

## Hotspots

While a map illustrating the main drug-trafficking routes through the Western Balkans can be seen alongside, it is worth highlighting key hotspots of drug trafficking in order to understand the local routes and dynamics. Many of these places were identified in the January 2019 report on Hotspots of Organized Crime in the Western Balkans.<sup>121</sup> What is different about these maps is the way in which they show the relationship of key nodes to each other. Usually, one town or city has a corresponding partner on the other side of a border. Where three borders meet, there is often a triangular relationship between hotspots. These towns create an axis of transnational transactions, which together form links in a value chain stretching across the region.



FIGURE 20 Hotspots of drug trafficking in the Western Balkans.

SOURCE: Interviews conducted by GI-TOC country experts in the fourth quarter of 2020.