



Container Control Programme Member States sign protocol, affirm readiness for cooperation to tackle drug trafficking and other illicit activities

Heads of Customs Administrations of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan recently gathered in Tbilisi, Georgia, to discuss regional and international cooperation among countries participating in the Programme, and signed a protocol, affirming their readiness to take further efforts, including joint operations.

At the outset of the meeting, Vakhtang Lashkaradze, Deputy Head for the Revenue Service of Georgia, said well and properly organized activities of customs authorities and coordinated actions of law enforcement agencies of different countries were of great importance in tackling drug trafficking and other illicit activities. In this regard, CCP provided a good platform, he said, expressing gratitude for the assistance provided by the WCO and UNODC. Joining him, Ashita Mittal, UNODC Region-

al Representative for Central Asia, said that the regional cooperation among customs was critical for effective targeting of high-risk consignments, and the meeting would pave the way for “concrete actions leading to concrete results.” Also speaking at the event, WCO Director of Facilitation and Compliance, Ana B. Hinojosa, emphasized the critical role played by the customs’ in protecting national economies and citizens while ensuring trade facilitation. “CCP provides ample opportunities for national, regional

and international cooperation in the fight against illicit goods which fund criminal and terrorist structures,” she underscored. During the meeting, participants discussed issues related to information exchange and joint operations to identify high-risk consignments and to combat drug trafficking and other illicit activities while facilitating legitimate trade. Practical recommendations for better regional and international cooperation were also discussed.

The meeting, hosted by the Revenue Service of Georgia, was organized by UNODC and WCO. The CCP Regional Segments for Afghanistan, Black Sea, Central Asia and Pakistan are funded by the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan and the United States.

Implementation of the UN Minimum Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

Joint round table organized by the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan in partnership with UNODC Regional Office in Central Asia

With the memory of Nelson Mandela in mind, who himself spent 27 years of his life in prison, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in December 2015 as 'the Nelson Mandela Rules'.

The rules resulted from five years of inter-governmental consultations, and represent a landmark harmonization of the original version (1955) with international law and good prison management practices. UNODC established the 'Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules' to provide an informal and open-ended network of like-minded Member States who have joined forces to promote the practical application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, to facilitate expert consultations, and to support prison reform initiatives.

On 28 July 2017 General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan in partnership with UNODC Regional Office in Central Asia conducted the roundtable on implementation of the UN Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners to promote humane conditions of imprisonment and to value the work of prison staff. The event gathered 70 participants from Tashkent and more than 100 participants from five regions of Uzbekistan through the video conferencing. Discussion focused specifically on reduction of the scope of imprisonment, prison

conditions, rehabilitation programmes in prisons and post-release services aimed to ensure, as much as possible, that prisoners are willing and able to lead law-abiding lives upon release.

Representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office, National Centre on Human Rights and Ombudsman's Office reiterated Uzbekistan commitment in applying the Mandela Rules, implementation of penal reform, revision of relevant legislation, procedures, policies and practices in line with the Rules. Participants agreed that the revised Nelson Mandela Rules provide the significant momentum to work together to preserve human dignity in prisons, thereby making a real difference for prisoners, prison staff and society at large.



Recovering Proceeds of Corruption

CASC Network Initiative jointly with StAR Initiative and in cooperation with the General Prosecutor Office of the Kyrgyz Republic, OECD and OSCE held a practical seminar on recovering proceeds of corruption in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus (Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, 29-30 June).

The seminar was organized at the request of the General Prosecutor Office of the Kyrgyz Republic. As stated by the Deputy Prosecutor General of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Liudmila Usmanova, Kyrgyzstan has been dealing with the issue of high level political corruption and money laundering since 2010 when charges were brought against an overthrown president Bakiyev and his family. The government has undertaken a series of legislative and institutional measures which brought positive results in identifying and seizing illegal proceeds transferred to foreign jurisdictions (e.g. in Lichtenstein).

