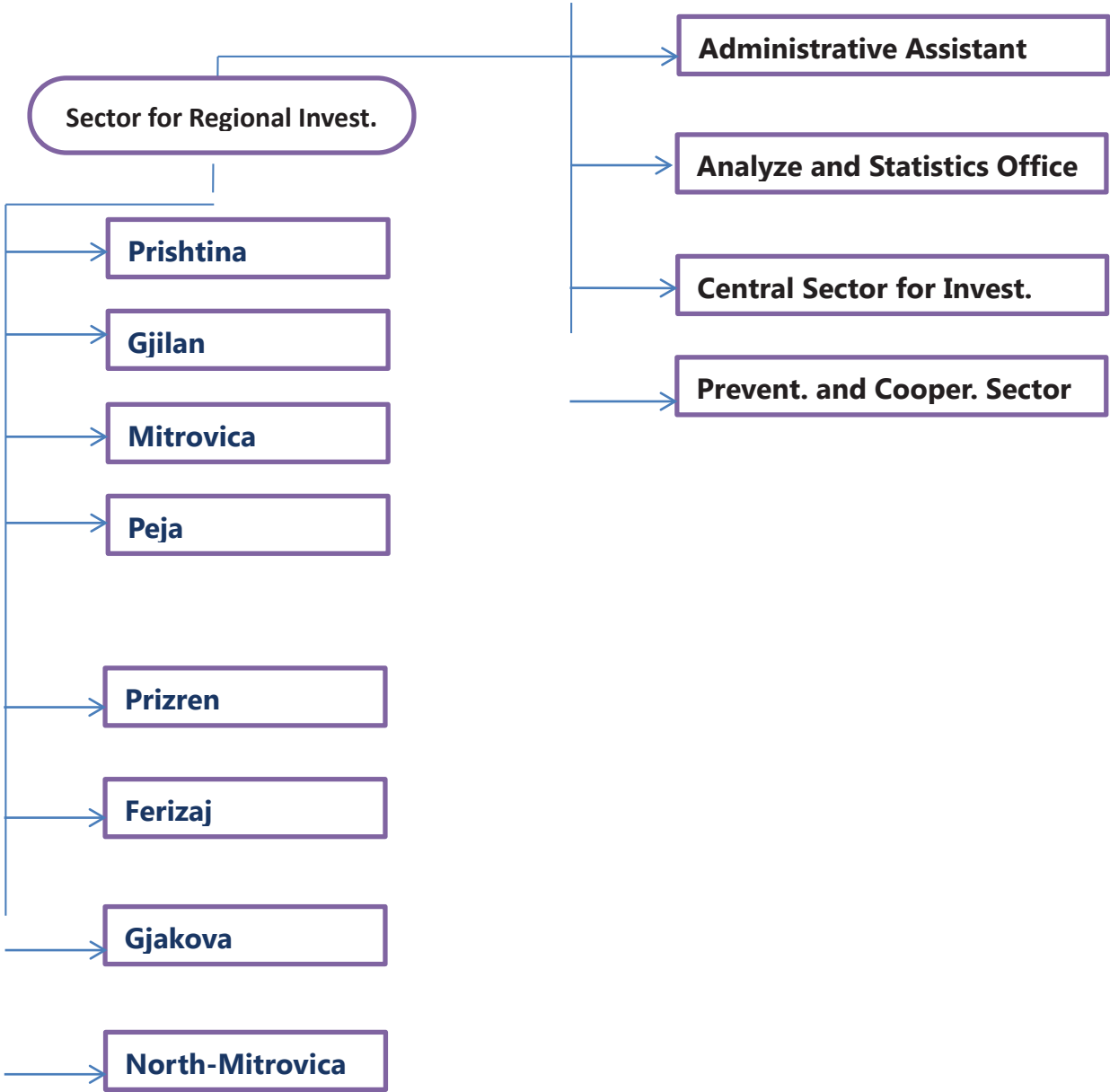
*This Report by the Pristina Mini-Dublin Group on the situation and the developments in Kosovo in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking is based on a Presentation by the Directorate for Investigation of Trafficking with Narcotics of the Kosovo Police and was coordinated by the Embassy of Austria.*

**Structures**



<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;*

**Narcotics Investigation Directory  
Director**



## Legal Basis and Strategic Documents

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

## Prevention

### 2016

- 281 schools
- 788 school lectures
- 24,325 students
- 1 camp, 60 students
- 10,333 Preventive Patrols
- Two conferences
- Marking of the Int. Day against Drugs
- TV and radio shows
- Tool-free telephone hotline

### 2017

- 318 schools
- 646 school lectures
- 21,033 participants
- 1 camp, 65 students
- TV and radio shows
- About 5.000 leaflets, etc.

