

## To Prevent Drugs On-line

**In April, the law-enforcement officers from the Ministry of Interior and the Customs of Uzbekistan took part in the training course on prevention of drug trade via the internet.**

Training was jointly organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) and the Italian Embassy in Uzbekistan within the framework of the "NATO-UNODC Partnership Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian, Afghan and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel". Mr. Lorenzo Agostini, Director of the "Drug@Online" Section of the Central Italian Counter Narcotics Directorate (D.C.S.A.), was invited to facilitate this training.

The NATO-UNODC partnership project on counter narcotics training is designed to deliver high-quality, professional law enforcement training to mid-level counter-drug officers in order to help them combat the threat of trafficking of opiates within and through their territories.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Italian Ambassador to Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Riccardo



Manara, mentioned that this training will further strengthen cooperation between the Uzbek and Italian law-enforcement agencies, as well as between the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and the NATO.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative welcomed the partnership and emphasized that UNODC is fully committed to support countries in the region in strengthening their capacities to respond to the emerging challenges.

Mr. Azizbek Erkabaev, Head of the Department of International Relations of the National Information and Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, expressed appreciation for the training and suggested to continue training of law enforcement officers in this field.

Final participant's evaluation of the training showed strong interest in further training in this area and appreciation for high quality facilitation of the course.

## Border Liaison Office Opened on the Uzbek-Afghan Border to Further Promote Transborder Cooperation

**The first Border Liaison Office (BLO) on the Uzbek-Afghan border was opened at "Ayritom" border crossing point in May under the framework of the UNODC project "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) in Central Asia."**



Currently there are thirteen BLOs operating on the Kyrgyz-Tajik, Uzbek-Kyrgyz, Uzbek-Tajik, Tajik-Afghan and Uzbek-Afghan borders which were opened by the pro-

ject aimed at countering drug trafficking/organized crime, building mutual trust in the region and improving the infrastructure of border crossings points.

The main project donor for this particular activity is the Government of Japan, which provided 1,380,000 US dollars through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its implementation in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The designated Border Crossing Points were refurbished and equipped with the specialized equipment and BLO officers from the respective law enforcement agencies were trained by the project.

At the opening ceremony Mr. Mansurjon Nabiev, the First Deputy Head of the Department of the State Customs Committee of Surkhandarya Region (Uzbekistan), said that BLO activities will facilitate better information exchange as well as contribute to joint actions against drug trafficking and drug related crime.

## Advocacy for Methadone Maintenance Therapy in Kazakhstan

**Why often opioid injectors and their relatives suffering from long drug use by one of the family member don't opt for pharmacological treatment of drug dependence? Why there is still resistance among some addiction treatment physicians regarding this particular method of treatment of opioid dependence?**



Since 2008 methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) as an effective method for treatment of opioid dependence, reduction of criminal behavior as well as prevention of HIV among opioid injectors, is available in Kazakhstan for a limited number of people within the framework of a pilot project funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). Despite the overwhelming evidence on effectiveness of methadone maintenance therapy, a number of policy makers and practitioners still question its necessity in Kazakhstan. On many occasions, incorrect and misleading information has been disseminated via media and by individual specialists. In December 2014, the Ministry of Health and



Social Development approved a Roadmap on Sustainability of MMT in Kazakhstan for 2015-2017. In February 2016, the Minister of Health and Social Development asked the senior drug addiction treatment specialists to intensify advocacy for MMT in order to increase awareness about the benefits of MMT for individual patients and the general public.

In this regard, on 13-15 April in Astana, UNODC in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and GFATM organized a workshop for addiction treatment physicians in order to develop advocacy plan and improve the skills for communication with media and other target groups. 30 addiction treatment physi-

cians and psychologists from the all regions of Kazakhstan took part in the training course "Advocacy for Methadone Maintenance Therapy". Mr. Sagat Altinbekov, Director of the Republican Centre for Applied Research on Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Addiction Treatment, in his opening remarks mentioned that participant's advocacy plan will lay the ground for further actions for HIV prevention in Kazakhstan.

