



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 June 2011

11791/11

**CORDROGUE 45
COWEB 138**

NOTE

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

to: Dublin Group

No. prev. doc.: 5583/11 CORDROGUE 11 COWEB 19

Subject: Regional report on Western Balkans

1. PLACE AND DATE OF MEETINGS OF THE MINI DUBLIN GROUPS

In the first half of 2011 Mini-DG meetings took place in Tirana, Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo, Zagreb, Skopje and Podgorica.

2. REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **The National capacity on combating drug trafficking of the countries concerned must be strengthened.** Though some progress has been achieved national strategies on combating drug trafficking should be effectively implemented according to European standards. The efforts to adapt national legislation should be continued.
- **Efforts to foster regional cooperation to fight organized crime must be continued.** Successful operations in the first half of 2011 are commended in this respect.

- **Demand reduction measures should be seen as important pillar of anti-drug activities.** Greater resources are needed to enforce drug prevention and treatment services. In this respect, co-operation with NGOs and civil society should be further improved. Local public-awareness-raising campaigns at schools or universities are recommended in this respect.
- **Anti-corruptions-measures need to be intensified** as politics and business are closely linked with organized crime. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to which all Western Balkan states are parties can be a useful tool in this respect.
- **Cooperation between the police forces and the judiciary of the region, border management activities, intelligence sharing and joint counter-narcotics operations should be further intensified.** The United Nations Convention against Organized Crime (UNTOC) to which all Western Balkan states are parties can be useful tool in this respect. The conclusion of bilateral or regional agreements to foster cooperation is recommended.
- **In order to combat drugs trafficking and organized crime successfully according to European standards further technical and financial assistance is needed. UNODC (UN Office on drugs and crime) can play a major role in this respect.**
- **The efforts as well as the participation in international projects to provide reliable data on drug abuse and drug addiction should be enhanced.** Monitoring activities play a crucial role in this respect.

3. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Country Report by the Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo

Place and date of meeting:

Following written consultations, the first meeting of the Mini Dublin Group Sarajevo in 2011 took place on 25 May 2011 at the premises of the EU-Delegation in order to finalize the attached Country Report. The meeting and the consultations were chaired and coordinated by the Embassy of Austria. The drafting of the report and the compilation of relevant information was kindly supported by the EU-Delegation, EUPM and the French Embassy.

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is an area of particular interest regarding illegal activities related mainly to the trafficking of drugs due to its geographic position at the crossroads of South-eastern and Western Europe. Illegal activities related to drugs are one of the most widespread forms of organized crime in the country. BiH is, however, not a hot spot in terms of production of drugs or demand related issues. The number of drug users appears to be increasing, especially among the younger population, but still remains low in comparison to other European countries. Local authorities believe that the market for designer drugs, especially ecstasy, in urban areas is rising. BiH is not a significant narcotics cultivator. It is generally assumed that domestic cultivation is limited to small-scale marijuana crops grown in southern and western BiH (mainly around Trebinje and Bihac). BiH is also not a major synthetics narcotics producer: refinement and production are negligible. If authorities locate small marijuana growing operations, these are destroyed.

BiH is considered to be one of the regional hubs for narcotics shipment. As its neighbours, Bosnia and Herzegovina is affected by trafficking on the Balkan route, linking production sites in Afghanistan via Turkey with the main European markets. One of the subroutes goes through Bulgaria, Romania and FYROM to Kosovo, then through the Serbian and Montenegrin “Sandzak” to BiH, and further on to Croatia and Slovenia. Marijuana is usually transported from western FYROM, Albania and Kosovo over to Montenegro to southern BiH.

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

In terms of the management of these illegal activities, the country is also considered to be one of the regional hubs. In the past, leaders of the Balkan area’s relevant narcotics trafficking criminal structures have resided mainly in BiH because the lack of cooperation among the country’s different police sections/sectors due to divided state structure has helped them to avoid arrest. Possible repercussions of recently increased seizures and arrest activities remain to be determined. Drug trafficking in the Federation seems to be mainly controlled by groups originating from Sandzak (Montenegro and Serbia) and Kosovo. Traffickers have capitalized in particular on an ineffective justice system, public sector corruption, and the lack of specialized equipment and training.

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

Individual law enforcement agencies are showing improved capability to identify and disrupt organized drug trafficking operations. In 2010 and in the first half of 2011 there have been a number of successful operations, some of which show an improved ability for joint working both between the levels of law enforcement within BiH and also regionally on an international level in the field of narcotics control and information collection and exchange. However, the figures for seizure still remain poor. Further efforts are still needed regarding an effective judicial follow-up as well as to improve joint investigation, coordination and cooperation. The establishment of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies was a landmark in such progress in 2010 and continued political and administrative support for the establishment of its full operational capacity during 2011 is vital to improving such capability in the future. Further support to enhance the Local Risk Analysis Centers (LRACs) within contributing agencies for the improvement of work and effectiveness of the Joint Risk Analysis Centre (JRAC) under the Integrated Border Management Strategy will also potentially improve targeted joint enforcement activity. A new Project in 2010 to establish a Police and Customs Cooperation Centre in BiH (initially just for the Police) linked to the EU network of such joint centers is still in the planning stages but could be an additional support. Although these last examples are international projects they are also important for internal BiH cooperation and coordination mechanisms because this will be necessary for their effective working. The implementation of the Agreement on the Establishment of an Electronic Data Exchange System for Police and Prosecution Registries, which was signed in 2010, will be instrumental in improving the exchange of information vital to law enforcement between all levels of the policing structure in BiH, although progress during the first months of 2011 was slow with some bodies not complying and with no effective sanctions at hand. Unfortunately, a similar system (or the inclusion of it in the DEA) for the systematic and regular exchange of crime intelligence does not exist and is a significant gap in the capability for identifying and disrupting organized criminal networks.

Recent examples of Prosecutors being willing to comply with their legal obligations and to take a proactive lead in planning and running organized crime joint agency investigations is also a welcome sign of good practice for better cooperation and coordination between the various parts of the fractured structure of BiH policing.

Border management has visibly improved (however, only 87% of vacancies within Border Police authorities are filled; as a consequence, the surveillance of the Green Line has partially been deferred in favour of staffing Border Control Points), deficiencies in the regulatory structure and justice system have been addressed, and coordination among police agencies has improved. In order to improve and systematize measures against narcotics trafficking and related crimes awareness of the need for strategic leadership among the political authorities needs to be improved. A national drug information system focal point is in formation, and the collection, processing and dissemination of drug-related data is neither regulated nor vetted by a state-level regulatory body. Also, there are still deficits in implementing the reform of police authorities: The establishment of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, however, should contribute to improve the insufficient systematic cooperation between different police authorities within State level law enforcement agencies. The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies is responsible for national as well as for international cooperation. With regard to the Border Police, major efforts are needed to implement an integrated border management, the latter being in the focus of a recently started EU IPA Twinning project. The establishment of police structures and agencies for an integrated management has been commenced but is not yet fully effective. The lack of legislation on data acquisition and data processing as well as the non-existence of an electronic network for effective border control play an important role in this context.

An issue of importance for tackling the drug problem is the need to implement the National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009 – 2013 and its action plan. Some progress has been made regarding the introduction of standards for information collection by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. A situation analysis was conducted, a single registration drug user form was introduced and software for collecting, analyzing and reporting standardized information was developed and shall become operational during 2010.

3.1.1. Legal framework-administrative capacity

The decentralization of the police and judiciary, poses particular challenges to the 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 Foreigners' Affairs, the Office of the BiH Prosecutor, and the State Court. The decision of the RS National Assembly from 13 April 2011 to organize a referendum on the BiH Prosecutor's Office and the State Court would put into question their competence and legal basis and would reverse previous achievements in setting up and consolidating a state level judiciary.¹ The intentional publication of classified data related to SIPA and OSA operations seriously undermines the effectiveness of their work. The Directorate for the Coordination of Police bodies has been established and should contribute to stability and security throughout BiH. The entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska as well as the cantonal and Brcko District levels are an integral part of the law enforcement and judicial structure.

3.1.1.1. Legislation

Since the general elections of 3 October 2010, the ongoing failure to form a state-level government and a fully constituted state-parliament has brought the adoption of new and the amendment of existing legislation to a practical halt.

Before the elections the criminal code and the criminal procedure code of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been amended in spring 2010 with a view to better respond to current law enforcement challenges. The Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Narcotic Drugs was included in the agenda of BiH Council of Ministers for the second time on 14 April 2011, however, its discussion was postponed again for an indefinite period of time.

¹ After consultations initiated by the European Union, the RS National Assembly is expected to decide on the withdrawal of the decision to hold the said referendum in its upcoming session, starting on 31 May 2011.

