



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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**AIRCOP**



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

**NEWSLETTER July — September 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, under 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 is implemented by the **UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP)** and **the UNODC-WCO-INTERPOL Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP)** in cooperation with **the RP SEE**

and is carried out in:

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

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.

AIRCOP initiated its activities in the region in early 2020 along with the action. 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:

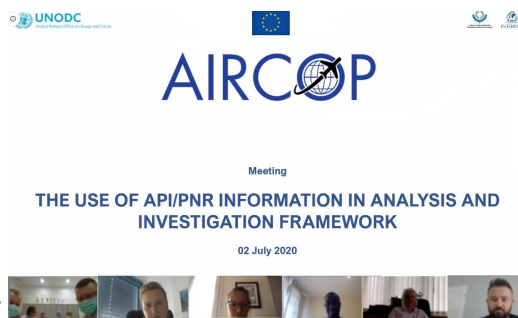
- (i) to support more effective national and international responses to illicit trafficking through strengthening the current PCUs in the region and establishing new units, and;
- (ii) to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies active at the mentioned international airports to detect and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

The action supports the implementation of **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 assisting the Albanian authorities, the **work in Albania** in this field is ongoing and is supported by other sources.

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## AIRCOP: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF AIR PASSENGER INFORMATION

**2 July 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** AIRCOP hosted a national workshop on the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) within the analysis and investigation framework. Building on the first training event held on 4 June 2020, the workshop brought together 16 representatives from the Ministry of



Communications and Transport, the Directorate for Civil Aviation, the Border Police, the Indirect Taxation Authority and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who further expanded their knowledge in the use of API/PNR to effectively address cross-border threats and increase inter-agency cooperation.

## UNODC SUPPORTS SERBIA WITH PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

**10 July 2020, Belgrade, Serbia:** Further to the previously provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in other countries of the region, UNODC donated PPE to the Border Police of Serbia at Belgrade International Airport as part of the COVID-19 response and

support to the national authorities. The overall donation of PPE to the Serbian authorities represents USD 5,000. The donation included masks, gloves and hand sanitizing gels and was handed over in a formal ceremony. During the ceremony, UNODC had the opportu-

nity to reiterate their support to the national authorities, who expressed appreciation and welcomed UNODC's efforts, mentioning their readiness to further expand the cooperation with UNODC in the coming months.

## AIRCOP: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANALYSIS AND PROFILING AT THE AIRPORT IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**14-16 July 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** AIRCOP hosted a three-day national workshop on analysis and profiling at airports through its e-learning platform. The multi-faceted workshop encompassed presentations from the Belgian

Passenger Information Unit (PIU) and the Brazilian Customs. The training brought together 16 officers from the Border Police, Indirect Taxation Authority, the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies and the Directorate for Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Her-

zegovina. The experts from Belgium mostly focused on API/PNR data, targeting rules and risk indicators and their respective efficiency as well as challenges of risk analysis and rule-based targeting while the expert from the Brazilian Customs outlined the perspective

of a source country of drugs and illustrated the transnational nature of organized crime and the need for international collaboration by mentioning common cases of illicit

trafficking between Brazil and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The three-day online workshop is part of a series of workshops aiming to strengthen

the implementation of AIRCOP activities in the framework of the border control action.

## AIRCOP INITIATES ACTIVITIES IN NORTH MACEDONIA AND SERBIA

**27-29 July 2020, North Macedonia and Serbia:** AIRCOP conducted online assessments to initiate AIRCOP activities in Serbia and North Macedonia. After Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and North Macedonia are the second and third target countries for AIRCOP within the border control action. The objective of the online assessment was to present the project in more detail to the relevant authorities of North Macedonia and

Serbia and conduct an initial evaluation of the law enforcement agencies' role, tasks, duties and potential margins of improvement in the targeted airports.

The discussions with the national authorities provided the opportunity for AIRCOP to share future plans and establish steps for coordination with the national counterparts.

In parallel, AIRCOP also engaged with key international actors in the region to ensure coordination, prevent overlapping and foster cooperation and synergy of efforts.

The online assessments and discussions with the national and international stakeholders marked the first official steps of AIRCOP activities in Serbia and North Macedonia as part of the implementation of the border control action in South Eastern Europe.

## UNODC MEETS WITH THE NATIONAL COUNTERPARTS IN NORTH MACEDONIA TO DISCUSS PARTNERSHIP

**10-13 August 2020, Skopje, North Macedonia:** UNODC held a series of meetings with the national authorities in North Macedonia including the Ministry of Interior, the National Coordination Center for Border Management, the Customs Administration, and the National Coordination Center Against Se-

rious and Organized Crime, to discuss its activities in the region within the framework of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe and provide an overview on the border control action.