## Reduction of offer and supply

<b>2016</b>	<b>January-October 2017</b>	
888 new cases	1.134 new cases	
874 arrested	1.162 arrested	
726 Criminal charges	754 Criminal charges	
748 operations	N/A	
148 Operational Plans	56 Operational Plans	
848 Raids	813 Raids	
17 Criminal groups destroyed	16 Criminal groups destroyed	

## Confiscations

<b>2016</b>	<b>January-October 2017</b>	
Heroin	88.55 g	390 g
Marihuana	1.147 kg	1.688 kg e 235g
Cocaine	168.33g	707 g
Cannabis bins	2.748	5.896
Weapons	26	38
Cars	93	72
Money	41.869 €	95.129 €

## **Heroin**

Since 2014, heroin trafficking has changed. Heroine transit through Kosovo (the Balkan route) has been reduced over the last years, especially in 2016 and 2017. Traffickers don't have much interest in trafficking heroin across Kosovo. Benefits from marijuana trafficking are bigger and the sentences much lower. Now, heroin mainly crosses through the Black Sea and stops in Odessa (Ukraine) to continue to Western Europe. In general, heroin is missing in Kosovo and the level of circulation has decreased. The main existing transit routes of heroin trafficking through Kosovo are:

- Afghanistan-Iran-Turkey-Bulgaria-Macedonia (or Serbia)-Kosovo
- Afghanistan-Iran-Turkey-Bulgaria- Macedonia (or Albania)-Kosovo-Serbia-EU MS
- Afghanistan-Iran-Turkey-Greece-Albania-Kosovo-Montenegro-EU MS

## **Marijuana**

Marijuana is the most common drug in Kosovo. The criminal groups that engage in Marijuana trafficking are still using Kosovo as a transit to move to Western Europe, although a small amount remains for the domestic market (about 10%). Origin of confiscated marijuana (almost all) originated in Albania. Based on the investigation, it is suspected that most of this substance has been destined for Western Europe. The main roads of marijuana trafficking are:

- Albania-Kosovo-Serbia-EU MS
- Albania-Kosovo-Montenegro-EU MS

## **Cocaine**

Based on the socio-economic conditions in Kosovo and the fact that Cocaine belongs to the more expensive drugs, it turns out that cocaine is less demanding in Kosovo. In Kosovo, cocaine is trafficked in small amounts for local consumption. The main roads of cocaine trafficking are:

- Greece-Albania-Kosovo
- Montenegro-Kosovo
- Serbia-Kosovo
- Greece-Macedonia-Kosovo

## **Possession**

By comparing the statistics, we can see that the possession of drugs, through which the consumption can be understood, has a slight increase. The number of cases of Marijuana and Cocaine possession has increased slightly, while heroin cases are noticeably reduced. The reduction of the demand for heroin also is confirmed by Treatment Centers where, in the last two years, only two new consumers have been registered.

In 2016 Kosovo Police had 799 cases of drug possession, while in the first 10 months of 2017 there were already 913 cases.

## **Trafficking**

As has been seen from seizures, marijuana trafficking has increased. Cultivation of cannabis in Albania has an impact on Kosovo: In 2016 Kosovo had 198 cases of drug trafficking, while in the first 10 months of 2017 there were 190 cases.

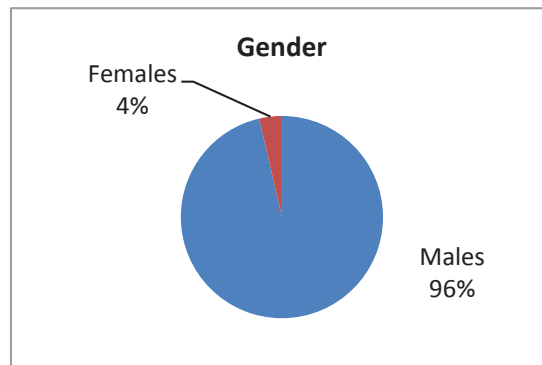
The mode of marijuana trafficking has changed recently. Traffickers are using furniture manufacturing companies for drug trafficking. In the last two years drugs were found hidden in the windows, rollers, chairs and wooden doors.

## **Cultivation**

Cannabis cultivation cases are not large in Kosovo. Cannabis is cultivated for personal use. It is sown in flower pots, in yards and in the fields, together with other agricultural products. Over 50% of cannabis herbs are wild plants.