Further legislation in place are the

- Law for Control of Production and Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic-Substances
- Law for Control of Legal Drugs
- Law for File Records in Health
- Law on Prevention and Suppression of Drugs (BiH Official Gazette no. 8/06), which came into effect on February 15, 2006
- National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009 – 2013
- State Action Plan for the Fight against the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009 - 2013

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

Furthermore, BiH is party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2003), its Protocol against the 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. A legal framework for the fight against money-laundering is in force.

3.1.1.2. Institutions – organization 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 Tax 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 fight against the organized criminal networks involved in drugs trafficking has to rely upon good information sharing and cooperation. New systems and processes required for the effective sharing and collation of intelligence between agencies are being developed, for example the above mentioned Electronic Data Exchange System for Police and Prosecution Registries.

The cooperation between agencies needed to disrupt such networks is beginning to be better structured but would require further regulation.

Since the adoption of the Law on the Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in November 2005, the main bodies in charge of the development and implementation of drugs policy in BiH, as well as on international cooperation in this regard, are the Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs formed by the BiH Council of Ministers and the Department for the Prevention of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in the Ministry of Security. The Department for Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics at the Ministry of Security is in charge of the systematic gathering of data and monitoring of the phenomena, of collecting and processing data required for preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking and other criminal offences related to the abuse of narcotics, whereas the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies is responsible for communication, cooperation and coordination of law enforcement agencies, including in the fight against the abuse of narcotic drugs. 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. It also maintains a database on the import and export of narcotic substances, narcotics and plants from which narcotic drugs and precursors may be obtained, and cooperates with operational police forces in this area.

In the last decade BiH has attempted to build state-level law enforcement institutions to combat narcotics trafficking and organized crime in order to achieve compliance with relevant UN conventions. The full deployment of the Border Police (BP) and the establishment of the State Investigative and Protection Agency (SIPA) have improved counter-narcotics efforts. Telephone hotlines, local press coverage, and public relations efforts have been a first step to focus public attention on smuggling and black-marketing. The Ministry of Security established a database on perpetrators of drug-related offences which is accessible at most border crossing points.

Cooperation among law enforcement agencies and prosecutors remains difficult but is steadily improving. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council have initiated a number of projects to improve police-prosecution coordination and standardization of procedures.

Successful joint anti-drug operations of the various police services have become a regular feature over the last years. Entity and cantonal police in cooperation with the Border Police and SIPA have intercepted and seized significant amounts of substance, leading to the arrest of several hundreds of suspects. Of particular interest have been the South West as well as the North and North-East of the country as almost all trafficking crosses the Republika Srpska coming from the east and the north. International cooperation has improved as Bosnia and Herzegovina relies on the effectiveness of law enforcement and information sharing with authorities in Serbia and Montenegro. As land-based trafficking crosses several regional states, including EU member states, the level of regional and European cooperation remains a key to successful law enforcement. Bosnia and Herzegovina has signed a number of bi-lateral agreements in this respect during the reporting period. The effects of the implementation of the South Eastern European Police Cooperation Convention are clearly being felt. However, effective judicial follow-up is lacking.

[NB: Generally, almost all drugs coming from the East on land have crossed an EU member state and then SRB, MNE, FYROM, ALB. From the North, most precursors are produced in NL and other EU states crossing through SLO and CRO before they reach BiH.]

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

In the 2007 European Partnership between the EU and BiH, the fight against drugs was included in the priorities. More specifically, the following points were considered as short-term-priorities:

- Develop a State-level drugs policy in conformity with European standards
- Ensure full functioning of a State level office for narcotics

The State Strategy for control and combating abuse of Drugs was adopted by the BiH parliament on 26 March 2009. This includes provision for the establishment of the State level Office for Narcotics. The accompanying action plan for its implementation has been adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The adoption of amendments to the Law on prevention and suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs is still pending. They would establish the State-level office for drugs envisaged in the strategy and action plan and improve control over precursors.

Similarly, the rulebook for destruction of confiscated drugs has not yet been adopted and a big amount of confiscated substances collected since the adoption of the Law on prevention and suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs is still awaiting destruction. Bosnia and Herzegovina has improved its cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board. Implementation of the action plan for the prevention and suppression of drug abuse is not very advanced. The overall institutional situation of the country does not facilitate the establishment of the coordination mechanism and the implementation of the measures announced in the national action plan on drugs. Specific budgetary allocation for data collection would facilitate the implementation of the strategy.

Some progress was achieved on inter-agency exchanges of information. In BiH there are two methadone therapy centres with a combined capacity to handle about 160 patients. The limited capacity of the country's psychiatric clinics, also charged with treating drug addicts, is problematic, as the number of addicts and drug-related deaths in the country is rising steadily.

3.3. List of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs

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 the BiH authorities for the Stabilization and Association Agreement and was also included in the EU-BiH visa dialogue.

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

The BiH law enforcement agencies have contributed to the continued improvement of bilateral and regional efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking in 2009 and 2010.

Among the following successes of interagency cooperation during the first months of 2011 an anti-money-laundering operation directed against proceeds derived from drug trafficking (“Mašina”), the dismantling of a clandestine drugs laboratory (“Plantaža”) and an operation directed against the street sale of narcotics (“Boomerang”) should be highlighted :

- 14 January – seizure of 10,3 kg of skunk at border crossings
- 28 February – seizure of 56 kg of skunk in Jablanica and East Sarajevo
- 10 March – Operation “Octopus”: seizure of 29 kg of cannabis resin, 10 arrests
- 30 March – seizure of 9,5 kg of marijuana, Canton Sarajevo
- 30 March – seizure of 9 kg of marijuana in Trnovo
- 1 April – seizure of 10 kg of marijuana at border crossing Uvac/Višegrad
- 7 April – seizure of 1 kg of heroin in Mostar
- 9 April – seizure of 20 kg of marijuana at border crossing Klobuk/Trebinje
- 12 April – seizure of 21 kg of skunk at border crossings
- 14 April – Operation “Plantaža”: dismantling of clandestine drugs laboratory for the production of marijuana in Trebovljani/border region towards Croatia
- 26 April – Operation “Boomerang”: directed against street sale of narcotics in Banja Luka and Prijedor; 30 searches, 21 arrests and seizure of 1,5 kg of marijuana, 350 g of speed, 20 g of heroin, 3000 pills
- 27 April – Operation “Mašina”: anti-money-laundering operation directed against the laundering of around € 7 Mio. of proceeds derived from drug trafficking through companies in Banja Luka and Bijeljina
- 18 May – Operation “Transit”: seizure of 3 kg of marijuana in Banja Luka

The State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) publishes a monthly report about its police officials receiving calls from citizens to the Crime-Stoppers hotline (in average more than 400 calls per month). In Q1 2011 10 – 14 calls per month were related to illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

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

In Q1 2011 the Ministries of Interior of the two entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina detected 99 criminal activities of illegal production and distribution of illegal drugs which presents a decrease of 4.4% in Republika Srpska and 4.7% in the Federation of BiH, thus pressing charges against 142 persons, seizing drugs in the following amounts:

Drugs seized in the Entity Republika Srpska

Drug	Q1 2011	Q1 2010
Heroin	200 grams	2400,93 grams
Cocaine	0	68,37 grams
Marihuana	60.659,80 grams	19.774,58 grams
Hashish	0	1,3 grams
Amphetamine	116,4 grams	1004,46 grams
Cannabis stems	150 plants	34 plants
Cannabis seeds	2.301 pcs	176 pcs and 47,3 grams
Ecstasy	0	22,5 grams
Medicinal drugs	2.035 pcs	21 pcs

Drugs seized in the Entity Federation of BiH

Drug	January-February 2011
Heroin	60176 grams
Cocaine	0,67 ml
Amphetamine	15 pieces
Marihuana	1,415 grams
Cannabis stems	2591,8 grams
Ecstasy	83 pieces
Heptanon	13569 grams
Speed	276 pieces
Other	3952 pieces
	33,8 pieces
	10 pieces
	1,722 grams
	2 pieces
	24 pieces

Common for all successful police actions with large amounts of drugs being seized is an increase of cooperation among police agencies within Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the cooperation with partner agencies in the region, even beyond the borders of former Yugoslavia.

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

Since 2007 the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Interior of RS are cooperating in fighting illegal drug trafficking, including advanced investigation techniques. Hungary has implemented a twinning project to support the BiH Border Police. The purpose of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the BiH Border Police to combat organized cross-border crime efficiently, through an exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices, with a focus on improving information management. In February 2011, a new twinning project led by Austria was started with the aim to support the strategy implementation and the action plan for integrated border management in BiH. The European Union is currently preparing a large project in support of the area of law enforcement, including institutional support to the Office for narcotics. Twinning assistance will strengthen the capacities and the functions of the Directorate for Coordination of police bodies. The European Union also supports the establishment of the system for electronic data exchange between police agencies and prosecutor offices.

