

EVENT INVITATION

The drug situation in Kosovo and its repercussion on national security



Tuesday 18th October
9.30am

Italian Embassy
Mujo Ulqinaku n.9, Prishtina
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The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) together with Italian Embassy in Kosovo is organizing a briefing titled “The drug situation in Kosovo and its repercussion on national security”.

Kosovo, which neighbours four countries in the Western Balkans, is crisscrossed by trafficking routes for cannabis and heroin and to a lesser extent for cocaine and synthetic drugs. But over the years, seizures have remained rather low,

especially of cocaine and synthetic drugs.

However, in May 2021, Kosovo police seized a record 400 kg of cocaine from Brazil. The shipment entered Kosovo from Albania (via the port of Durrës) and was hidden in a truck. Guns, ammunition, and other items were also seized during the search of the homes of the people arrested in connection with the case. In such a context, the intensification of information exchanges between magistrates and law enforcement agencies of all countries affected by the phenomenon of international drug trafficking appears as one of the most effective tools to counter the phenomenon.

In this session, GI-TOC will brief stakeholders on trends in drug flows and consumption in Kosovo as it emerges from recently conducted research in the region. A session will be also dedicated to the relevance assessing the role of commercial ports in the region with a specific focus on the port of Durrës for the Kosovar market, and how illicit flows through this port might have an impact on national trends.

The event aims to stimulate a debate among insiders on the impact of illicit drug flows on governance, economy, security and the rule of law in Kosovo, in a broader regional context.

PARTICIPANTS:

GI-TOC, Italian Embassy, representatives of public institutions, law enforcement agencies, prosecution, civil society, media, international organizations and diplomatic missions.

The Embassy of Italy in Pristina has been traditionally engaged in supporting the institutions and law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Kosovo in their activities to combat all illicit trafficking. Their transnational character, particularly that of narcotics, together with the country's strategic geographic location in the Balkan Peninsula, have in recent years increased the importance of Kosovo as a crossroads of illegal trafficking that, originating from distant countries, reaches Europe after passing through the Western Balkans countries.

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime is a network of professionals working on the frontlines of the fight against the illicit economy and criminal actors. Through a network of global civil society observatories on the illicit economy, we monitor evolving trends and work to build the evidence basis for policy action, disseminate the expertise of our Network and catalyze multisectoral and holistic responses across a range of crime types.

AGENDA

09:30 – 09:45

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Antonello De Riu, *Ambassador of Italy in Kosovo*

Fatjona Mejdini, *Director of the South Eastern Europe, Observatory, GI-TOC*

09:45 – 10:10

OVERVIEW OF RECENT REPORTS FROM THE SEE-OBSERVATORY

Dardan Koçani, *Field Coordinator for Kosovo, South Eastern Europe Observatory, GI-TOC*

10:10 – 11:00

THE DRUG SITUATION IN KOSOVO: DRUGS FLOWS, PRICES AND CONSUMPTION TRENDS

Ruggero Scaturro, *Analyst, South Eastern Europe Observatory, GI-TOC*

Safet Blakaj, *Executive Director, Labyrinth*

11:00 – 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:05

EVIDENCE FROM THE REPORT 'PORTHOLES: EXPLORING THE MARITIME BALKAN ROUTES' - THE ROLE OF THE PORT OF DURRËS AND ITS IMPACT ON COCAINE FLOWS TO AND THROUGH KOSOVO

Ruggero Scaturro, *Analyst, South Eastern Europe Observatory, GI-TOC*

12:05 – 12:30

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Antonello De Riu, *Ambassador of Italy in Kosovo*

Fatjona Mejdini, *Director of the South Eastern Europe, Observatory, GI-TOC*