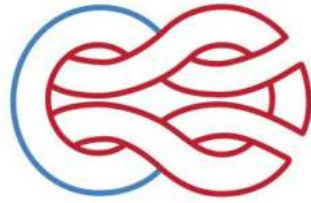


**Drug Policy Network South East Europe**

# **DRUGS**

**European Union  
2020 Enlargement  
Country Reports**



## European Union 2020 Enlargement Country Reports

*Segments on drugs from the European Union annual assessment reports  
and opinion on the Western Balkans and Turkey  
published on 6 October 2020*

The current European Union *enlargement agenda* covers the partners of the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Accession negotiations have been opened with [Montenegro](#) (2012), [Serbia](#) (2014), and [Turkey](#) (2005).

In March 2020, Member States agreed to open accession negotiations with [North Macedonia](#) and [Albania](#).

[Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) (application to join the EU submitted in February 2016) and [Kosovo](#) (Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force in April 2016) are potential candidates.



## Situation in the region

**Organised crime** continues to be a very serious issue in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Powerful criminal networks with an international reach continue to operate from and via these countries and important smuggling routes run through them. The Balkan route is still the key corridor for heroin and illegal fire arms entry into the EU. The countries have addressed certain aspects of this phenomenon and there have again been important arrests and seizures of drugs reported throughout 2019 and 2020.

Increasingly intensive operational cooperation, including with EU agencies is taking place, with visible results on the ground. However, overall, track records of final convictions in organised crime cases often remain weak. Some countries can only demonstrate a handful if any final convictions for organised crime or standalone money laundering in recent years, often the result of plea bargaining and with lenient sentences. Such poor results show the ineffectiveness of criminal procedures, give strong signals of impunity, and contribute to the risk of criminal infiltration of the political and economic systems. Countries need to tackle criminal groups more forcefully, ensure no links between crime and politics are tolerated and increase significantly the seizure and confiscation of assets in both organised crime and corruption cases.

In Albania there has been good progress in the fight against organised crime. Operational co-operation, notably with EU Member States and agencies has been intensified.

North Macedonia has made some progress, including by establishing an asset recovery office in line with the EU acquis.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina there has been no progress. The authorities and the judiciary have not taken appropriate action to address the key priorities of the Commission opinion and the findings of the Expert Report on Rule of Law ("Priebe report").

Kosovo has seen limited progress. Overall results achieved by prosecution and courts remain limited and final confiscations of assets remain low.

In Montenegro there has been some progress. Montenegro made good progress in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The capacity and professionalism of the police has been strengthened and there are an increased number of on-going proceedings on asset confiscation.

In Serbia there has been limited progress. There has been limited success in dismantling criminal networks and in establishing a track record of proactive investigations, prosecutions and convictions.

Turkey has seen limited progress. The legal framework regulating the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing needs strengthening.



## Albania

### Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security

#### Cooperation in the fight against drugs

The country has some level of preparation in implementing the EU acquis in this area. Good progress was made in meeting last year's recommendations. Further tangible results were achieved in the fight against organised crime, including through cooperation with EU Member States, and through the action plan to address the FATF recommendations, thus meeting the condition for the first IGC. Police operations to dismantle criminal organisations have further intensified. Albania has continued to show strong commitment to counter the production and trafficking of drugs. Albania allowed airborne monitoring by an EU Member State (aerial surveys by the Italian Guardia di Finanza, co-financed by the EU). Police cooperation with EU Member States and Europol further intensified, leading to a number of successful large-scale law enforcement operations and the arrest of organised criminal group leaders. Cooperation between police and prosecutors further intensified. The Special Prosecution's Office was established and provided with a set of important investigative tools. Efforts need to continue to ensure increased prosecutions and final convictions. More efforts are needed to tackle money laundering and confiscate assets stemming from crime and other unjustified wealth.

In the coming year, Albania should in particular:

- keep strengthening the fight against organised crime, including through cooperation with EU Member States, as well as Europol;
- adopt a new strategy and action plan on drugs, fill-in the legislative gap on drug precursors, and intensify the fight against drug trafficking;
- adopt a cybercrime strategy and establish a more effective law-enforcement response focusing on the detection, traceability and prosecution of cyber criminals and address the growing phenomenon of pedo-pornography online.

#### *Implementation and enforcement capacity*

As regards serious crimes, 1,804 new cases on trafficking in human beings, money laundering, and drugs production and trafficking were referred to the prosecution in 2018 (22, 1,524 and 258 respectively) and a similar number in 2019 (1,805 cases, 25, 1,548 and 232 respectively). Of the total referrals for serious crimes, 551 cases resulted in indictments in 2018 and 507 in 2019. As for final convictions, there were 698 in 2018 and 308 in 2019. Narcotics-related cases accounted for 68.9% of the total in 2018 and 68% in 2019, followed by money laundering, trafficking in vehicles, money counterfeiting and forgery, and trafficking in human beings. In the first semester of 2020, 17 new cases on trafficking in human beings were referred to the prosecution, 126 on money laundering and 587 on drugs production and trafficking.

