



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



This project is funded
by the European Union

Regional Programme
for South Eastern Europe



AIRCOP



EU AND UNODC JOINT ACTION PROMOTING RULE OF LAW AND GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH TARGETED BORDER CONTROL MEASURES AT PORTS AND AIRPORTS

NEWSLETTER April — June 2020

UNODC continues its partnership with the EU through the launch of a **new initiative** aimed at fighting organized crime, by supporting more effective and coordinated responses to illicit trafficking at seaports, land border crossings and international airports in the Western Balkans.

In January 2020, in the framework of **the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (RP SEE) 2020-2023**, UNODC successfully initiated this EU-UNODC joint action promoting rule of law and good governance through targeted border control measures at ports and airports in South Eastern Europe. The action involves the **UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP)** and **the UNODC-WCO-INTERPOL Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP)** under the umbrella of **the RP SEE**

and is carried out in:

- ◆ **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (land border crossings Bijača and Gradiška and international airport of Sarajevo)
- ◆ **Montenegro** (port of Bar)
- ◆ **North Macedonia** (Skopje International Airport)
- ◆ **Serbia** (Belgrade Airport)
- ◆ **Kosovo** under UNSCR 1244 (land border crossing Vermicë).

The UNODC-WCO CCP's mission is to build capacity in countries/jurisdictions seeking to improve risk management, supply chain security, and trade facilitation in seaports, airports and land border crossings in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods. CCP has been operating in South Eastern Europe since 2013 with Port Control Units (PCUs) established in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244.

Conversely, AIRCOP is new to the region. It applies passenger controls to supporting airports in tackling multiple threats, including all types of illicit drugs, illicit goods (such as wildlife, counterfeit medicines, weapons and others) as well as terrorism and trafficking in persons among others.

With these two complementary components, the action's **objectives** are:

- (i) to support more effective national and international responses to illicit trafficking through strengthening the current PCUs in the region and establishing new units, and;
- (ii) to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies active at the mentioned international airports to detect and intercept high risk passengers in an effort to counter international organized crime and illicit drug trafficking and prevent terrorism.

The action supports the implementation of **the UN Conventions** on drugs and crime and **the EU Acquis**, notably Chapters 23 and 24 addressing serious organized crime, rule of law, good governance and security. The action **improves effectiveness** and **develops synergies** between law enforcement actors at the national, regional and international levels and builds **bridges between various thematic areas as well as between the Western Balkans and other regions**, improving the security situation in **the Western Balkans and Europe as a whole**. While the action is not directly supporting the Albanian authorities, the **work in Albania** in this field is ongoing and is supported by other sources.

CCP CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STAKEHOLDERS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND MONTENEGRO DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

29 April–8 May 2020, Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bar, Montenegro: CCP contin-



ues to implement activities through online sessions and other e-learning tools in South Eastern Europe aimed at enhancing technical and operational capacities of the customs and police officers engaged in the PCUs established under the programme. The online mentoring sessions provided to the PCUs of the Port of Bar and the land-border

crossing Bijača represent CCP's continued support to the law enforcement agencies of the Member States aimed at strengthening the law enforcement capabilities, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. During this period, a number of container shipments, both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, were profiled. For those identified as high-risk consignments, full physical searches were carried out by the



PCU officials, and further appropriate actions were implemented. Online mentoring support was provided by experienced WCO trainers through online platforms and tools in real time.

Furthermore, in April 2020, CCP facilitated access to more than 30 e-learning courses from the UNODC's Global learning platform goLEARN and the WCO Customs Learning and Knowledge Community (CLiKC) platform, for customs officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro as part of the COVID-19 response provided through the CCP framework to the beneficiary administrations in South Eastern Europe.

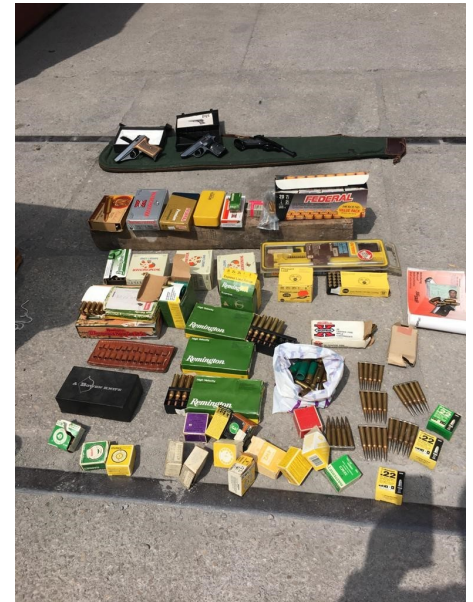
PCU IN BAR, MONTENEGRO ACHIEVED A NOTABLE RESULT DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

20 May 2020, Bar, Montenegro: The mentioned CCP online mentorship provided an immediate and concrete result. The PCU in Bar successfully profiled and interdicted a container shipment with 3 hand pistols and 2,480 pieces of ammunition of various calibers, which were detected during detailed



physical search, following PCU officers' risk analyses and profiling.

In cooperation with the national stakeholders of Montenegro, CCP successfully uses technical platforms to provide continuous capacity-building programming and support to its counterparts. The COVID-19 pandemic poses a serious threat to the economies across the globe, affecting economic activity through both demand and supply channels. CCP customized its activities to better support the governments through COVID-19 with tailor-made interventions for capacity building and other support.