In 2016 Kosovo Police registered 85 cases of drug cultivation, while in the first 10 months of 2017 there were only 30.

## Gender and Age Distribution of Suspects



Ages	2014	2015	2016
14-18	10 %	12 %	9 %
19-21	25 %	23 %	26 %
22-35	53 %	53 %	52 %
Over 35	12 %	12 %	13 %



## **International Cooperation**

The Kosovo Police's priority is international cooperation in the field of drug-fighting and the Kosovo Police has been and is participating in the following international projects:

### JIFT Drugs -f/ arms - Joint investigation to fight trafficking in drugs and firearms with the main focus on international airports within and also into the EU

Kosovo and the Czech Republic are partner countries in this two-year project (December 2016 - December 2018) which is lead by Austria. It organizes real-time operations at airports and border points in EU member states and in other countries where drug trafficking is suspected. So far five joint operation days and 6 operational meetings have been carried out.

As a result of the operations in Kosovo six people were arrested and 16 kg and 394g of marijuana, two weapons, 6.857 cartridges, pieces of weapons, imported from China, one spray etc. were seized.

### Cooperation Southeast Danube Region- for combating drug trafficking

The purpose of this project which is led by BKA Germany, is to discuss and analyze the situation of the South-East Danube countries regarding narcotics trafficking and to preserve the achievements of the project's official web site, which will show States how to prevent and combat this phenomenon. Apart from the member states, the project partners also includes Interpol, Europol, UNODC and DEA.

### Pompidou Group - organized in the Council of Europe

Annual meetings are held in Strasbourg, where the current situation regarding the trafficking of narcotics through airports is discussed and analyzed. Although Kosovo is not a member of the Council of Europe, Kosovo police are invited to attend all regular meetings. Apart from member states Interpol, Europol, UNODC and EMCDDA also participate in this project.

### IPA 2013 Western Balkans Project 2015-2017

The purpose of this project, which is led by Italy, is to support Western Balkan states in joint investigations of organized crime cases. So far, Kosovo Police participated in two cases of Narcotics trafficking.

**Drug-related statistics and data**

**1. Cases and arrested persons (2004-2016)**

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

<b>2014</b>	640	871	759	15	61	854	17	139	588	58
<b>2015</b>	423	594	434	7	43	574	20	109	373	41
<b>2016</b>	888	1166	1051	12	103	1124	42	198	799	85

## 2. Confiscation data

<b>VITI</b>	<b>Heroin (g)</b>	<b>Marihuana (g)</b>	<b>Hashish (g)</b>	<b>Cocaine (g)</b>	<b>Cannabis plants</b>	<b>Ecstasy</b>	<b>Other Drugs (g)</b>
<b>2001</b>	815.4	30715.7	0	34.6	0	0	1485.3
<b>2002</b>	6109.2	48046.8	0	1406	0	0	10043
<b>2003</b>	46782	30818.5	0	8482	0	0	2177
<b>2004</b>	23282.8	23287.7	945.7	10.5	0	0	2179
<b>2005</b>	36474.6	55304.1	206	3785	31158	40	22189
<b>2006</b>	14647.1	66635.6	381.6	1721	36686	0	23799.9
<b>2007</b>	47765.6	32123.4	0	1920.7	21712	61	1618.9

<b>2008</b>	44644.3	177490.3	0	2150	9249	40	12.4
<b>2009</b>	36121.2	43644.37	0	1446	33497	2169	2454.8
<b>2010</b>	55610.75	199277.7	2.8	221.26	9724	6	1318.5
<b>2011</b>	60331	216649	0	2738	3604	699	5389
<b>2012</b>	94125.43	1237994	548	7396	10584	153	886
<b>2013</b>	22434.03	580kg 927g	0	3868.8	1512	107	56.95
<b>2014</b>	9kg 606.34g	737kg 913g	0	21kg104.6g	6930	52	75.2
<b>2015</b>	9kg 585.85g	461kg 721g	31.2g	54.58g	2557	265	
<b>2016</b>	84.55 g	1146kg 949g	8 g	168.33 g	4275	2784	699.63 g

### 3. Data breakdown January-March 2017

2017	1134	1441	1162	263	1322	15	104	1390	51	668	813	56	16	190	913	30
	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Suspects</b>	<b>arrested</b>	<b>Detained</b>	<b>Albanians</b>	<b>Serbs</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Raids</b>	<b>Op. plans</b>	<b>Criminal groups</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Possessions</b>	<b>Cultivations</b>

2017	390g	1688kg 235 g	707g	5896	141	38	132	95129€	72
	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Marihuana</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Cannabis plants</b>	<b>Ecstasy</b>	<b>Weapons</b>	<b>Ammunition</b>	<b>Money</b>	<b>Cars</b>

## **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

### **Report by the Skopje Mini-Dublin Group**

**November 2017**

*This Report by the Skopje Mini-Dublin Group on the situation and the developments in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking was coordinated by the Embassy of Austria.*

### **Drug supply reduction**











The maximum efforts of the police to prevent supply and reduce the demand for drugs have given positive results with realized 608 (611) crimes, of which 488 "unauthorized production and release of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors" and 120 criminal acts "enabling the use of narcotic drugs". Measures of criminal prosecution were taken against 708 perpetrators.