The seminar brought together Financial Intelligence Unit officers, prosecutors and law enforcement officers empowered to inves-

tigate corruption offences, MLA Central Authorities from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) as well as their counterparts from Belgium, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and USA (37 participants in total).

The participants shared their achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in tracing, seizing and recovering proceeds of corruption. For example, the General Prosecutor Office of Kazakhstan, based on the materials and practical recommendations received at the national training course on asset recovery held by CASC Network in Astana in 2015, developed methodological guidelines and MLA template request to be used by Kazakh prosecutors and investigators for recovering assets from foreign jurisdictions, as well as a template request form for financial information to be obtained through FIU channels. The foreign experts from transit and destination countries provided practical recommendations regarding MLA requests, as well as using FIU and/or law enforcement networks.

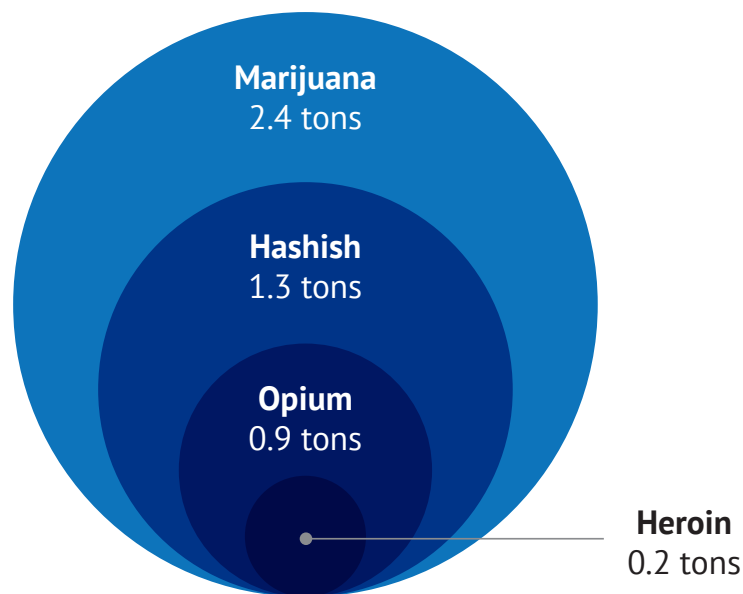
Drug Situation in Central Asia: Latest Update

Drug trafficking

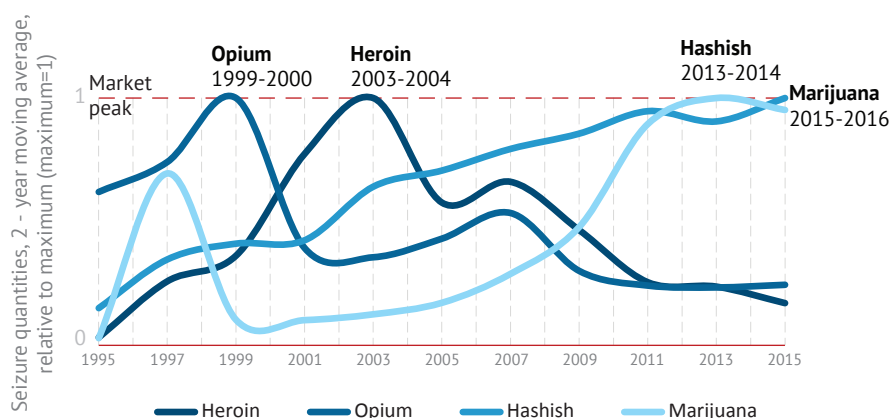
The availability of various types of drugs varies within the region depending on supply and demand in the local market of the Central Asian region. Long-term trends in drug seizures show that the market was most saturated by heroin in 2003-2004 and opium in 1990-2000 in Central Asia. The largest market of marijuana and hashish has been represented for the last four-five years. According to the recent official reports, almost four tons of marijuana and hashish and over one ton of heroin and opium were seized in five countries of Central Asia in January-March 2017.