UNODC efforts in the country were welcomed by the authorities, who demonstrated readiness to be actively involved in the upcoming UNODC activities. The counterparts discussed concrete suggestions and measures to ensure effective implementation of the planned activities including the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNODC and the national



authorities, as well as the assessment of Skopje International Airport. The Minister of Interior expressed his full support while emphasizing the need for further consultations and coordination with the relevant services for increased impact and effectiveness.

## BORDER CONTROL IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA SUPPORTED THROUGH MONITORING AND PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT

**7-8 September 2020, Bijača land border crossing, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** CCP carried out a monitoring visit to the PCU of Bijača land border crossing to observe the activities of the PCU officers and review daily challenges and successes of the Unit. During the visit, a container shipment presenting unclear information on documentation was inspected. A thorough check-up was performed by the PCU officers allowing for the

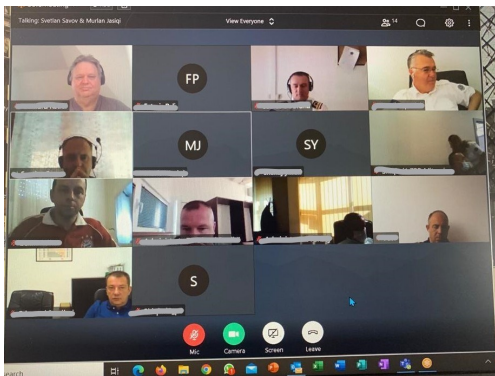


shipment to be cleared.

The visit also served as an opportunity to deliver IT equipment, as well as tools used in container searches and office equipment to the Unit. During the handover, the officers of the PCU expressed satisfaction with being equipped with PPE which they received previously from UNODC within the action as part of the support to national authorities during the COVID-19 outbreak in maintaining their daily activities.

## CCP SUPPORTS THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN KOSOVO UNDER UNSCR 1244

**7-9 September 2020, Priština, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244:** In response to the needs iden-



tified during the joint planning process, CCP delivered a “refresher” theoretical training for 20 officers of Kosovo Customs. Given the COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the training was held online. This capacity building event is part of a training cycle initiated in 2019 for the officers of Kosovo Customs and will be further complemented with practical and advanced training events during programme implementation.

The training covered such topics as container identification, risk analysis, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), hazardous goods and scanner images and was delivered by experienced international experts from WCO and UNODC. Future training activities will be designed to further assist frontline and other officers of Kosovo Customs in effectively addressing cross-border criminality, including the smuggling of drugs and other illegal activities.

## CCP AND AIRCOP JOINTLY HOLD THE SECOND JOINT ONLINE BASIC THEORETICAL TRAINING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**14-18 September 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** CCP and AIRCOP jointly organized the second On-

line Basic Theoretical Training for 19 airport officers, including inter-agency officers of the newly established Air Cargo Control Unit

(ACCU) and Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) to be established at Sarajevo International Airport, as well as other officers

representing the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indirect Taxation Authority, the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Directorate for Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Her-



zegovina.

The first part of the training was dedicated to the AIRCOP agenda, focusing on criminal intelligence and information collection for analytical purposes, sources and formats of passenger information, extraction of data from passenger manifests, electronic tickets and PNR data. The second part of the training focused on the CCP component, covering topics such as profiling and targeting shipments and their examination. The five-day training was delivered by experienced international experts from WCO, INTERPOL



and UNODC and will be further complemented by intermediate and advanced training events during the course of programme implementation.

## CCP COMPLETED THE BASIC TRAINING CYCLE FOR THE GRADIŠKA PCU

**16-18 September 2020, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** CCP delivered part two of the Online Basic Theoretical Training designed for appointed officers of the newly established PCU at the land border crossing/customs point Gradiška. The training, which gathered six newly appointed officers as well as an additional officer representing Border Police and the Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina, falls within

the CCP training curriculum that follows the “Crawl-Walk-Run” approach, which is a staged training cycle delivered to PCUs worldwide.

During the three-day program, the training revisited some of the previously introduced topics and presented new ones, such as risk analysis, modus operandi of container concealment, the Convention on Trade in Endan-

gered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), use of closed and open sources of information, and others. The trainees from the Indirect Taxation Authority and Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed satisfaction with the high professional standards of the training delivered by experienced international experts from the WCO and UNODC.

## UNODC EXPANDS LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA UNDER THE ACTION

**July-October 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC developed an Addendum to the existing MoU between CCP and national authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish the relevant legal foundation covering the Programme’s expanded activities in the country with new locations. Consultations on the Addendum to the existing

MoU with the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Ministry of Security, the Border Police and the Indirect Taxation Authority, were initiated in March 2020, and ensured national ownership and focus on priority areas for future action implementation. In July 2020, the parties finalized and signed the Addendum (last party having signed in October), thus providing for the es-

tablishment of the second PCU in the country – at the land border crossing Gradiška – and an ACCU at Sarajevo International Airport, which will both contribute to effectively countering illicit cross-border activity and enhance border security in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. The establishment of both units is well underway.