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

Italy is closely following, at strategic and operation level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. In December 2010 the Italian Ministry of Interior (Central Directorate for Antidrug Service), along with BiH Ministry of Security, organized a 5-days training course on the fight against drugs for representatives of the various police bodies (Entity and State levels).

In autumn 2007, BiH signed a strategic agreement with EUROPOL. EUROPOL has signed a memorandum on the establishment of a secure communication link between EUROPOL and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The so called “Neus network” will enable transfer of confidential data between The Hague where EUROPOL is located and Sarajevo. BiH authorities are concluding a “gap analysis” with a view to signing an operational agreement with Europol. A working arrangement has been signed with FRONTEX.

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

3.4. 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 newly established Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies plays an important role in this regard. Bilateral assistance shall remain focused on increasing the functionality of existing agencies and on deepening operational partnership including by cooperation agreements. There is still scope 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.

3.5. Mini Dublin Group assessment of needs

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

The urgent need for BiH at this point is prompt implementation of the BiH Strategy and Action Plan for drug control, suppression and prevention, including the establishment and operation of State office for Narcotics.

Another decisive factor is the further strengthening of the state level institutions such as the Ministry of Security, the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, SIPA, and the Border Police which, in order to increase functionality and efficiency 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, major efforts are needed to implement an integrated border management.

Though some progress has been made on operational cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the fight against organized crime, including sharing of intelligence and joint action, formal coordination and exchange of information, particularly of intelligence remain weak. A coordination mechanism has been set up between police directors, the chief prosecutor and the Ministry of Security. Results of police operations have not been adequately converted into successful prosecutions and convictions. The State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) has reached a staffing level of 70%. Not enough qualified candidates could be found to fill all the vacancies. The laws on the SIPA and border police were brought into line with the new police reform laws. The need for full implementation of the National Intelligence Model, to oblige bodies to share information and intelligence would go a long way to solving the communication and cooperation issues.

During the reporting period in 2011 the institutions of BiH have been subject to temporary financing rules due to the still outstanding adoption of the state budget for 2011. The rule book of the Directorate for coordination of police bodies was adopted. The independent board that supervises the police has been established and is operational. The Directorate received the responsibility and staff for international police cooperation (including Europol and Interpol) and VIP protection.

The recent period has seen a trend of especially the Republika Srpska (one of the two constituting entities of Bosnia-Herzegovina) 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.

4. CROATIA

Country Report by the Mini Dublin Group Zagreb

4.1. General situation in the country

Croatia is faced with the problem of drug abuse as well as with organized international drug smuggling. Due to its geographic position she is a corridor between Eastern and Western Europe, which results in a large flow of goods and passengers. The so-called “classical Balkan Route” is the most important route for drug smuggling from Eastern to Western Europe and Croatia currently the last country along this route before it enters the European Union. International criminal groups use this route for smuggling heroin because it is the shortest road distance between countries where heroin is produced towards EU countries. In the last years the “Balkan route” has increasingly also been used for smuggling of cocaine and amphetamines.

At the moment there is no significant drug production in Croatia. Only several organized cases of planting and growing Indian hemp and some cases of intensive growth in controlled conditions (so-called indoor growth) of smaller criminal groups could be noted. Marijuana on the Croatian market originates from Albania and is smuggled by organized criminal groups through Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina into Croatia and further on towards Western Europe.

The global trend of hyper-production of cocaine in certain countries of South America and the re-direction of the routes used for smuggling cocaine towards the unsaturated European market is noticed at Croatia's "blue border" by various forms of smuggling cocaine by using container traffic, sailing boats, bulk carriers, so-called "cruisers" etc. In the last time also a new trend, smuggling of cocaine with private air planes, could be detected.

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

4.2. Projects

Not only due to its strategically important geographic position Croatia is an active and highly respective partner in many international operations and projects. In the following, the most important projects are mentioned.

4.3. IPA

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

The project's first component is related to the Toxicology department of the Forensic Science Centre. There, old instruments have been replaced by new ones and new equipment was purchased. Via the Twinning project training on the newly gained instruments has been conducted, comprehending both the installation of completely new methods as well as the transfer of methods to different instruments. As a consequence, work in the Toxicology Laboratory regarding several methods has become better and more trustworthy. The number of methods used has been extended and the results have been improved. The Toxicology Laboratory quantification of drugs in biological samples is now possible and training on profiling of drugs is implemented; this has not been the case before. A Procedure Manual for the Toxicology Laboratory has also been drafted and implemented.

At the beginning of 2011 the Forensic Science Centre has issued a manual for criminal technicians in order to facilitate their cooperation with police officers, as well as a brochure regarding its organisation and the methods used for the various services provided by the Centre, which has been forwarded to Police Directorates and other institutions.

In April 2011 altogether 9 new methods regarding the Toxicology Laboratory have been accredited by the Croatian Accreditation Agency (Hrvatska Akreditacijska Agencija – HAA).

The second component focuses on the Criminal police. Within the project several key documents have been produced.

A manual for newcomers to drugs departments has been developed that is covering the various kinds of drugs, smuggling routes and modalities together with tips to recognize and detect smugglers. Also, guidelines for handling cases of investigation of drug crimes have been developed that cover topics starting from reporting and workflow further on to operational measures, informants handling and diplomatic immunity, submitting criminal charges and behaviour at court up to guidelines regarding proceedings with drugs and traces of drugs.

Both of these documents are available on the intranet of the Ministry of the Interior and thus available to all police officers and facilitate their work. Besides, they are used at the Police Academy since the start of the new term in March 2011.

A Protocol on cooperation, communication and strengthening of the institutional control model for precursors in the Republic of Croatia has been finalised and is awaiting adoption. Signatories to the Protocol are all Croatian institutions involved in precursor issues, i.e. Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Finance – Customs Directorate, Office for Combating Narcotic Drug Abuse of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction. Via this protocol contact points will be established in four of the ministries that have contact with civil society in this respect.

As until now there was no contact with civil society, a seminar was organised for operators from civil society active in precursor and chemicals transactions to lay the foundations for an open and fruitful cooperation. This meeting was the first of its kind that brought government institutions and civil society together in this respective field. Civil society was informed on time on upcoming legislative and procedural changes that are awaiting them and given the necessary contacts and materials, inter alia about forms they will have to fill out in the future in case of suspicious transactions, which is an important step in prevention and repression.

Also in the framework of the Twinning project, trainings for newcomers and for advanced officers have been held. Besides police officers, also officers from the Customs Directorate and the Military Police as well as public prosecutors have participated in the trainings.

Structures for informants handling were established and transmitted to police officers in the Criminal Intelligence Department of the Ministry of Interior as central unit for informants handling as well as to police officers from the field. The conducted work was so successful, that in the first quarter of 2011 for the first time international informants handling was conducted in Croatia. Austria and Croatia signed a Memorandum of Understanding and a Croatian informant handed over to Austria and is cooperating with the Austrian authorities according to EU standards.

4.4. Policing the Western Balkans

The Austrian Ministry of Interior, Criminal Intelligence Service carries out the originally 3 year lasting project “Drug Policing the Western Balkans” combating organised drug crime along the Balkan Route together with the partner countries Germany, Bulgaria and Serbia with the aim:

- to enhance effectiveness in combating international organised drug trafficking along the Balkan countries and
- to "perforate" the most important trading route of Afghanistan used for illegal drug transport

The project's kick-off took place as a High Level Conference during the Austrian Presidency of the European Council in 2006. 24 EU member states, 5 candidate countries, 6 third countries as well as Europol, Eurojust, EC, EMCDDA, Interpol and UNODC participated.

Croatia hosted a follow-up conference in 2008 in Zadar, which bore such good results that the project could be prolonged for three more years.

Primary activities are:

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

4.5. BESA

“BESA” was founded by the General Secretariat of Interpol with the support and sponsorship of SEPCA (Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association) in which Croatia participates since its beginning in December 2009. The foreseen duration of this project is 2 years, until December 2011, with the possibility of extension.

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

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

The benefits of the project are cash assistance of GT Interpol in the implementation of nominated operations and financial assistance for the procurement of technical equipment intended for organizational units that carry out nominated operations.

4.6. International Drug Enforcement Conference

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

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

4.7. Statistical data related to drug related crime in the Republic of Croatia

In **2010** altogether 7.782 criminal offences related to abuse and trafficking of drugs were reported which amounts to 10,64% of all reported criminal acts. In the whole of 2010, 5.423 persons have been reported under Section 173 Criminal Code (2009: 5.019; increase: 8,05 %) and 5.982 seizures of all kinds of drugs been made (2009: 5.246; increase: 14,03 %), in the following amounts (seizures in 2010):

- cocaine: 14 kg 777 g
- heroine: 97 kg 927 g
- hashish: 3 kg 412 g
- amphetamine: 6 kg 190 g
- ecstasy: 2 160 tablets
- LSD:101 doses
- Leaves of hemp drug type (marijuana): 421 kg 7543 g

The table below shows the seized quantities of drugs from 2008 to 2010.