In these cases 555 kilograms and 983 grams of marihuana, 814 grams of heroin, 717 grams of cocaine, 2.414 stems, 254 pieces and two kilograms and 618 grams of seeds from the cannabis sativa plant, 16.2 grams of hashish and 72, 9 milliliters of hashish oil, 1,736 milliliters methadone, 469,5 tablets ecstasy, 52 tablets and 312 grams amphetamine, 0.5 tablets and 2.82 grams methamphetamine, 5.397 tablets tramadol, 972.9 grams of caffeine and paracetamol, two pieces of LSD, and 105 pieces of buprenorphine were detected and seized.

Compared to the same period last year, the increase in seizures of marihuana, cocaine, synthetic pills and stems "cannabis sativa" is evident, while the decrease in heroin seizures is also evident. A high percentage (80%) of the drugs was seized by the Home Affairs Departments, mostly with support or in coordinated actions with the Criminal Police Department.

## The first nine months of 2017

The fight against illicit drug trafficking in the first nine months of 2017 was one of the strategic priorities of the Ministry of the Interior. In this period, the suppression of illicit drug trafficking resulted in the detection of 390 criminal offenses, including 332 for "unauthorized production and release of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors" and 58 criminal acts "enabling the use of narcotic drugs". The crimes were committed by 433 perpetrators.

	the first nine monts of 2017	the first nine monts of 2016
<b>Marihuana (kg)</b>	 363,00	 200,20
<b>Heroin (kg)</b>	 0,80	 0,70
<b>Cocaine (kg)</b>	 0,25	 0,62
<b>Synthetic pills</b>	 841	 279,00
<b>Stems</b>	 356	 2136

Over 364 kilograms of diferent narcotic drugs were seized, including 363 kilograms and 017 grams of marijuana, 881 grams of heroin, 250 grams of cocaine, 356 stems, 76.18 grams and 195 pieces of cannabis sativa plant, 4 tablets and 77.43 grams of amphetamine, 6.27 grams of hashish, 837 ecstasy tablets, 18.28 grams of caffeine and paracetamol.

Between January and October 2017 the Custom Administration seized a total of 997.116 grams of Marihuana at the border crossing point Blace, 14.500 grams of Marihuana at the border crossing point Tabanovce (July), and 2.745 grams of Marihuana at Custom service Skopje 2 (August).



## **Trafficking routes**

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

Seizures of heroin in the mentioned period have been reported in connection with the land route. The price of the heroin seized in drug wholesale market would reach up to 70,000 euros; if sold in smaller quantities the price would be two to three times higher.

Seizures of cocaine in the mentioned period have been reported in connection with the air and land route.

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

## **Update on the country's anti-drugs strategy**

Implementation of the National Drug Strategy was slowed down in the previous period, due to the current political crises in the country in all five segments of the strategy: demand, supply, coordination, research and analysis, international cooperation. We hope that in the future the situation will improve.

## **HBSC survey and IPA projects**

The HBSC survey (supported by WHO) has been conducted four times in FYROM, 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 FYROM.

With support from the EU Commission (IPA Project, implemented by EMCDDA and NFP), a General population survey (GPS), the first of its kind, is in preparaton in FYROM. GPS aims to collect 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.

FYROM contribution to the EU early warning system (EWS) continues and the establishment of EWS in FYROM, supported by the EU Commission (IPA Project, implemented by EMCDDA and NFP) is in preparation.

### **Cannabis for medical use**

The law for the control of narcotics and psychotropic substances was amended and a few rulebooks were adopted. Article 14 now reads: “Drugs containing THC, dronabinol or nabilone can be prescribed by selected doctors (doctor of medicine, specialist in general medicine, specialist family medicine, specialist in pediatrics) on the recommendation of specialists of neurology, oncology and radiotherapy and infectious diseases, employed in public health institution providing inpatient activity”.