It was the first interactive training course on this issue developed and offered by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia. Participants were trained on how to build relations and work with the mass media, how to identify target audiences and developed key messages for each of them, which communication channels use to deliver key messages, and many other issues related to advocacy. Finally, participants developed and presented the Advocacy plan for methadone maintenance therapy for 2016 for their particular cities and regions. Implementation of the Advocacy plan will be monitored by the Kazakh Ministry of Health and Social Development. Ms. Aigul Tastanova, Deputy Director of the Department for Organization of Medical Care reminded about the strategic goals on ensuring universal access to evidence based drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention, and highlighted the individual role of each participant in implementation of the newly developed Advocacy Plan.

## New Security System Introduced in the Largest Pre-trial Detention Facility in Kyrgyzstan

**The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has a long standing partnership with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to support the implementation of penal reform initiatives in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules).**

Within this framework, UNODC has been assisting the State Service of Execution of Punishment (SSEP) of the Kyrgyz Republic with the development of policies and piloting of practical solutions to improve prison security management.

In April 2016, UNODC and the Prison Service officially opened renovated entrance facilities at the country's largest pre-trial detention facility in Bishkek. For the first time a detention facility has been equipped with a modern X-ray system for the inspection of personal belongings of visitors and packages for prisoners.

In their speeches, Mr. Orozbek Enteriev, First Deputy Chairman of the SSEP, and Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, expressed hope that this pilot initiative will demonstrate enhanced security at the entrance of one of the most challenging prison in the country.



The renovation of the entrance checkpoint and room for the inspection of parcels was done with the financial support of the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), main project donor. The renovation, training of prison staff and improvement of policies for prison security management, are implemented within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019, sub-program 3 "Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention and Integrity".

- *The pre-trial detention facility in Bishkek was built in 1943*
- *It is the largest pre-trial detention facility in the country housing over 1,300 people*
- *Daily the pre-trial detention facility checks in over a 100 visitors and around 200 packages for prisoners*

## Joint Customs Legislative Review Group Meeting in Ashgabat

**Fourth Joint Customs Legislative Review Group Meeting of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 2004 (UNSCR 1540) was conducted in Ashgabat in May.**

The Group reviewed the current relevant national customs regulations and produced recommendations for national authority's further consideration in relation to the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The Joint Customs Legislative Review Group also drafted the export control list of dual use and military goods.

Representatives of the State Customs Service, State Border Service, Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs took part in the meeting.

The workshop "The Role of the Turkmen State Law Enforcement Agencies in the interdiction of illegal trafficking of strategic goods (within the UN Resolution 1540)" was



conducted in Ashgabat. Both events were organized in the framework of the UNODC project "Strengthening customs service and other law enforcement agencies capacity in implementing border and trade control, in particular, export/import control regimes".

16 officers from the State Customs Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs took part in the workshop aimed at strengthen-

ing capacity of the law enforcement officers in the field of strategic goods control, dual use goods, introducing to the best practices related to export, import, and transit control, including prevention, investigation, and detection, information gathering and sharing. Special attention was paid to the implementation of the UN Resolution 1540.

## Customs Officers from Central Asia and Azerbaijan set up priorities on container control

**UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized the Third Regional Meeting for Central Asia and Azerbaijan under "UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme - Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan", which is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program as well as the Government of Japan.**



At the opening ceremony Mr. Shamil Beraldiev, Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Service of the Kyrgyz Republic said: "UNODC-WCO Global Container Control (CCP) represents one of the most solid programmes in the area of securing international container supply chains as well as exercises an effective fight against illicit drug trafficking and the other criminal activities." H.E. Mr. Takayuki Koike, Japan Ambassador to

Kyrgyzstan noted that "Japan, as a donor of the Container Control Programme is proud to provide assistance in this field".