Seizures of all types of drugs (2008-2010)

TOTAL SEIZED NARCOTIC DRUGS OF ALL TYPES	2008.	2009.	2010.
Heroin (grams)	152 kg 570 gr	59 kg 8 gr	97 kg 927 gr
Hashish (grams)	4 kg 844 gr	112 kg 945 gr	3 kg 412 gr
Marijuana (kilograms)	220 kg 691 gr	445 kg 103 gr	421 kg 754 gr
Cocaine (grams)	28 kg 631 gr	6 kg 713 gr	14 kg 777 gr
Amphetamine (grams)	15 kg 38 gr	12 kg 766 gr	6 kg 190 gr
Heptagon (tablets)	10 920	4 070	3 449
Ecstasy (tablets)	6855	2 456	2 160
LSD (doses)	654	21	101

Source: Ministry of the Interior

With relation to Section 173 Criminal Code, in the first three months of 2011 the **number of criminal acts** was 22,67% higher than in the corresponding months January till March 2010 (January-March 2011: 1.818 criminal acts, January -March 2010: 1.482 criminal acts). The **number of drug seizures** was 28,16% higher in the first three months of 2011 than in the corresponding months January till March 2010 (January – March 2011: 1.347 seizures, January – March 2010: 1.051 seizures), whereas the **number of reported persons** was 35,82 % higher in the first three months of 2011 than in the corresponding months January till March 2010 (January – March 2011: 924 persons, January – March 2010: 1.255 persons).

4.8. New legislative measures

In July 2010 the **Ordinance on the conduct of the police officers** (NN 89/10), of the Ministry of Interior, Republic of Croatia entered in force and in March 2011 the new **Police Act** (NN 34/11). During September 2010 the part of Europol’s threat assessment on organised crime for the year 2011 (**OCTA 2011-Europol**) which is related to drug trafficking (heroin, cocaine, marihuana and synthetic drugs), was produced.

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

On 24 March 2011 in the last meeting of a working group consisting of members of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance – Customs Administration the draft of **Guidelines regarding the cooperation between police and customs** (also in cases of drugs crimes) has been finalised on expert level.

4.9. Successful international cooperation and operations

On 24 February 2010 at the international road border control in Bregana, Croatia, 150 kg marijuana were seized in a truck. The marijuana, in total 299 parcels in plastic bags, was concealed in a special constructed area of the roof of that trailer. Two Montenegrin citizens have been arrested at the Croatian-Slovenian border. The drugs, valued at around 560,000 €, had been loaded in the vicinity of Tirana, Albania, and allegedly were destined for the Netherlands.

In the period between December 2009 and July 2010 police officers of the Republic of Croatia together with the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, police officers of the Slovenian Ministry of Interior, the Swiss Ministry of Interior, the Austrian Ministry of Interior and with the customs police of the Federal Republic of Germany, conducted an international operation under code name “TIGAR” (“TIGER”). Altogether in the course of the operation a total of 10 kg of heroin, 627 gram of cocaine, cca 20,5 kg of marihuana and 1380 plants of Indian hemp Seized were, one laboratory for cultivation of Indian hemp detected and 50 persons arrested.

On 13 August 2010 at the border crossing Bajakovo police officers searched a car with national licence plates of the Netherlands and which was used by a citizen of the Kingdom of Netherland during its entry in the Republic of Croatia. During the search 88 kg ad 690 gram of heroin were seized.

From October 2009 to 5 November 2010 the police officers of the of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska conducted a joint international operation with the code name “KVART”. On Croatian territory altogether against 16 Croatian nationals were pressed charges and in total 1 kg and 500 gram heroin, 36 gram cocaine, 6 kg and 300 gram marijuana, 1 kg cutting material, 100.000 Euros, several firearms, several digital scales and burglary tools seized. On BiH territory 13 persons were arrested and 3 kg and 106 gram heroin, 216 tablets XTC, 750 gram marijuana, 103 cannabis plants, 2 kg and 600 gram of explosives, several weapons and ammunition and several digital scales were seized.

During the international police cooperation between Drug Crime Department PNUSKOK, agency DEA and Brazilian National police (DPF) during October and November 2010 in Brazil 158 kg and 180 kg cocaine were seized in separate police operations, and one Croatian citizen, two Serbian citizens and four Brazilian citizens arrested.

Since January 2010 the drugs department of the Croatian Ministry of the Interior was leading investigations against a Croatian criminal organisation for international drugs trafficking from the Caribbean to Europe. Croatian police entered into close cooperation with the DEA, Austrian and German police forces which led to parallel investigations and proceedings that were planned and coordinated by the Croatian Ministry of the Interior. In the course of this operation several tactical investigation measures (controlled deliveries etc.) were applied in several countries, whereby the complexity of the operation required coordinated actions of police forces of several countries that were timed to the minute. The operation resulted in the seizure of 105 kg Cocaine and arrests of altogether 10 persons in the USA, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia on 12 April 2011. In the complex investigation a new modus operandi for drugs trafficking was detected, i.e. smuggling of bigger amounts of drugs with small private aircrafts from the Caribbean islands to Europe. Investigations are ongoing.

5. KOSOVO

Report by the Mini Dublin Group Pristina

5.1. General situation

Statistics about confiscation of drugs

Year	Heroin	Marihuana	Hashish	Cannabis (plants)	Cocaine	Others
2008	44,6 kg	177,5 kg	-	9000	2,15 kg	12,4 g + 40 Ecstasy
2009	36,1 kg	43,6 kg	336 g	33497	1,4 kg	2,4 kg + 2169 Ecstasy
2010	55,6 kg	19,9 kg	2,8 g	9724	0,21 kg	1,318 kg +6 Ecstasy
2011 until May	No figure	No figure	No figure	No figure	No figure	No figure

Source: Kosovo Police

Additional remarks:

According to Kosovo Police there is no statistics available from UNMIK Police for 1999 and 2000.

Number of Police Officers working in DOC: 40* (and additional cooperation from Regional Units)

Number of Police Officers working in EULEX OCI: 25

Suspected cases and qualify cases form 2004 – 2010

	Cases	Suspected	Alb	Serb	Others	Male	Femal	Traffic	Possession	Cultivation
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
Total	1823	2876	2674	120	82	2765	111	591	1044	188

Source: Kosovo Police

Market prices of drugs in Kosovo (Source: Kosovo Police)

- Heroin 1 kg 15.000 to 20.000 Euro
- Heroin 0,6 gr 15 to 20 Euro
- Cocaine 1 kg 60.000 to 80.000 Euro
- Cocaine 0,6 gr 60 – 80 Euro
- Marihuana 1 kg 500 – 700 Euro
- Marihuana 5 gr 15 – 20 Euro

Routes Heroin:

Afghanistan – Turkey – Bulgaria – FYROM – Kosovo (Nord and East Kosovo in and out, South and West Kosovo out towards Montenegro and Albania) and further distribution to Western Europe
or

Afghanistan – Pakistan – Iran – Turkey – by sea transport to Cyprus – by sea transport to Europe
(as an alternative to Balkan route)

Source: Intelligence Information

Routes Cocaine:

South America – by sea transport to harbours of MONTENEGRO, ALBANIA and GREECE and transport in and through Kosovo as well as other above mentioned countries

Route Marihuana:

Transport to harbours of MONTENEGRO, ALBANIA and GREECE and transport parts of it in south and south west to Kosovo and leaving Kosovo in north and east

Methods:

1. Sending of drug packages without declared ownership by busses
2. Using of inexperienced persons for transport (examples: arrests in Serbia);
3. Using Kosovarians leaving abroad (“Diaspora”) for smuggling of drugs
4. Using in car repair shops special prepared hiding places
5. Using bus or other transport companies for sending (arrest 6 kg Heroin – destination Austria)

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

5.2.1. Changes/additions to the CN institutional framework

There have been no changes in the institutional framework.

5.2.2. Legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

There have been no legal or legislative changes.

5.2.3. An assessment of the government’s political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy

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

5.3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs (including those support demand reduction)

- Kosovo has signed MoU’s with ALBANIA, AUSTRIA; SWITZERLAND; HUNGARY; GERMANY AND FRANCE concerning fighting ORGANISED CRIME including DRUGS;

- EULEX has signed MoU's with INTERPOL, FYROM and Montenegro for cooperation in fighting OC.
- OSCE organized "Controlled Delivery Exercise" with Kosovo and other states – which was put in practice successfully in March 2011.