### **Data for acute intoxication / overdose and drug abuse for January - July 2017**

	5-14 year	15-19 year	20-74 year	male	female
Heroin			12	10	2
Kokain		2	11	13	
Methadon		1			
Cannabis	2	2	5	8	1
Amfetamins			1	1	

## **International Cooperation**

- FYROM's National Police has established a good level of cooperation with other national police directorates in neighbouring countries (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece);
- FYROM has signed MoUs with various countries on fighting organised crime and drug trafficking (i.e. Hungary etc.);
- FYROM's National Police has been successfully cooperating on a case by case basis with national police liaison officers from various EU member states, especially Austria, Germany and Italy;
- Cooperation also continues through the Interpol and Europol networks;
- Border control efforts are being strengthened through the development of partnerships and effective working relationships with organizations such as INTERPOL, SELEC, SEPCA, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, DCAF, UNODC; cooperation with these networks is crucial for effective and coordinated action in tackling organized crime, improved operational approach, supported by a highly developed database allowing for the identification and targeting of repeat offenders;
- Good cooperation in joint 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.

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

- External assistance is needed to support capacity building (especially in the area of control of “new drugs”)
- Assistance in increasing projects aimed at prevention (primary, environmental, indicative and selective) and juvenile consumption, as well as operational support
- The identified problems call for surveys on poly-drug use, its extent and reasons as well as for research in the field of psychoactive drug use while driving.

## **Montenegro**

### **Report by the Podgorica Mini-Dublin Group**

**October 2017**

*The Report by the Podgorica Mini-Dublin Group on the situation and the developments in Montenegro in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking was coordinated by the Embassy of Austria. It is based on information provided by the Montenegrin Ministry of Health and the Antidrug Unit of the Montenegrin Police.*

#### **General situation**

Montenegro is mainly a transit country of drugs (cannabis products) and - because of its size – only a small market for cannabis, heroin and cocaine. Drug consumption reaches its peak during the summer holiday season when the tourists are coming that, by the way, are also introducing synthetic drugs to the market.

In 2017 a new record high of drug seizures was reached due to increasing cannabis production in Albania as well as successful international police cooperation.

Montenegro passed the *Law on the Prevention of Drug Abuse* in order to protect public health and to harmonize its national legislation with international standards in this field. Montenegro has to reach EU standards before becoming a member country (Enlargement Negotiation Chapter 24).

The *Strategy of Montenegro for the Prevention of Drug Abuse 2013-2020*<sup>2</sup> is in line with the *EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020* and is based on two key dimensions of drug policy, drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction, which is complemented with the relevant topics of international cooperation, information, research and cooperation and coordination. The implementation of the *Action Plan 2013-2016* was evaluated by an expert mission in the framework of TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission). On the basis of its recommendations the new *Action Plan 2017 – 2108*<sup>3</sup> was adopted by Montenegro on 16 February 2017. *The Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of Montenegro for the prevention of drug abuse for 2017-2018* provides for a multi-sector implementation of goals, in regards to both the government and non-government sector and defines different activities aimed at guiding the responsible subjects toward the main fields of intervention. The goals provided in this Action Plan cover the areas of law implementation, customs, police, public healthcare, social security system, education, international cooperation, etc. It is in accordance with the recommendations of the EU expert team for drug policies who participated—through an expert mission—in the external mid-term evaluation of the Strategy of Montenegro for the prevention of drug abuse 2013-2020. The Conclusions of the Council of the European Union (CORDROGUE 70 SAN 279) regarding minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction in the European Union were adhered to as well.

The early warning system for new psychoactive substances in Montenegro is in line with the EU *acquis* and also in accordance with the recommendations of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and has been established with TAIEX support and in close cooperation with the European Commission.

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<sup>2</sup>[http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att\\_233899\\_EN\\_STRATEGY%20OF%20MONTENEGRO%20OF%20THE%20PREVENTION%20OF%20DRUG%20ABUSE%202013-2020%20and%20the%20Action%20Plan%202013-2016-1.pdf](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_233899_EN_STRATEGY%20OF%20MONTENEGRO%20OF%20THE%20PREVENTION%20OF%20DRUG%20ABUSE%202013-2020%20and%20the%20Action%20Plan%202013-2016-1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> . [Predlog akcionog plana za sprovođenje Strategije Crne Gore za sprječavanje zloupotrebe droga za 2017-2018. godinu \(bez rasprave\)](#)

## **Strengthening of capacities**

Implementation of the action plan has resulted in progress on aligning the legal and institutional system with international standards, including through training on drug prevention. A draft plan has been prepared and training has been given to civil servants on setting up a national drug information system and a national early warning system. Cooperation is in place with EUROPOL on new detected drugs and with civil society organizations on the rehabilitation of drug addicts. Destruction of seized drugs is not yet systematic. An appropriate process for the destruction of precursors has yet to be set up. Montenegro submits the requested reports to the multilateral organizations.