Of the total number of referrals on trafficking in human beings, money laundering, and drugs trafficking, 141 cases resulted in indictments. As for final convictions, there were two for trafficking in human beings, four on money laundering, and 30 for drug production and trafficking.

In October, the Serious Crimes Appeal Court upheld a first-instance court ruling sentencing the head of a transnational drug-trafficking gang to 15 years in prison (reduced to 10 years through abbreviated proceedings) for establishing a structured criminal group, trafficking narcotics, failing to declare assets and laundering money.

\*\*\*

A Europol liaison officer was deployed to Tirana in June 2019. The Europol Liaison Office to Albania, officially opened in July, was the first to operate from the Western Balkan region. The liaison officer has helped to strengthen cooperation between Albania and EU Member States' police forces in the fight against organised crime, including drug trafficking, and to enhance the police's capacity to assess the main organised crime threats. Since the beginning of the deployment, Albania has increasingly shared information with Europol.

\*\*\*

Albania has a large informal sector and its economy is primarily cash-based. Crimes that generate large amounts of money include drug trafficking, tax evasion, smuggling and human trafficking.

#### Cooperation in the fight against drugs

##### *Institutional set-up and legal alignment*

The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection/Institute of Public Health are the main lead bodies in the fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse respectively. Albania has not yet set up a national drug observatory or developed a functional early warning system on new psychoactive substances. The 1995 Law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should be amended and the list of prohibited psychoactive substances updated in order to provide a legal framework to investigate and prosecute in relation to such substances. A new national drug control plan (2019-2023) and action plan still need to be adopted. The government has indicated its intention to propose a law for allowing the use of cannabis for medical purposes only. The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to which Albania is party sets strict requirements to control the production and regulate the supply of cannabis for medical use as well as to prevent its diversion to non-medical use.

#### Implementation and enforcement capacity

On Albania's track record, in 2019 the police referred 1,989 cases of drug production, cultivation and trafficking to prosecutors, involving 2,704 alleged offenders. This represents a slight increase compared with 2018 (1,907 new cases referred involving 2,357 possible offenders). Of the 1,989 cases, 1,548 (78%) were registered by the prosecutors. 485 cases resulted in indictments. 290 offenders received final convictions at appeal level, in comparison with 685 in 2018. As in 2018, none of the cases referred to prosecutors concerned the production and manufacture of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

The Albanian authorities further consolidated their fight against cannabis cultivation and trafficking. Increased cooperation with EU Member States' law enforcement authorities brought tangible results. Joint investigation teams, notably with Italy, helped to identify and prosecute criminal organisations at the core of narcotics trafficking operations, including those carried out by sea. The authorities assisted the Italian Ministry of Interior, Department of Public Security and the Italian Guardia di Finanza in the seizure of speedboats with cannabis heading from Albania to Italy. In June 2020, in an international operation with the Italian police, 37 people suspected of being part of an international drug trafficking ring were arrested. The police seized 3.5 tons of marijuana, cocaine and hashish, for an economic value of EUR 40 million. In March 2020, the ASP seized 613 kg of cannabis ready to be shipped to Italy. Two individuals were arrested. In February and March, the Albanian authorities participated in several successful operations with Italian law enforcement agencies (in coordination with agencies from other Member States, including the Netherlands) in the fight against international drug trafficking. One operation with the Italians led, inter alia, to the seizure of 450 kg of cannabis. In February 2020, the ASP launched a large operation involving 2,225 police officers to prevent the cultivation of cannabis. Searches were conducted in greenhouses, tunnels, former military bases, abandoned dwellings, and warehouses suspected of being used for cannabis cultivation.

In August 2019, a major police operation in remote areas of Kruja resulted in 19 arrests for drug cultivation. Albania is the only country in the region that allows very intrusive monitoring by another country: since 2013, Italy's Ministry of Interior, Department of Public Security (with EU co-financing) has carried out aerial surveys to detect and monitor cannabis plantations in Albania. The results of the airborne-remote sensing campaign for 2019 show increases in the numbers of cannabis plantations identified and narcotic plants eradicated and destroyed. In all, 90,175 plants were destroyed, compared to 35,985 in 2018. The number remains at a negligible level compared with 2016, when 753,468 plants were destroyed.

The quantity of cannabis seized in Albania fell from about 20 t in 2018 to 6.3 t in 2019, and from 3.8 tonnes in the period January-March 2019 to one tonne in the same period of 2020. Seizures of cannabis oil decreased from 51.7 l to 1 l. There was a substantial increase in hashish seizures (from 363.5 kg to over 1 t). No hashish was seized in the first three months of 2020.