5.4. Place and date of meetings of Mini Dublin groups

16th of May 2011, 1000 to 1200 hours in the Austrian Embassy, Pristina

Invitations: all representatives according to the procedures;

Participants: Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Rumania.

Reports:

Kosovo Police: Maj Gazmend HOXHA (DOC)

Cpt Bahri SHALA (DOC): Cpt Veton ELSHANI (IPC)

EULEX Office Criminal Intelligence (OCI): Mr Michael RAWLINSON

Mr Karl JOST

5.5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

- International police cooperation;
- Police cooperation especially with Serbia;
- Technical equipment (problems in maintenance of SCANNER, and so on);

5.6. Mini Dublin group assessment of needs

5.6.1. Emerging threats/trends

- Kosovo is still used as TRANSIT and STORAGE – Country for drugs, due to Visa liberalisation, drug routes are also bypassing Kosovo in this regard;

- Due to the lack of international cooperation with Kosovo Police there is a gap of information concerning Kosovarians involved in crime activities to other police forces;
- Close interethnic cooperation between Balkan groups in criminal activities regardless of ethnicity;
- Northern Kosovo is still seen as “Safe heaven” for OC – activists, due to the lack of policing, justice and authorities;
- Two border crossings (Gate 1 LEPOSAVIQ in direction RASKA and GATE ZUBIN POTOK in direction NOVI PAZAR) are still a risk for smuggling of drugs;
- The bad or even not existing integration of Kosovo Serbs in Kosovo Police structures has a negative impact on information flow from this side;
- Danger of increasing of drug abuse for Kosovar youth;
- More and more Cocaine is brought into Kosovo and used here.

5.6.2. *Political initiatives*

The government must set initiatives, in order to arrange the drug fight more effective, more support for Kosovo Police.

5.6.3. *Recommendations*

- Intensifying of close international police cooperation with Kosovo Police; strengthen men power of Kosovo Police – DOC Department
- MoU’s for legal and operational support
- Strengthening of Kosovo Justice;
- Implementation of a functional Witness Protection Programme;

6. FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Country Report by the Mini Dublin Group Skopje

6.1. General situation in the country

6.1.1. Production of illegal drugs

With regard to the 2009 report the situation regarding production of illegal drugs has changed: Confiscations of approx 450 kg of self-cultivated Marijuana in 2010, as opposed to 700 kg in 2009 show that the production is decreasing. The numbers provided for the first three months of 2011, i.e. 7 kg Marijuana, seem to confirm this trend. Licit poppy straw and poppy straw concentrate are produced in the central and eastern part of the country for medical purposes only on approximately 1000 hectares, which means an increase of 100% compared to the former cultivated 500 hectares. 24 companies/institutions which are dealing with import, export or transit of drugs and/or precursors have been registered in the meantime. The agricultural inspectorate reports regularly to the Ministry of Health on the registered poppy cultivation, based on which reports on the quantities of extracted alkaloids are established. Under UN Convention 1961 article 12 the Ministry of Health is obliged to report regularly to the INCB (International, Narcotic Control Board) in Vienna, on a quarterly and annual basis. During random controls with the objective of monitoring the poppy fields in the so-called "risky period" the inspection team and ICMPD representatives did not find any signs of possible illicit production of opium.

6.1.2. Trafficking

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

In the meantime domestic drug use is on the increase. Trafficking is often related to or part of smuggling and other trans-border activities of minorities, who are actual majorities in border areas and/or larger cities. There is also often a link to organised crime, whether on local, regional or on international level, with relations to migrant populations living in Western Europe.

The re-establishment and existence of criminal structures beyond the borders of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, e.g. in Kosovo, is alarming and could create additional possibilities for trafficking and organised crime. There is also west-east trafficking of cocaine from the Albanian harbours through the country towards Greece.

6.1.3. Drug Abuse, domestic programmes and demand reduction

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is not considered a major market for illicit drugs. The register of drug users (drug offenders) is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. The national focal point calculated that there is a total of 2 691 intravenous drug users; taking into consideration the data provided by needle exchanging programs and calculating an additional 3 967 people according to the official Ministry of Interior statistics, adding to that the total of 1277 patients as recorded in 2009, the probable number of intravenous drug users is 7935. The estimated number of unknown cases (persons out of any program or statistic) is considered significantly higher.

The most frequently used drug is marijuana, followed by heroin, cocaine and ecstasy. Growth of trafficking and the availability of cheap synthetic drugs could further enhance local consumption in the future.

Data concerning drug-related deaths are collected from the Institute for Forensic Medicine and Crime of the medical faculty in Skopje, and from other departments for forensic medicine in general hospitals in several cities. It is important to mention that the figures may be biased due to the fact that in many cases and for a variety of reasons (religious, financial, etc) no autopsy/toxicological analysis is carried out.

The number of drug-related deaths given for 2008 is 19, for 2009 it is 16 (15 males, one female), and for the period January – October 2010 14 (13 males, one female). The most common cause of death was opiate overdose, more precisely heroin. The majority of drug-related deaths occur in the age group 25–29 (63.2%), followed by the age group 20–24 (21%). The majority of drug-related deaths (78.9%) were related to opiate overdose. Four cases involved opiates and psychoactive drugs, two involved opiates and amphetamines, and two involved opiates and benzodiazepines.

Two cases (10.5%) involved methadone, again mixed with other drugs, and in one case opiates and another amphetamine were detected.

Drug treatment services and harm reduction programmes are available in the main cities in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Overview of treatment centers:

- 1 Hospital facility for in-patient treatment for detoxification
- 1 Therapeutic Community
- 3 Social Care Centers
- 12 Centers for treatment of drug abusers (8 on regional level, 2 in Skopje and 2 in prisons)
- 15 needle exchange stations with NGO support.

Among first-time treatment clients, 95% reported opioids as their main problem substance followed by cannabis (5%) and benzodiazepines (1%). 70% of them were in the age group of 20-34 years.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia receives expert support for new treatment opportunities other than Methadone. The use of the drug-substitute Buprenorphine, which has been employed for 10 years in the USA, has been approved for use in treatment and is produced by the Alkaloid Company in Skopje. The results achieved by this new drug-substitute are very promising.

6.1.4. Drug supply reduction

The overall performance of the Ministry of Interior in fighting drug trafficking can be assessed as positive both from quantitative and qualitative points of view. The legal system and administrative capacity in the area of drug trafficking have been largely aligned with the *acquis communautaire*.

Use of special investigative procedures in the fight against organised crime as well as in the cooperation between the special unit for the fight against organized crime and corruption of the Public Prosecutors office and the Department for Organised Crime within the Ministry of Interior, has become a standard. Consequently, the regional and international cooperation has improved. This is evidenced by successful bi- and multilateral anti-drug operations, e.g. with Austria, Germany and Turkey

Statistics: Ministry of Interior and Customs Administration

Confiscated Drugs	Statistics 2009	Statistics 2010	Statistics 2011 Jan - March
Marijuana	701,5 kg	452,1 kg	7,2 kg
Heroin	213,8 kg	38,12 kg	0,3 kg
Cocaine	No significant quantities	2,69 kg	1,46 kg
Amphetamine (incl. Methamphetamine, Ecstasy, Ephedrine)	14.899 pills	12.504 pills	582 pills

Source: Interministerial commission on drugs

Main activities/developments in drug supply reduction since beginning of 2010:

In 2010 the Ministry of Interior detected and disrupted 5 international channels, where 475 criminal acts were reported in the area of illegal trade with narcotics, from which 408 acts were linked to illegal production and trade of drugs and psychotropic substances, committed by 519 individuals, and 85 acts for “enabling the use of narcotic drugs” committed by 97 individuals.

A joint operation at the end of December 2010, involving Austrian, German and FYROM police disrupted a major drug ring in Central and Eastern Europe, resulting in dozens of arrests. According to police, the so called “Frankfurt Mafia” was able to penetrate the market very quickly by selling high-quality heroin to “reasonable” prices. Their profit in Vienna alone was estimated at € 80,000 (US\$105,000) a day. Police in Austria and FYROM had conducted coordinated raids and arrested 29 people suspected of being gang ring members.

Since their coordinated effort began in 2007, police have made more than 300 arrests in Germany and 69 in Austria. The gang was based in FYROM and quickly took over the heroin trade in Frankfurt and Vienna by violently forcing out rival gangs.

Co-operation between law enforcement agencies has been improved through the establishment/reinforcement of structures and activities such as joint police/customs teams and especially through the permanent contact of operative forces within the EU and the Western Balkan Region through the EC financed Project “Drug Policing Balkan – Advanced 2009–2012”.

The above mentioned multilateral operation was fully carried out under the umbrella of the project and led to one of the biggest successes on European level in the last years. “Drug Policing Balkan – Advanced 2009-2012” is – in spite of just moderate project funds of € 265.000 a model for future projects which are clearly focusing on operational targets.