Although there were only sporadic reports on new psychoactive substances in Montenegro (and mainly during the tourist season), it is necessary to strengthen the existing capacities for detection of new psychoactive substances and new trends in the consumption of drugs, and to provide proactive action in terms of taking measures to control and protect the health of citizens from the possible toxic effects of new psychoactive substances.

The Antidrug Unit of the Criminal Police should consist of 55 members in 8 offices; however, due to various reasons (payment, personal security, burn-out, etc.) it is understaffed by 20%.

The Forensic Center of the Police also has limited resources and capacities, especially for storage of big quantities of seized drugs.

## **Inter-institutional cooperation and coordination**

The Antidrug Unit of the Criminal Police highlighted the coordination and cooperation of the involved Montenegrin authorities in the field of antidrug combat but mentioned that all responsible authorities have limited resources and are understaffed.

In the past 5 years 150 to 200 persons were prosecuted (Higher and Special prosecution) for criminal offenses in the field of drugs each year.

The record drug seizures in 2016 and 2017 were achieved by coordinated work of the Montenegrin Police, especially the Antidrug Unit of the Criminal Police, in cooperation with the Border Police and Customs. During 2016, officers of the Antidrug Unit conducted 23 operations with the use of secret surveillance measures. There was a noticeable increase of 70% in opened and conducted cases compared to 2015, during which 14 long-term investigations were carried out with the use of secret surveillance measures. This success is the result of extraordinary operative field work and the exchange of operational information with partner services of other countries.

### **International and national police activities and cooperation**

The Montenegrin police conducted 8 international investigations against drug smuggling OCGs in 2016, as opposed to 6 in 2015. There was also an increase in the number of operations three of which are mentioned below:

#### **LOVAC**

In cooperation with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) two nationals of Turkey and Syria were arrested on 14 April. The operation was launched in September 2015 at the request of the Special Operations and Bilateral Investigations Unit of DEA. In the course of this investigation evidence was gathered that the suspects are involved in the procurement and smuggling of large quantities of weapons and cocaine for the purpose of criminal organizations operating in Mexico, the United States and Western European countries. Officials of the Antidrug Unit of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Special State Prosecutor, using special investigative methods, managed to identify and locate and finally efficiently carrying out a police operation, arresting two suspects, for which the US District Court for the Southern District of New York had issued an arrest warrant for smuggling 200 kilograms of cocaine and weapons.

## **LANAC**

The code name of this international operation, which was carried out with the Special State Prosecutor's Office and the Police and Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Croatia. The operation focussed on detecting, suppressing and intercepting the international drug smuggling chain. During its conduct on the territory of Montenegro and Croatia 87 kg of various drugs were found in several separate seizures. This resulted in criminal charges against 6 people in Montenegro and 10 in Croatia.

## **PERSEUS**

In cooperation with the DEA, a citizen of Turkey was arrested in Podgorica on 9 September 2016 to conduct criminal proceedings before the US investigating authorities for drug and arms trafficking. On the same day, several more persons were arrested in Hungary, who were identified as accomplices of this Turkish citizen.

In 2016, three significant operations, each for 7 or more months, Fiks, Paketic, Kanal, were carried out against criminal groups dealing with smuggling and drug distribution in the streets in three different regions of Montenegro, Niksic, Podgorica and Herceg Novi. As a result of this more than 60 persons were investigated and charged for criminal offences and misdemeanour.

No police operations against drug production were reported. There was no case of synthetic drugs lab in Montenegro.

## **Statistical data for 2016 and January to October 2017**

In 2016 188 criminal offences in relation with narcotic drugs were identified in the territory of Montenegro. 155 criminal charges with 194 suspects were submitted to competent Prosecutor.

During 2016, 451 charges were submitted against 458 persons for 458 misdemeanors referred to in Article 52, par. 1, item 5 in conjunction with Article 45, par. 1 of Law on prevention of narcotic drugs abuse. 2,817.563 kg of narcotic drugs were found in 815 individual seizures.