The lack of secure storage for drugs and drug precursors prior to destruction remains an issue of concern. The practice of keeping only a small sample as material evidence for court proceedings (instead of the entire quantity seized) has not yet taken root. Albania should establish an appropriate process for the destruction of precursors.

Albania carried out large scale law enforcement operations in relation to cocaine and heroin, some in cooperation with police authorities from neighbouring countries. Overall, cocaine seizures fell from almost 630.5 kg in 2018 (of which 613.4 kg detected in Durres in a ship coming from Colombia) to 145 kg in 2019 (of which 137 kg in a single operation in the port of Durres). In September 2020, a 5-year long investigation led by Italy, in cooperation with other States, including Albania, culminated in 20 arrests and pre-trial detentions throughout Europe, and dismantling of one of Europe's most active networks trafficking cocaine into Europe. In February 2020, Albania supported to the Guardia di Finanza in the seizure of 1.128 t of cocaine. In January 2020, in cooperation with the Greek authorities, 1.18 t of cocaine originating in the Caribbean and destined for Europe and northwest Africa were seized in Greece.

In September 2019, Albanian law enforcement authorities seized 137 kg of cocaine in the port of Durres, hidden in containers from Ecuador. The operation was carried out in cooperation with the Greek and US authorities. Two members of the port's security staff were arrested. Heroin seizures increased from almost 24 kg in 2018 to 38 kg 2019 (about 58% more), partly thanks to more thorough police inspections and increased international cooperation.

Cooperation continued with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. In March 2019, Albania signed a working arrangement with the Centre, which gives the Albanian authorities access to crucial expertise and supports further approximation of Albanian law and policies on drug-related issues with those of the EU.

#### Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

The top crimes featuring in Eurojust's case-management system in relation to Albania are drug trafficking and organised crime. Albania participated in five joint investigation teams supported by Eurojust. It should appoint a liaison prosecutor to Eurojust as soon as possible.

#### **Other issues related to drugs**

Relations with Italy remained very good. Cooperation on justice and home affairs was further strengthened, in particular in the fight against organised crime, drug trafficking, trafficking of human beings, irregular migration as well as on asylum.

(Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation)

On drug precursors, the list of controlled substances tallies with the relevant lists in the EU acquis.  
(Ability to assume the obligations of membership, Chapter 1: Free movement of goods)

On drug abuse prevention and harm reduction, prevention activities have taken place sporadically, mainly initiated by the Department of Health Promotion and the Institute of Public Health, should be conducted in a more systematic way.

(Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection)

The customs control system for drug precursors, dangerous chemical products and 'controlled substances' is harmonised with the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

(Chapter 29: Customs union)

On 1 May 2019 the status agreement for operational cooperation with Frontex has entered into force. Frontex launched its first fully-fledged joint operation outside the EU, deploying teams, together with Albanian border guards, at the Greek-Albanian border. Albania continued to cooperate with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) under the working arrangement signed in March 2019 on drug related issues.

(Annex I - Relations between the EU and Albania)





# ALBANIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement



## Key milestones

### APRIL 2009

Application for EU membership

Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

### DECEMBER 2010

Entry into force of visa liberalisation

### JUNE 2014

EU candidate country status granted

### APRIL 2018

Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations

### JUNE 2018

The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations

### MARCH 2020

EU decides to open accession negotiations

### JULY 2020

Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States



## Trade & investment

- The EU is Albania's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Albania reached €567.8 million in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was €4.94 billion in 2019

In 2019



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €464 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €143.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €2.3 billion
- €115 million EU grants for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Albania after the 2019 earthquake



## Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015-2019: 5,552 participants in student, academics and youth exchanges under Erasmus+
- €25 million in support to civil society from 2014 - 2020



## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors



## COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €50.65 million in bilateral assistance for Albania to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €180 million was approved by the Commission in Macro-Financial Assistance for Albania and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region.



## Bosnia Herzegovina

### Summary of the report

Bosnia and Herzegovina is at an early stage/has some level of preparation in the prevention and fight against corruption and organised crime.

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The country needs to improve its capacity and continue its efforts in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking.

### Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security

Bosnia and Herzegovina has some level of preparation to implement the EU acquis in this area. No progress was made in addressing the Opinion key priorities 7 and 8 on the fight against organised crime and the management of migration and asylum. The 2019 recommendations remain outstanding. The country has several strategies in place, and legislation in some areas is broadly aligned with the EU acquis. However, legislation is not harmonised across the country, and institutional cooperation and coordination are weak. As a result, implementation is often unsatisfactory.