Participants representing Customs, other law enforcement agencies from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as UNODC, WCO representatives, donors and external partners took part in the meeting in Bishkek.

"Container Control Programme is an important element in promoting regional cooperation against trafficking of drugs and the other dangerous substances including WMD, radioactive materials, IED components and precursors", emphasized Mr. James Callahan, Senior Program Advisor from the United States' Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Mr. Fred Carter, Programme Advisor from the United States' Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) in Kyrgyzstan stated, "EXBS is very pleased to be a donor and we anticipate that we will be actively participating in this effort for quite some time".

CCP member states, donors and external partners addressed issues regarding the priorities and the needs in the area of container control as well as strengthening regional and inter-regional cooperation among customs and the other law enforcement agencies in identifying high-risk consignments.

Participants adopted the outcome document, which will guide UNODC/WCO's support under CCP in Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

## International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Observance in Central Asia

### REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



Over 40 undergraduate students from Almaty high schools participated in the event held at the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC). The UN Secretary – General’s message on the occasion of 26 June was shared with the audience. Head of CARICC Operational Unit briefed participants on CARICC’s role in countering drug trafficking in the Central Asian region and coordination of joint counter-narcotic operations. The Deputy Director of the Republican Scientific Practical Center for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Narcology made a presentation on situation in the field of drug abuse in Kazakhstan with focus on opium, cannabis and new psychoactive substances, which are mostly used by youth. In Astana “Listen first” concert as well as sport competitions gathered together adults and children. Activities were organized in cooperation with the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Interior.

### KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



In cooperation with the State Service on Drugs Control, under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic a numbers of activities were conducted.

Popular Kyrgyz bloggers posted the thematic posts with world drug campaign slogan in their network official profiles kicked off the social media campaign. Over 200 posts were published in Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. More than 500 000 subscribers and followers joined the campaign.

50 dancers dressed in t-shirts with the campaign’s slogan performed a flash mob in the most popular shopping center “Bishkek Park”. Concert with participation of popular Kyrgyz singers and dancers, winners of music and song contests, joined the flash mob.

### REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN



The release of the findings of the World Drug Report 2016 was held at the Drug Control Agency (DCA) under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Prior to the round table “Support, don’t punish” was organized at the DCA for the NGO’s and government officials representatives. In cooperation with national counterparts’ “Life without drugs” competition on the best dance was conducted at the Center of children and youth in Dushanbe, the competition on the best picture and photo exhibition in “Iram” botanic garden. Sport competitions and concerts were organized in the regions of Tajikistan for children and youth.

### TURKMENISTAN



The campaign “Listen First” was conducted for children and youth in Turkmenistan. Visi-

tors of the Central Park of Ashgabat had an opportunity to take part in the event organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Mayor’s Office. The campaign aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle. More than 400 students of the State Medical University, representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior Affairs, National Red Crescent Society, Youth Organization, UNFPA, and Yenme participated in this event. Volunteers presented musical show, educational and entertaining performances, including quizzes on the consequences of use psychoactive substances.

### REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



The findings of the World Drug Report 2016 were released in Uzbekistan during the press conference conducted in cooperation with the National Centre of Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Ms. Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative presented the main findings of the World Drug Report 2016 to the journalists, including the importance of the role of communities in drug use prevention and announced the slogan of this year’s campaign “Listen first”. The Director of the National Centre for Drug Control Mr. Mansurov shared information on drug trafficking and use trends in Uzbekistan and the Governments response. «It is obvious today that Afghan drugs are a destabilizing factor for the region and beyond”, said Mr.Mansurov, the Director of the National Information Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A drug burning ceremony was organized by the National Security Service where over 1.38 tons of drugs were burnt. According to the official data, since 1994 Uzbekistan destroyed 55 tons 438 kg of drugs. In the evening new future film “Baron” produced by the Uzbek filmmakers was screened at the Panorama Cinema hall. The film was sponsored by the State Commission on Drugs and Uzbek Cinema



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