## TYPE AND QUANTITY OF SEIZED DRUGS IN 2016

- marihuana	2,783.530,189 g
- heroin	33.388,50 g
- cocain	337,46 g
- buprenorfin	8,83 g
- ekstazi	24,37 g
- MDMA	14,00 g
- amfetamin	121,87 g
- hashis	112,88 g
- buprenofin kom	57 KOM
- ekstazi komada	1.566 KOM
- LSD kom	14 KOM
-psilocibin	24,00 g
-diazepam	1,34 g
- diazepam kom	6 KOM
- ksalol	35 KOM
- ksanaks	1 KOM
- plants marihuana	58 KOM
- seeds marihuane	164 KOM
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,817.563,44 g</b>

The value of drugs seized in 2016 amounts to about EUR 12 mio. in illegal "street" narcotics.

## TYPE AND QUANTITY OF SEIZED DRUGS FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2017

From January to October 2017 officers of the Drug Control Department undertook 737 seizures with a total amount of drugs found of 3,044.815,56 grams, 10 blotter, and 819 pieces of tablets.

<b>Marihuana</b>	3,020.088,72 gram
<b>Heroin</b>	19.222,95 gram
<b>Cocain</b>	1.100,40 gram
<b>Amphetamin</b>	18,10 gram
<b>Hashish</b>	2.067,19 gram
<b>Hashish oil</b>	18.225,00 gram
<b>LSD</b>	10,00 pieces
<b>Ecstasy</b>	9,70 gram
<b>Ecstasy</b>	299 pieces
<b>Buprenorphin</b>	40 pieces
<b>Diazepam</b>	101 pieces
<b>Lexium</b>	5 pieces
<b>Mendilex</b>	88 pieces
<b>Subutex</b>	93 pieces
<b>Ksalol</b>	156 pieces
<b>Flormidal</b>	36 pieces
<b>Makovo straw</b>	1383,50 grama
<b>Other farm products</b>	1 piece

## **Bilateral and multilateral cooperation**

Montenegro regularly cooperates on drug issues with the following countries and institutions: France (MILDECA-Interministerial Mission to Combat Drugs and Addictive Behaviours), Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, EUROPOL, European Commission-TAIEX. The country also actively participates in the work of the following international bodies in the field of drug policy: European Agency for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Reitox Network (Réseau Européen d'Information sur les Drogues et les Toxicomanies), Council of Europe-Pompidou Group, Office on Drugs and Crime of the United Nations (UNODC), Paris Pact Initiative, and South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction Treatment Network (SEEA.NET).

## **Needs Assessment**

Vacancies in key authorities hamper the work of all relevant institutions; therefore, training which is provided by partners to the Antidrug Unit needs to be carefully coordinated and targeted to ensure that the limited number of staff remain focussed on casework. Training for employees in the health sector would be a prioritized need for external assistance.

## **Mini-Dublin Group recommendations**

- Strengthening of existing capacities as well as reporting capabilities
- Increasing of the number of personnel in the central Anti-drugs Unit
- Building bigger capacity for storage of seized drugs or change of legislation

## Serbia

### Report by the Belgrade Mini-Dublin Group

November 2017

*The Report by the Belgrade Mini-Dublin Group on the situation and the developments in Serbia in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking was coordinated by the Embassy of Austria.*

### **Current situation**

Organized drug trafficking and smuggling remains the most widely spread form of organized crime in the Republic of Serbia. The geographic position of the Republic of Serbia still provides to organized criminal groups the shortest land route between countries where narcotic drug is produced and countries of final destination, where distribution is performed. The so-called „Balkan route“ is still the most popular and most frequently used route for narcotics smuggling. Narcotics smuggled by this route are usually destined for the market of Western Europe, while a smaller part remains in the domestic market.

### **Heroin**

Heroin sold in the domestic market predominantly originates from Turkey; however in the last few years „deliveries“ also from FYROM, Kosovo and Metohija have been activated. Apart from the „Balkan route“, the direction via Bulgaria and Romania and further towards EU countries is used, mainly because of more liberal border controls.

Heroin prices have not significantly changed in comparison to last year and are about 20,000.00 € per kilo, primarily depending on its quality, since after its arrival to the domestic market heroin is mixed with other substances to generate larger quantities. The supply of heroin to the Serbian market is usually done by:

- Organized criminal groups from the territory of AP Kosovo and Metohija
- Albanian organized criminal groups from the direction of FYROMa, region of Bujanovac and Preševo, citizens of the Republic of Serbia from region of Sandžak
- Organized criminal groups from the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria

In the course of 2016, there were no big individual seizures of heroin, which was a characteristic of previous years; instead there were mainly smaller individual seizures.