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

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

Roles and responsibilities of the IMCND are in particular:

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

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

6.3. Ongoing activities/developments

The national drug strategy was adopted in December 2006. On 18 July 2007, the Government adopted the pre-implementation plan for 2007–08 and the implementation plan for 2009–12, as well as 10 rulebooks specifying best practices.

The national drugs strategy is in accordance with European Union drugs strategy 2005–12. The principles, goals and priorities established by the national drug strategy have been realized through the drugs action plan 2009–12. The action plan works towards an efficient, coordinated and multidisciplinary approach to the fight against drug abuse, undertaking measures for increasing the awareness and knowledge of the general public about the controlled psychoactive substances that cause addiction; the prevention of use of psychoactive substances especially among young people; measures for encouraging healthy lifestyles; promotion of measures for the protection of the family; reducing health and social drug-related consequences; including all sectors of society in the activities related to the fight against the drug abuse. One of the principles of the action plan is the availability of prevention programmes at a decentralised level in accordance with the needs of the local community.

In order to meet these requirements, the action plan has a balanced and multidisciplinary approach based on the five key elements:

1. Coordination at the national and international level;
2. Demand reduction;
3. Supply reduction and tackling the illicit trade;
4. Assessment, supervision, information and training;
5. International cooperation.

In addition to the central state institutions, municipal and regional units, the civil society and non-governmental organisations are involved in the implementation of the action plan.

The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD) showed that tranquilizers are the most commonly used drugs among students. The use of cannabis has decreased whereas the consumption of ecstasy has increased.

The Bureau for Public Security, Ministry of Interior of FYROM together with DICA – The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces – is organizing an International Conference of Experts on combating drugs “Analysis of the organized forms of drug crime and strengthening of the capacities for suppression of illegal trafficking in drugs” in Ohrid in June 2010.

Around 70 experts from the European Commission, SECI, Interpol, DEA, police representatives from the Ministry of interior from EU countries Austria, Germany, Holland, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Romania, UK, as well as FYROM neighboring countries Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, will be participating.

A network on information exchange on drugs between the European Agencies, namely EUROPOL and EUROJUST and the local agencies involved in the fight against drugs trafficking has been created; the National Focal Point for cooperation with EUROPOL has been established within the Ministry of Interior.

6.4. Major bilateral and multilateral counter narcotic programs

- EU CARDS Twinning project “Combating drugs related criminal activity” with Hungary as a Twinning partner and the Netherlands as a Junior Partner lasted from 28th April 2006 until 28th August 2007. Objectives: enhancement and practical implementation of the developed National Drugs Strategy; preparation and implementation of a National Action Plan to the same end; consolidation and strengthening of the national drugs co-ordination mechanism;
- Technical Assistance of EAR to equip MoI Central Laboratory;
- Various bilateral contributions in the framework of the police reform program, like capacity building and police trainings; e.g. Police Training Academy in Skopje in 2009 within bilateral police training assistance by German BKA
- Project “Establishment of program for prevention of drugs in the schools”; supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands started in the municipalities of Skopje, Tetovo and Strumica. Materials for prevention like guidelines for the teachers, informative materials for different types of drugs are prepared within this project.

6.5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

- Technical support for establishment of Software for collection and evaluation of data for monitoring of drug indicators
- Technical support to convey Survey of the general population for use of illicit drugs to have EMCDDA indicator

- Continuation of the cooperation with EUROPOL and EMCDDA and other partner organizations
- Support for implementation of the recently adopted Law for Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances -preparation of (20) preventive programmes for different target groups
- Support for implementation of the Law for Control of Precursors – continuing education and training for inspectors for control of licit as well as for illicit production and trade of precursors
- Capacity building (esp. in the area of control of synthetic drugs)
- Exchange of information and training for new therapies – transfer of good practices

6.6. Mini Dublin group assessment of needs

6.6.1. Emerging threats/trends

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

6.6.2. Political initiatives and recommendations

- International cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking and organized crime activities in all forms is essential to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- The ongoing dialogue with the host country should be used to remind that a successful counter narcotics policy is of major importance to the European Union and its member states, and that continuity of institutions and operational staff is a precondition for effective, professional and sustainable work and results.

- The adoption of the National Drugs Strategy and the Action Plans by the government is recognised as a major step of the counter narcotics policy of the country. Their implementation is considered as the next crucial step. The participation and support by the municipalities is essential.
- The fruitful cooperation within the IMCND and with the International Community should be continued.

7. MONTENEGRO

Report by the Mini Dublin Group Podgorica

The Mini Dublin Group meeting took place on the 20th of May, 2011, in the premises of the Austrian Embassy in Podgorica.

The representatives of the following countries and organizations were present: Austria, United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia.

Guest speakers were:

- Mr. Miodrag Lakovic, Superintendent General Department for Fight Against Drug Abuse, Police Directorate
- Mr. Dejan Knezevic, Chief Superintendent Department for Fight Against Drug Abuse, Police Directorate

7.1. General situation in the country

Montenegro is mainly a transit country on the so called “Balkan route”. With some exceptions in private plants for Cannabis Montenegro is not a country for drugs production. While consumption and smuggling of “Skunk” (modified marihuana) is rising, a decrease of smuggling of heroine was monitored. About 10-15% of the total amount of drugs passing the border to MNE is distributed inside the country.

Smuggling of Skunk from Albania and Kosovo is much more profitable for MN OCG's and bears less risk for high punishment in case of detection through the police. 10 police officers are working on drug related cases in the headquarter of MN Police directorate and 47 police officers are working in local police units which are specialized in investigations on drug offences.

7.2. Types of drugs smuggled into and distributed in Montenegro

7.2.1. Heroine

No large quantities are smuggled any more. Currently, the quantity lies between 1 and 4 kilo. In most cases couriers from Kosovo smuggle heroine from Kosovo via MNE, BiH and Croatia to Western European Countries. About 4000 edicts on heroine consumptions came to the attention of the MN police. 15 persons from Bar and Podgorica were arrested because of street distribution of heroine. After 1 year of investigation the case was transferred to court on 4th April 2011.

7.2.2. Cocaine

MNE is a transit and destination country of cocaine. Several MN OCG's operating from South America are involved in the smuggling of cocaine by vessels to Europe. Usually, cocaine is hidden in vessels or in containers with regular goods to ports in Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Italy. In an operation coordinated between MNE, Germany and the DEA 300 kg of cocaine could be seized in the port of Hamburg in March 2011. The cocaine was hidden in a shipment of furniture from South America and was supposed to be transferred to the MN Company INOK in Cetinje. The owner of the company, a Dutch citizen (MN origin) and his son, and a Colombian citizen were arrested. 77 kg cocaine could be seized in May 2011 in Spain. During this operation 3 MN and 3 Serbian sailors were arrested. In the framework of another operation with SOCA a MN citizen was detected who received several parcels from Panama which were sent with DHL via UK to MN.

7.2.3. Cannabis/Skunk

Cannabis and Skunk is mainly brought from Albania to MN and smuggled from there via Serbia, BiH, Croatia and Slovenia to other Western European Countries. The prise for 1 kg Skunk in Albania is around EUR 500,-, in MN EUR 800,- in Serbia, BiH and Croatia EUR 1.500,- , in Slovenia EUR 2.000. The price on the street in EU-Countries is between EUR 30,- and 35,- per gram. This is the reason why OCG's are increasingly switching from heroine to skunk (high profit, lower risk of hard punishment).

Surveillance on the MN border is difficult due to the topographic situation of the country. In 2010 in MN 658 kg of Skunk could be seized, in 2011 already 300 kg. Legal proceedings against 37 people who smuggled 2,5 tons of Skunk from Albania via Kosovo to MN are taking place.

7.2.4. Synthetic drugs

No significant seizure on synthetic drugs in 2010. Police noticed that citizens from BiH and Serbia distributed amphetamine in different tourist centres along the MN coast during the summer time, mainly in Discos and “Rave Party’s”.

7.3. Possession of drugs

MN law allows possession for consumption without punishment. The decision about the amount of drugs regarding consumption lies within the responsibility of the judge. Smuggling and dealing with drugs is forbidden. A working group has already elaborated a new law on drugs which had been forwarded to parliament. Mr. Lakovic was a member of this working group.

7.4. Drug related projects and programs

Currently there are no drug related projects or programs in MN. A ”National Strategic Response to Drugs 2013 – 2017” will be elaborated by the Ministry of Health. MN intensively cooperates Italy and other neighbouring countries and some EU-Countries.