Cannabis-type drugs (mainly marijuana and hashish, and in a lesser extent cannabis oil) are the most seized substances in Central Asia. The share of cannabis-type drugs in the total amount of drugs seized increased from 65% to 90% in 2001-2016. Predominance of cannabis among all drugs is obvious because of large areas of wild cannabis growth in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. There is illicit cultivation but in relatively less-scale. The most of cannabis seized both in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is of Afghan origin. Afghan cannabis, mostly hashish, reaches Russian drug market through the Northern route to meet the demand of cannabis users in this country; however, global as well as regional estimates of Afghan cannabis flows are not available. Quantity of heroin seizures in the Russian Federation in the last seven years is higher than the regional seizures made in the Central Asian countries at

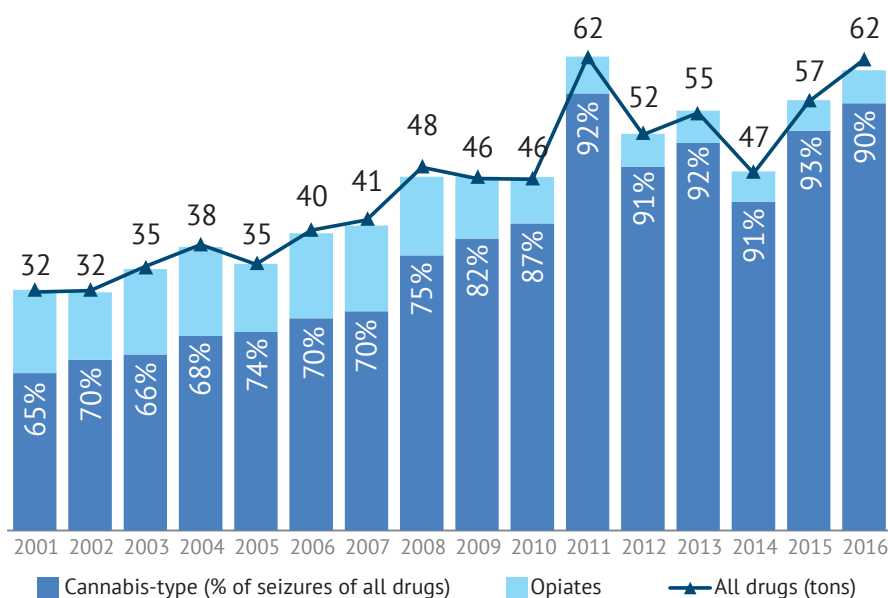
Seizures in Central Asia (January-March 2017)