AIRCOP SUPPORTS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA WITH E-LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

14 May/25 June 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: AIRCOP hosted a preparatory online meeting with the Border Police (BP), the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina aimed at advancing the project activities by integrating com-

plementary e-learning training support during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this, the officers of the law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to access online training modules on risk management, risk assessment, criminal intelligence and analysis. The national counterparts were briefed on the AIRCOP e-learning programme, which for Bosnia and Herzegovina has been tailored and structured around three consecutive phases to fit the needs of the national law enforcement agencies. The programme is designed with a blend of e-learning modules and thematic

webinars, which allow discussions with experts from over 15 countries in the European Union and in Latin America and the Caribbean through live sessions, serving as an effective support to the learning programme.

The first phase of the programme took the form of a national workshop entitled "The risk assessment as a holistic approach for law enforcement agencies" organized on **25 June 2020** and serving as a milestone in the implementation of analysis processes as a response against emerging threats in the airports.



The training, conducted by an expert of the Bulgarian Customs, brought together officers from BP, ITA and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the awareness of law enforcement agencies on the benefits of a risk-based approach at all levels, including in terms of support to the decision-

making process, operational effectiveness and resource management. Several key topics were presented including the fundamentals of risk assessment, the rational procedures to assess threats and countermeasures through the risk-based approach, the indicators and rules of risk analysis, information management and the intelligence cycle to assess threats at airports. The proac-

tivity of the participants enabled fruitful discussions and demonstrated the determination of the law enforcement agencies to engage actively with the AIRCOP activities. This workshop is the first of a series of workshops that will support the implementation of AIRCOP in South Eastern Europe.

AIRCOP DISCUSSES THE FRAMEWORK, COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF AIR PASSENGER INFORMATION WITH COUNTERPARTS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

4 June 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: AIRCOP hosted an online meeting with the Ministry of Communication and Transport, Border Police and the Directorate for Coordination of Police bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina aimed at presenting the framework, collection and analysis of air passenger information (API/PNR) along with the outlooks for Bosnia and Herzegovina. During

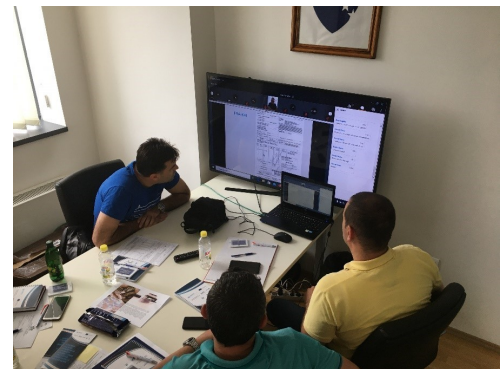
the meeting, several key topics were discussed, including the importance of air passenger data to target and intercept known and unknown high-risk passengers; the general framework and regional perspective on the gathering and analysis of passenger information; the benefits and perspectives for Bosnia and Herzegovina; existing and required capabilities for related operational activities in the

country; and the role of the future Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) to be established by AIRCOP at the Sarajevo International Airport. The proactivity of the participants enabled fruitful discussions which build a strong foundation for future collaboration in the implementation of the AIRCOP activities in South Eastern Europe and their sustainability.

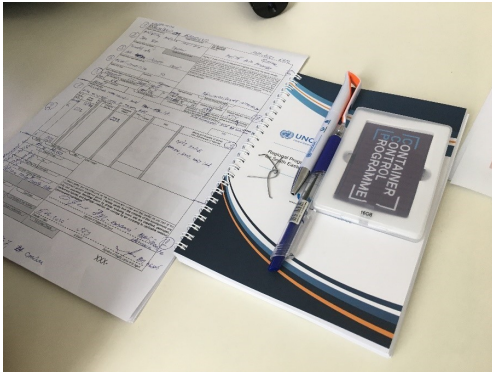
CCP LAUNCHES TRAINING CYCLE FOR THE AIR CARGO CONTROL UNIT AT SARAJEVO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

15-19 June 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Responding within COVID-19 emergency circumstances, CCP organized an Online Basic Theoretical Training for officers of the newly established Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) at the Sarajevo International Airport.

This training represents the start of the first phase of the tailored training cycle of the CCP, to be further complemented with intermediate and advanced training events during the course of the Programme implementation. The training covered topics such as risk indicators, profiling and targeting, air cargo safety and other relevant matters concerning air cargo shipments.



In addition to officers from BP and ITA of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the training was



also attended by the representatives of the Directorate for Civil Aviation, Sarajevo Airport Authority and representatives of the private sector entities active in air cargo operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training was delivered by experienced international WCO and UNODC experts. This activity is the stepping stone to the establishment of a joint CCP ACCU and an AIR-COP JAIF at the Sarajevo International Airport to support more effective responses of

the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and also in North Macedonia and Serbia through the respective joint teams by means of a comprehensive and strategic approach to preventing and combating organized crime in cargo and passenger traffic at air border crossings, including trafficking in drugs, firearms and persons, as well as smuggling of migrants, countering the financing of terrorism, money laundering and other economic crimes, and corruption.

UNODC DONATES PPE TO NORTH MACEDONIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND MONTENEGRO

28 May 2020, Skopje, North Macedonia; 6 June 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 30 June 2020, Bar, Montenegro: UNODC donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Border Police and Customs officers of North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the PCU officers in Montenegro as part of the COVID-19 response and support to the national



business continuity and safeguarding communities from illicit trade, while keeping the frontline officers safe from the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in their daily work.



representing the Airports' Authorities, Border Police and Customs in North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Montenegro, the donation was received by the PCU. During the handovers, UNODC had the opportunity to reiterate their support to the national authorities, who expressed appreciation and welcomed the effort, mentioning their willingness to resume cooperation with UNODC in the coming months. With this donation, UNODC is directing its resources to assist the law enforcement authorities of the region in maintaining busi-

ness continuity and safeguarding communities from illicit trade, while keeping the frontline officers safe from the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in their daily work.