The type and amount of drugs seized during the last three consecutive years

Type of drugs	2008	2009	2010
Marijuana	327.365.14 g	921.772,13 g	658.004,61g
Heroine	18.028,25 g	18.280.43 g	8.422,41g
Cocaine	7.745.88 g	1419.67 g	4.003,15g
Synthetic drug ecstasy	114,3 pes	21 pes	120,96pes
Other pharmaceutical products	n/a	1219 pcs	298pes
Altogether	353.265.69 g	941.472.23g	670.430,17

12,81 kilograms of mixture, used for mixing with intoxicating drugs (procaine, benzocaine, lidocaine, caffeine, paracetamol, etc.), was found and seized.

2 cannabis plantations were found and eradicated.

7.5. Further Montenegrin Police-Actions

During the interrogation of 37 people regarding the smuggling of 2,5 tons of Skunk 3 officers from the Border-police, 1 officer from the City-police and 1 officer from the prison security guard were detected in drug smuggling.

Concerning destruction of confiscated drugs, currently stored in save rooms in the Higher Court, a working group from the Police Directorate is dealing with this topic. A result of this working group is expected soon. A thermal destruction in the aluminium production site in Podgorica is foreseen.

8. SERBIA

Country Report by the Mini Dublin Group Belgrade

The first meeting of the Belgrade Mini Dublin group for the year 2011 took place on May 17th, 2011 with representatives of 16 Dublin Group countries and representatives of the E Delegation, EULEX and UNODC.

Speakers:

- Mr Ivan Brandić, Head of Department for Drugs Smuggling Suppression, Service for Combating Organized Crime, Serbian Ministry of the Interior. The report below is based on his presentation and the subsequent discussion among the participants of the Mini Dublin group meeting.
- Sinisa Durkolic, UNODC Office Belgrade. Mr. Durkolic gave an overview of the Paris Pact Initiative and UNODC's activities in Serbia. He invited the participants to share information regarding law enforcement and narcotics-related projects/assistance in Serbia funded by their Governments, in order to feed it into the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM) web site <https://www.paris-pact.net/>

8.1. General developments

Despite the adoption of the Law on Controlled Psychoactive Substances in December 2010, not much general progress in the drug combating policy have been made in Serbia. The National Commission for the fight against Drugs (foreseen for 2010),) which, according to the Action Plan for implementing the National Strategy against drug abuse, is supposed to coordinate the efforts by the government, has still not been established, so that there is still a regrettable lack of national coordination.

Also, despite the introduction of the methodology for the destruction of drugs in the above mentioned law, the procedure for destruction of seized drugs, which is under the competence of this Commission, has not been adopted. It was explained that the reason is delay in finalizing the study on environmental impact and potential damages to the eco-system (competence of the Ministry for environment). Large quantities of seized drugs (over 18 tons) are, therefore, currently held in the court and police storages.

As also several members of the Mini Dublin group agreed, the track record of Serbia regarding drug combating policy remains ambiguous: legal achievements contrast with a lack of concrete steps regarding implementation. Therefore, the chairs of the Mini Dublin group envisage to invite at the second meeting in 2011 also representatives of the Ministry of Health, which has the lead in the field of drug combating policy.

As far as the police side of drug combating is concerned, the representative of the criminal police at the Mini Dublin Group meeting underlined the excellent cooperation with police liaisons from EU member states and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the USA.

8.2. Situation in Serbia

8.2.1. Overview

According to a report by the representative of the Serbian police, 5573 cases of drug-related crime have been handled in 2010 (2009: 5509). In the same period, 5699 seizures have been made (2009: 5650).

8.2.2. Heroin

Generally, it can be stated that the Balkans route is still the most important entry route for smuggling of heroin to Europe. The most important target countries are: Austria, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries. In summer 2010, a large number of Turkish smugglers have been stopped at the border crossings Bulgaria/Serbia and Serbia/Hungary. The trend of a certain shift of heroin smuggling from Turkey via Bulgaria and Romania (instead of Serbia) has continued.

Another route is Bulgaria-FYROM-Kosovo. According to the report by Mr. Brandic, Kosovo represents a “black hole”, in which large quantities of heroin are being stocked, processed and traded.

Mr Brandic said that four major groups are involved in drug smuggling:

- Groups from Kosovo
- Ethnic Albanian groups from FYROM.
- Groups from South Serbia (Presevo valley)
- Groups from Sandzak (Novi Pazar, Tutin) and Northern Montenegro

Heroin is being smuggled mostly in small quantities between 1 and 3 kg, in order to avoid big financial losses in case of seizure. Price for heroin has fallen and amounts to 12,000 to 16,000 €/kg. Price per gram for purchasers differs from 20 € in Novi Sad to 25 € in Belgrade. Generally, heroin which can be purchased in Serbia is of very poor quality.

8.2.3. *Cocaine*

Serbian nationals continue to be involved in international cocaine smuggling, despite several successful crackdowns on Serbian groups active in Latin America in the last two years. Serbian criminals have established an apparently very good network with international groups and developed a high degree of organization. Serbian groups pay between 5000 and 6000 USD per kg cocaine and smuggle it with rented cargo ships, with the help of sailors or sometimes even with ships they own to Europe (harbours: Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Gioia di Tauro).

Smuggling to the countries of the Western Balkans is relatively small (since Western European markets are more lucrative). Sometimes, cocaine is being smuggled by couriers to the Belgrade airport, or to Zagreb airport and by car to Belgrade. In this respect, Mr. Brandic underlined the excellent cooperation with the German police, since couriers often use Frankfurt airport to change flights.

Retail price for cocaine in Serbia amounts to 33,000 to 38,000 €. Price per gram is app. 50 € in Novi Sad and 70 to 100 € in Belgrade.

8.2.4. *Marihuana/Skunk*

In 2010, there was an increase in smuggling and seizures with skunk. The substance reaches Serbia via Albania and Montenegro. In Batajnica, a laboratory has been discovered and 3 persons arrested. The price for skunk in Serbia amounts to 1000 to 3000 € per kg.

8.2.5. *Synthetic drugs*

Synthetic drugs are increasingly popular. As in previous years, Serbian police was able to uncover small laboratories (kitchen size) producing drugs such as amphetamines. Most synthetic drugs are being produced in Serbia, since not one case of smuggling was unveiled.

Serbian police is leading many investigations regarding synthetic drugs. One of them is linked to the distribution of Methamphetamin of high purity. The location of the laboratory is unknown and maybe in Bulgaria. Price per kg amounts to 6,000 to 7,000 €, retail price is 10 to 20 €.

8.2.6. *Statistics*

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Brandic presented the annual statistic for 2010. In addition to this statistics regarding the territory of Serbia, Mr. Brandic informed that leads coming from Serbian police often resulted in considerable seizures abroad.

Confiscated drugs	2008	2009	2010
Heroin	208 kg	169 kg	242 kg
Cocaine	15,1 kg	19,2 kg	7 kg
Marihuana	1,478 kg	1,083 kg	1,553 kg
Hashish	1,2 kg	16 kg	N/A
Ecstasy	0,2 kg	5,4 kg	67 kg *
Amphetamines	17 kg	7,1 kg	
Total amount seized	1,744 kg	1,322 kg	1,688 kg

* Total amount of synthetic drugs

8.3. Situation regarding Kosovo

In the Q&A session of the meeting, the question of cooperation regarding drug smuggling in Kosovo was raised. Unfortunately, no progress has been made since the last meetings, in which this issue had been raised as well. Although in single cases in the past, police liaisons from other countries could help as intermediaries, there is no structural cooperation, neither with Kosovar police authorities, nor with Eulex. While the representative of the Eulex office in Belgrade underlined that a dialogue with Serbian police exists, the representative of the Serbian police claimed that no information of operational help would come out of this dialogue. It appears that the main problem is neither the lack of legal basis (given that a cooperation agreement between Serbian police and Eulex exists) nor the lack of will, but practical impediments and, according to some participants of the meeting, a lack of trust. This is particularly regrettable since cooperation in other fields (such as human trafficking) works well.

8.4. Policy recommendations

The Mini Dublin Group commends the Serbian police for its ongoing activities in the fight against drug smuggling and production. Above all, international cooperation is satisfactory. However, the Mini Dublin group wants to raise the following policy recommendations:

Serbian (and Kosovo) police authorities must find ways to establish effective cooperation.

Despite the signing of the co-operation protocol with Eulex, there is still a clear lack of concrete cooperation with the Kosovar authorities. The members of the Dublin group therefore encourage the Serbian police authorities to actively seek information and cooperation through Eulex.

The Commissions against Drug Trafficking and Abuse should be established as soon as possible. The members of the Dublin group urge the Serbian side to establish the Commissions against Drug Trafficking and Abuse as soon as possible, in order to create a single coordination body for drug combating in Serbia.