Drug market in Central Asia



Cannabis seizures in Central Asia

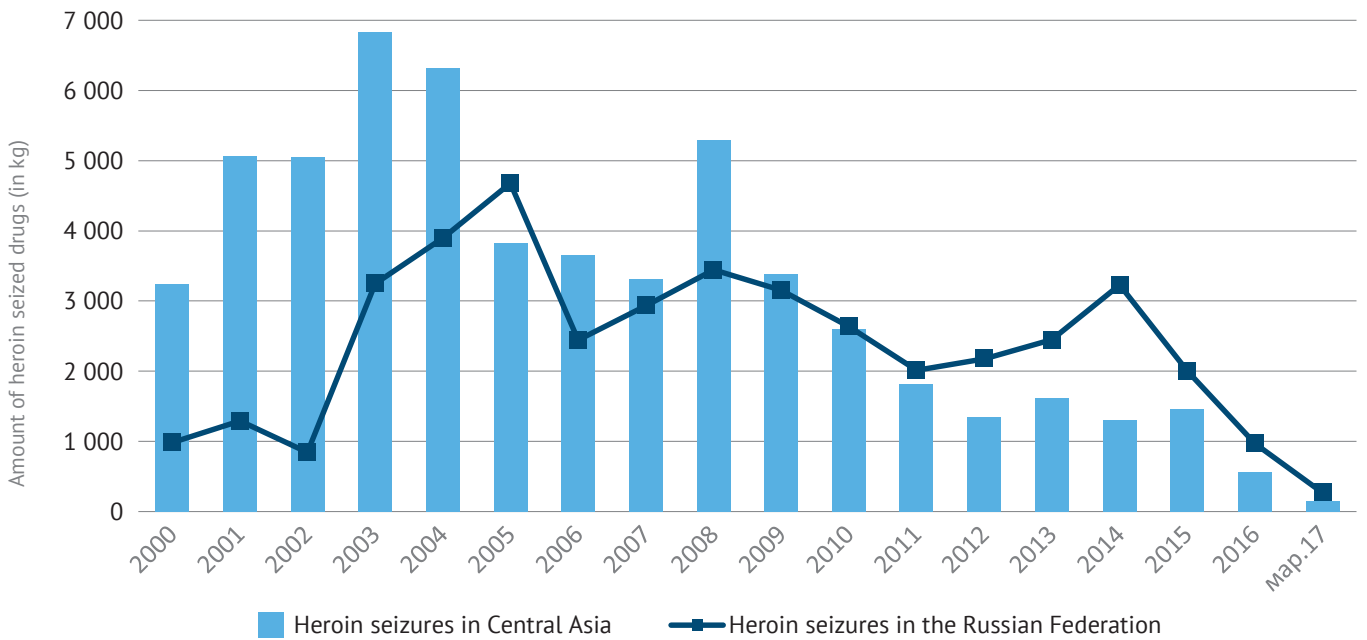


the same period. Assuming that Central Asia continues to be a major route of the heroin smuggled into the Russian Federation, this may indicate to an existing supply and relevance of the issue of drug trafficking along the Northern Route. It is unclear whether the flow through the Northern route has diminished despite the law enforcement agencies of the Central Asian countries remain convinced of a decrease in opiate smuggling via the region to the Russian Federation as a result of successful law enforcement activities in the Central Asian countries as well as increase in heroin trafficking through Caucasian countries and Caspian Sea.

Analysis of Afghan drugs seized in the Central Asian countries shows there are no new offshoots in drug trafficking routes in Central Asia in the last six years (2012- June 2017).

Source: Official data of the Central Asian countries submitted to UNODC, CARICC

Heroin seizures in Central Asia and Russian federation



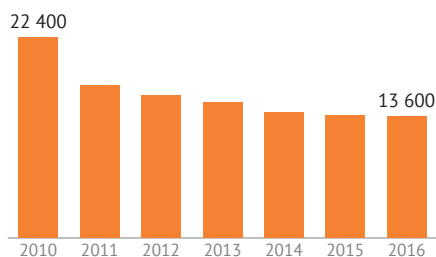
Drug-related crime

The number of reported drug-related offences in the Central Asian countries has decreased steadily since 2010. In 2016, there were almost 13,600 reported offences. Share of smuggling offences increased from 4% in 2010 to 9% in 2016 that might indicate successful op-

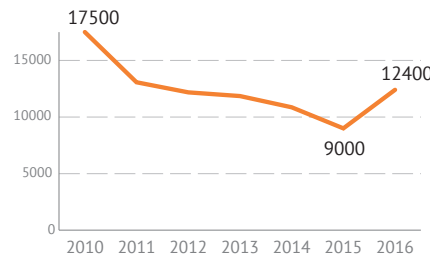
erations that end in drug interceptions, or increased attempts to smuggle drugs. Share of drug offences linked to the purpose of selling drugs constitutes for 46% of total amount of the offences reported in 2016. Number of people arrested for drug-relat-

ed crime in Central Asia had a downward trend between 2010 and 2015. In 2016, the number of arrestees increased and is up to almost 12,400 people. Average per cent of arrested women is about 7%. Share of the juveniles involved to drug crime is small, approximately 0.3% in 2016.