## **Cocaine**

When it comes to the smuggling of cocaine, there was also in 2016 a distinctive involvement of Serbian citizens who organized supply and transport directly from South America towards the Western European countries. Apart from criminal offences related to narcotic drugs, members of these organized criminal groups also take part in murders of members of rivaling groups, which are usually caused by prevalence in the narco market, or blood revenge. The “settling of accounts” between rival gangs are mostly in connection with cocaine drug business outside Serbia. Money laundering is the second segment linked to organized criminal groups involved in smuggling of narcotic drugs, and it is mirrored primarily in construction as well as the purchase of real estate, expensive cars and companies.

In 2016, the Police Unit SBPOK did not have bigger seizures of cocaine, neither on the territory of Serbia nor in the framework of international cooperation; however, after a longer period OCGs whose modus operandi was to use so called „mules“ or „swallowers“ for the transport of cocaine intended for the market of UAE, precisely Dubai, were arrested. There was an increase in the entering of this narcotic drug to Serbian territory in separate transports between 1 and 10 kg. The current price per kilo of cocaine in Serbia is around 35,000.00 - 40,000.00 €, depending, again, on its quality.

## **Marijuana**

Marijuana was predominant again in 2016 when it comes to psychoactive controlled substances. The main directions have not changed and it is mainly smuggled from the territory of Albania, Montenegro and AP Kosovo and Metohija. Seizures of illegal laboratories for the production of the narcotic drug „skunk“ happen more often on the territory of Serbia. Equipment in these laboratories ranges from home production to well equipped laboratories according to highest standards. It is expected that the trend of growing marijuana in artificial conditions (home-grown) will continue since the Serbian market is still suitable for its distribution, and there is also an international market which is of interest for Serbian OCGs.

Another trend observed in 2016 was that Serbian OCGs increasingly organize and transfer the process of home-growing of marijuana to the territory of EU countries. The prices of modified marijuana range from 1.200 to 1.500 € per kilo.

## **Synthetic Drugs and Precursors**

In the last few years the synthetic drugs market expanded into the Republic of Serbia, which is demonstrated by an increasing number of seizures and identification of laboratories intended for the production of this kind of drug. Up to now, procurement of synthetic narcotics usually went from Western Europe countries to Serbia; at present the situation is changing and a part of the produced narcotics intended for the domestic market is being shipped to EU countries.

On the territory of the Republic of Serbia there were no big seizures of precursors used in the production of psychoactive controlled substances, but there are some operational information on the involvement of Serbian citizens in organization of its procurement and transportation.

In the framework of the Criminal Police Directorate excellent cooperation has been established with police officers from the National Forensic Centre, with whom all activities related to operational investigations on synthetic drugs and precursors are coordinated. This also led to the establishment of a multi-sectoral team in the Ministry of Interior for entrance to illegal laboratories. Each year on several occasions, training is being organized at the Educational Centre of the Ministry of Interior in Goč mountain, intended for education of police officers and other interested parties dealing with these problems.

## International Cooperation

In the fight against narcotics smuggling international cooperation on an every-day level with liaison officers and representatives of INTERPOL, EUROPOL and SELEC plays a significant role.

## Drug Seizures

In 2016 the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia performed 7.798 seizures of psychoactive controlled substances in the following amount:

Heroin	69,15 kg
Marijuana	3.445,00 kg
Hashish	6,50 kg
Amphetamine	23,80 kg
Cocaine	18,30 kg
Ecstasy	ca. 22,00 kg

From January to October 2017 the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia performed the following seizures in the fight against narcotic trafficking:

Cannabis	2,539.414,785 Gram and 120.008 pieces
MDMA	390 Gram
Amphetamin	16.817,85 Gram and 239 tablets
Hashisch	1.496,48 Gram
Heroin	8.746,778 Gram
Cocaine	8.613,22 Gram

## **Legislative and Institutional Framework**

In the fight against drugs in accordance with chapter 24, subchapter „Cooperation in the area of narcotics“, proposals are submitted for amending and supplementing the Law on Psychoactive Controlled Substances and the Law on Substances used in Illegal Production of Synthetic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which are expected to be adopted in 2017.

In 2016, although already officially formed in 2013, the Service for the Prevention of Narcomania and Suppression of Narcotics Smuggling finally reached its operational level by staffing its capacities, which contributed to better results by the Ministry of Interior.

Apart from the above mentioned institutions, the Office for the Fight Against Drugs within the Government of the Republic of Serbia strenghtened its personal capacities and started to take over more and more activities in relation to the coordination of the work of all state institutions and non-government organizations dealing with these problems.

A UNODC officer commented in this regard that this Office has not yet started engaging visibly with international organizations in Serbia, for example in the area of information sharing.

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