9. ALBANIA

Report by the Mini Dublin Group Tirana

9.1. General situation in the country

The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies. Albania has continued to achieve success with its programs in order to reduce the production and flow of drugs and to ensure effective control of the country's borders. Additional measures for the modernization of technical equipments and increased training of officers ensured new qualitative achievements in the standards of security and service. The successful seizure of large quantities of drugs during the last four months shows Albania being more and more a drug-transit country.

Due to the drop of Heroin production in Afghanistan much lower quantities of that drug have been transited from Turkey. This leads both into a price increase and a worse quality of the product sold in the market. As a consequence an increase flow of Cocaine is being registered substituting Heroine for a number of consumers.

It had been announced that a new treatment center for Heroin-dependent consumers will be opened soon by assistance of the WHO.

PAMECA reported further ongoing intensive training activities with the Albanian border police forces. Technical manuals for every border crossing point have been compiled. A six-week crime investigation course is under way.

EU- Delegation Albania reported that all projects with regard to the fight against drugs now are being documented in a single list. New Projects directing on Integrated Border Management and organized crime are in the pipeline.

9.2. Legislation and coordination developments

2010 was the last year of the existing antidrug strategy, and a process already has started for designing the new strategy for 2011 and onwards. This is being carried out by an inter-institutional working group further preparing the draft-strategy which had been created by a Prime Minister's order No.125 from June 9, 2010. According to this order the new strategy must be in absolute accordance with the EU acquis specially covering anti-drug measures; in detail it relates to the EU Strategy on drugs, 2005-2012, the EU Action Plan on drugs, 2009 – 2012 and the Action Plan on drugs between EU and Western Balkan countries, 2009 – 2012. The whole process is directed by the Albanian Public Health Institute and will be completed within the first 6 months of 2011.

Aiming at the improvement of institutional cooperation in the fight against narcotics, a Council of Ministers Decision No.299 dated from April 14, 2011 *“For the approval of the Regulation for the functioning of the National Committee for the Coordination of the Fight against Drugs, its Secretariat and of the Office of the National information System on Drugs”* has been adopted successfully.

The National Committee will consist of a Secretariat dealing with technical issues and an advising committee. It should act as an overall National Office, which will gather and process all drug-related data and be the counterpart of EMCDA (European Monitoring Centre for drug addictions). The establishment of this Committee supports the process of approving new strategies on the fight against drugs.

Furthermore a *“Co-operation Agreement on joint control of sea borders”*, between the Border & Migration Department and the Italian Unit for the Sea Border Control of the so-called Guardia di Finanza, was signed on 14.02.2011.

The speed-boat moratorium, which bans Albanian speed boats of a certain engine dimension to be used in Albanian coastal waters, is being enforced even through the oncoming years.

9.3. Strengthening of capacities

A further increase of capacities of the specialized structures against narcotics became manageable through new equipment and technology as well respective MEMEX licenses and trainings. Support of UNODC, EU, PAMECA and ICITAP continued with the provision of new equipment and trainings in favor of counter-narcotics structures. Joint trainings with other law enforcement agencies like Customs and Prosecution Office have been successfully conducted. TIMS and MEMEX systems have further been extended thus leading to an improvement of the process of collection and the analysis of operational data in real time.

During the first five months of 2011 some twelve specialized trainings had been conducted both for Albanian antidrug units and the border police; some 124 police officers in this regard were trained.

The following training activities have to be mentioned:

- There was a training exercise held on “*Controlled delivery*” organized by OSCE-Kosovo under participation of Albania, Montenegro, FYROM, Bulgaria, Turkey, Kosovo and Germany;
- There was a training being organized by ICITAP in Montenegro “*Advanced undercover techniques*” under participation of other regional countries;
- In cooperation with Austria and FYROM a training exercise was carried out by Albanian Law Enforcement within the framework of the Vienna Convention on “cross-border surveillance”;
- Training for undercover agents in special operations within the framework of the SOCA Twinning Project took place.

In April 2011 a Plan of Joint Trainings with the Prosecution Office and other Albanian law enforcement agencies was approved. It provides various common training activities strengthening the fight against drugs on all levels.

Regarding the ongoing strengthening of capacities within the existing Interagency Maritime Operational Centre, work has continued with regard to the implementation and installation of Project “*Radio Communication Network for IMOC*” - a project being part of the IPA 2009 program amounting some € 420.000 and financed by the European Union Delegation in Albania.

Once this new system has been completely implemented, communication will be possible in accordance with security requirements to be observed by law enforcement conducting operations at sea. The project already will be set into force until July 2011. Additionally seven vessels provided for an exact surveillance of the so-called blue border will be delivered to Albanian Border Police very soon.

9.4. Police activities against trafficking of drugs

During the first four months of 2011 the flow of drugs being transited through, or originated from Albania could be further curbed down.

The Interagency Maritime Operational Center in Durrës in this regard had shown positive performance when two drug-smuggling attempts from Albania to Italy could be detected right in time. In co-operation with participating Italian authorities two tons of marijuana could be seized (1.5 tons in Albania and 431 kg in Italy). Several spectacular failed trafficking attempts also have been reported from the border crossing points to Greece due to improved technical standards used by Albanian border officers. Positive results can be reported as well with regard to heroin, cocaine and marijuana trafficking. Existing networks could be minimized and perpetrators be detained.

- 19 operations were conducted successfully using special investigation means.
- 17 criminal groups of narcotic trafficking and distribution were dismantled and 89 gang-members became arrested.
- This period also marked a remarkable intensification of international co-operation. There have been 8 international operations conducted which led to the detention of 17 persons in Albania. (3 operations were carried out with Italy, two with Germany, one with Switzerland, one with Slovenia and one with Spain). It is worth to be mentioned that so-called operations of “controlled delivery” led- in cooperation with law enforcement agencies of Spain- to a seizure of considerable amounts of cocaine. Also it has to be reported that the so-called operation “Old road” in cooperation with Swiss authorities led to a seizure of 220 kg marijuana and the detention of ten persons.

The newly installed central drug storage and drug-destruction warehouse is working very well. However, due to increased amounts of confiscated drugs the burning of drugs reaches a certain level. More burning facilities seem to be necessary.

Drug related statistics (January 1, 2011 – April 30, 2011)

Type of Drug	No. Of Cases	Quantity	Persons penalty proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	Proceeded In free situation	Wanted
Heroin	48	12 kg 474.7 gr	70	58	12	0
Methadone	1	0.4 gr	1	0	1	0
Cocaine	14	594.2 gr	24	19	5	0
Marijuana/Hashish	157	3968 kg 471.7 gr	220	156	55	9
Hashish Oil	1	1 kg 513.2 gr	2	2	0	0
Cannabis seeds	3	1 kg 833.4 gr	5	0	1	4
Cutting substances	1	378.8 gr	4	4	0	0
SUM	225		326	239	74	13

Source: Albanian State Police

9.5. Fight against cultivation of narcotic plants

With the intention to further prevent the cultivation of narcotic plants, the Albanian Ministry of Interior approved an Action Plan No. 624 dated from March 11, 2011 ”on the fight against narcotic plants cultivation” and directed all Law Enforcement Agencies involved to implement it as soon as possible.

The plan is based on best practices of co-operation and co-ordination with the other governmental institutions, stake-holders, NGOs, international police assistance missions accredited to the Albanian State Police, international organizations, local government structures and the local communities which- in partnership with the above mentioned bodies- will have to realize the major objectives being set in the area of combating the cultivation of narcotic plants.

Additionally Albania had sent a request to the Italian Police Liaison Office in Tirana asking for future assistance in monitoring suspicious territories by helicopters. There has not yet been an official response.

Statistical data on cultivation of narcotic plants (January 1, 2011 till April 30, 2011)

Type	No. Of Cases	Quantity	Persons penalty proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	In free situation	Wanted
Cannabis cultivation	4	2194 plants	4	2	1	1

With regard to the notorious drug-spot **Lazarat** in Southern Albania Law Enforcement agencies were able to seize and destroy some 300 cannabis seeds and conducted activities with regard to four known cases of smuggling. However Lazarat still is not completely clean of drug production and further investigations are going on.

9.6. Recommendations

Albania's efforts together with the continuing assistance of the International Community undoubtedly are showing progress in the ongoing fight against drug production and drug trafficking. However, further intensive training activities as well as increased financial means for sophisticated technical devices are regarded as being necessary. Sustainability as well as a stabilization of the current political situation will be highly influential to the future progress of the country.

Certain important laws like the proposed Law on Crown Witnesses have been waiting to be adopted by a 2/3- majority in parliament since months. Further delays due to mutual political blockades by the deputies thus are not supporting the country's strategy and task towards the common European fight against drugs and drug trafficking.

The Cannabis cultivation centre of Lazarat will remain an issue even in future. Further measures to limit drug production there and find alternative economical solutions for its inhabitants are of ongoing importance.