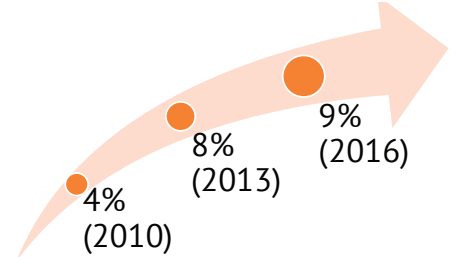
Drug law offences



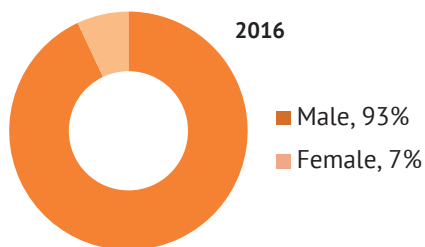
Drug law offenders



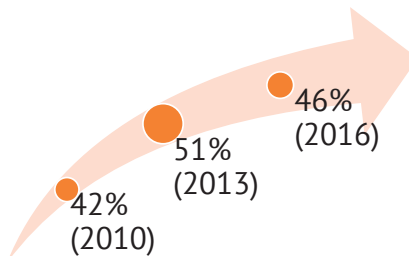
Drug smuggling (%)



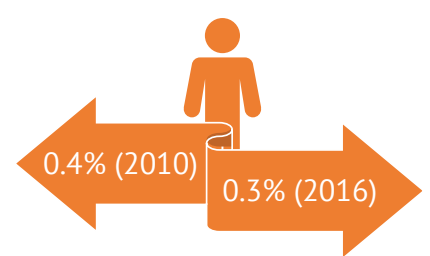
Offenders by gender (%)



Selling drugs (%)



Juvenile among offenders



Source: Official data of the Central Asian countries submitted to UNODC and CARICC

Note: Offences related to selling of illegal drugs can include illegal purchase, transportation, or possession with the purpose of selling narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

UNODC supports Kyrgyzstan to improve crime data collection and reporting on SDG implementation

Within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019, UNODC is undertaking new initiatives to assist the countries in the region with the production of crime and criminal justice statistics.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC has partnered with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and a range of other stakeholders to strengthen national capacities to produce, disseminate and use crime data. Following the joint publication of a compilation of crime trends in 2016, in June this year, UNODC and the National Statistics Committee hosted a two-day workshop gathering over 50 specialists from government institutions and civil society working in the field of crime data collection and analysis.

During the workshop, participants were familiarised with international trends and practices in the area of crime data collection, including the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) and the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of the Criminal Justice System (UN-CTS).

According to Koen Marquering, UNODC International Coordinator, one of the key tasks of UNODC is to produce and disseminate accurate statistics on drugs, crime and criminal justice at the international level. "Through this workshop we aim to promote participation of Kyrgyzstan in international data collection efforts facilitated by UNODC", Marquering said.

The workshop paid particular attention to reporting requirements for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and addressed the integral role of victimization surveys in crime statistics systems.

Discussions during the workshop focused on specific crime and safety issues, such as gender-based violence and trafficking in persons. "This workshop helps us to implement the 2015-2017 National Ac-



tion Plan for Achieving Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic", said Ms. Elmira Alymkulova, Head of Administration at the National Statistical Committee. "Improving collection, analysis and quality of statistical data on gender discrimination and violence is a key priority of this action plan", she added.

With UNODC support, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic recently established a new interdepartmental working group tasked with developing updated data collection guidelines and templates on gender-based violence and trafficking in persons.

UNODC will continue to support these interventions during the upcoming period with financial support from the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Victims of gender-based violence may be more comfortable talking to female officers, UNODC expert says

While gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a widespread problem in Kyrgyzstan, the level of reporting remains low, according to the Kyrgyz National Statistics Committee.

Data also confirmed that 14,467 people turned to crisis centers and other institutions providing social and psychological assistance in 2015, a 26 per cent increase from 2010. In 2014, the police registered over 3,500 cases of GBV, compared to 1,800 in 2010. A survey on public safety conducted by the Civic Union for Reform and Results has shown that many victims of crime and violence do not go to the police.

On that matter, Koen Marquering, UNODC International Coordinator said: "This is a complex, multifaceted issue, but one reason for low levels of reporting is that victims of violence may be more comfortable talking to a female officer," adding: "Unfortunately, there are very few certified police women in the country, in particular at the local level."

Based on data from the Kyrgyz Ministry of Interior, in 2016, 5.9 per cent of all certified

police officers were women, 4.3 per cent of whom belonged to an ethnic minority. "Modern policing is all about engaging with people in the community to solve problems," Mr. Marquering stressed, underlining: "Women are often great communicators with strong ability to defuse situations that could potentially turn violent. This is why a diverse gender and ethnic composition of the police service and balanced patrol teams are so important."

To increase access to professional opportunities for women in law enforcement and strengthen the capacity of relevant bodies to safeguard the rights of women and youth in line with international standards, UNODC is engaged in several initiatives. Such steps will raise the profile of women and promote community policing in order to address priority issues such as gender-based violence.

With UNODC's assistance, during the past month, 200 female police officers from police departments in all regions of Kyrgyzstan received training on criminal legislation, criminal investigations and crime prevention, including the prevention of

violent extremism and gender-based violence. Following the first gathering in Osh in March, a second round of training, which also teaches communication and presentation skills, is taking place in Issyk Kul from 25-28 April 2017.

The introduction of a leadership training program for police officers and initiatives to promote gender sensitive police services in local communities are also being developed. This includes dialogue platforms on gender-based violence in pilot locations and support for the implementation of measures within the framework of local crime prevention plans, which have been developed and piloted with UNODC support. Expert advice to strengthen data collection and analysis on domestic and other forms of gender-based violence is also part of the project in support of Kyrgyzstan's efforts in monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

These activities are implemented within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 with support from the United States of America.

Drug Dependence and its Health Consequences

A four-day national seminar on the Course 4A – “Psychoeducation for Clients and Families” of the Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders (UTC training package) was conducted in Turkmenistan. 17 representatives of NGOs working with vulnerable population and their families attended the training.

During the seminar special attention was paid to drug addiction and its consequences on family relations. Participants learned how to control emotions and enhance communication skills. Special session was devoted to time and finance management. The seminar is the part of the UTC training for drug addiction professionals. The overall goal is to reduce the health, social, and economic problems associated with substance use disorders.



Addiction Professionals Enhancing Managerial Skills

Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Volume D of the Treatnet Training Package “Management of Drug Dependence Treatment Services” held in Almaty on June. The event aimed at training of managers, clinical supervisors and other senior staff with leadership roles in specialized and non-specialized addiction services.

The regional ToT brought together 25 health managers of the drug treatment centers from five Central Asia countries. The training was conducted by the team of Global Master Trainers specialized in Volume D including Ms. Nancy Paull (USA), Ms. Maria Zarza (Spain) and Ms.

Elizabeth Saenz (UNODC HQs).

Participants of the training were acquainted with different leadership styles and potential outcomes, stages of team development, role of effective recruitment and retention in development/strengthening of a drug dependence treatment service

workforce, different models for delivery of services across different settings, the role of partnerships in service delivery and recovery models in drug dependence treatment and mental health services. The participants also learnt about clinical and quality governance and programme evaluation for quality improvement.

Trained team of national trainers will be responsible for conducting the national trainings on “Management of Drug Dependence Treatment Services” in their respective countries.

Gulmira Sadvakassova, Senior doctor of the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Medical and Social Problems of Drug Addiction of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan said: “It is very difficult to break stereotypes of the existing system on rendering narcological care services in our country, but such seminars expand our views in given problem. We have to work further on achieving the evidence-based standards”

Mr. Oybek Dadaboev, Chief of the Fergana Drug Addiction Treatment clinic from Uzbekistan highlighted the importance of such initiatives. “Training was very useful for my every day activity” he said.

Training was organized within the framework of Global Project “Treating drug dependence and its health consequences: Treatnet II”.



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