In the coming year, Bosnia and Herzegovina should in particular:

- improve capacity for countering terrorism through better cooperation and coordination, by enhancing the exchange of criminal intelligence (notably by finalising cooperation with Europol), and establishing programmes to prevent radicalisation and facilitate disengagement from violent extremism;
- take full political responsibility for the management of migration and ensure that refugees and migrants receive adequate protection and assistance; improve crisis response capacity and ensure effective coordination and adequate contingency planning; strengthen asylum procedures to provide persons in need with international protection; increase border surveillance, including human resources and equipment; improve the legal framework and implementation capacities for voluntary and forced returns;
- adopt the action plan to allow for the implementation of the national strategy on supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs for the period 2018-2023.

## Cooperation in the field of drugs

### *Institutional set-up and legal alignment*

The legal framework at various levels of government is only partly in line with the EU acquis, notably on minimum rules on drug-related criminal offences and sanctions. The legislation provides for the entire quantity of drug seized to be preserved as material evidence for court proceedings, rather than just a sample. The country should adopt legislation designating a national correspondent to enhance cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Coordination among competent agencies needs to be improved. Bosnia and Herzegovina should establish a focal point for drug issues for the entire country and introduce an early warning system.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a 2018-2023 strategy on supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs, but there is no action plan to implement it. The Republika Srpska entity has its own strategy and action plan on drugs for 2016-2021. Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to adopt instructions for the establishment of the early warning system and the book of rules on the use of cannabis for the medical purposes.

### *Implementation and enforcement capacity*

In 2019 there were 2,359 reported crimes related to drug abuse, 2,018 orders to conduct an investigation, six judgments rejecting charges, 1,210 filed indictments, 2,479 indictments with plea agreement, 33 acquittals, 100 fine convictions, one conviction without a sentence, 18 convictions with reprimand, 1,207 convictions with suspended sentence and 433 convictions with prison sentence. Bosnia and Herzegovina remains a country of transit and a final destination for drugs. The adoption of amendments to the list of criminalised psychoactive substances, prepared by the Commission for the suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs, is pending with the Council of Ministers. A flexible mechanism is needed to regularly update this list. Professional capacity and cooperation with civil society needs to be improved. More funds are needed for harm reduction programmes and the social reintegration of addicted persons. Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperates with the EMCDDA. Data reporting on epidemiological trends needs to be aligned with the EMCDDA treatment demand indicators. A Commission for drugs destruction is in place but the destruction of drugs takes place very rarely – only twice in 2019. The lack of secure storage prior to destruction is of concern.

### **Other issues related to drugs**

For drug abuse prevention and harm reduction, preventative measures are implemented through education and NGO activities, although these efforts are not systematic. Rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes have been introduced unequally in different parts of the country and a more systematic approach needs to be introduced.

(Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection)





# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

## Key milestones

**JULY 2008**

Signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement & entry into force of the Interim Agreement on trade

**DECEMBER 2010**

Entry into force of visa liberalisation

**JUNE 2015**

Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

**FEBRUARY 2016**

Bosnia and Herzegovina submits EU membership application

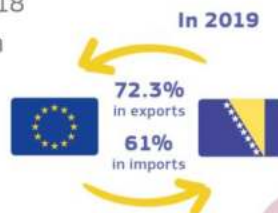
**MAY / DECEMBER 2019**

Commission Opinion on EU membership application: 14 key priorities, endorsed by the EU Council conclusions



## Trade & investment

- The EU is Bosnia and Herzegovina's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina reached €274.2 million in 2018
- Volume of trade with the EU was €10.34 billion in 2019



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- €1.19 billion in EU pre-accession funds (2007-2020)
- €2.4 billion in loans from European Investment Bank since 1999
- €284.3 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €3.6 billion



## Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015-2019: over 9,442 participants in student, academic and youth exchanges under Erasmus+
- €25.65 million in support to civil society from 2014 – 2018



## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors



€530 million  
2014 - 2020



## COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €80.5 million in bilateral assistance for Bosnia and Herzegovina to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €250 million was proposed by the Commission in Macro-Financial Assistance for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region.

Last updated: 10/2020



**Kosovo\***

## **Fundamental rights**

There is also a lack of services and programmes for the prevention and reintegration of child victims of drug abuse.

## **Justice, freedom and security**

Kosovo is at an early stage/has some level of preparation in this area. Some progress was made, including on the fight against violent extremism through the management of a return operation of foreign terrorist fighters and their families from the conflict zone. However, the entry into force of several laws important to combatting organised crime has not yet led to tangible results. Results achieved by prosecution and courts remain poor. Overall, confiscation of assets remains low. The authorities continued to make progress in managing regular and irregular migration, despite the unexpected increase in the number of irregular migrants arriving to Kosovo.

Kosovo has only partly followed the recommendations of the 2019 report, namely the recommendations related to violent extremism and on the National Centre for Border Management, hence the other recommendations are repeated.

In July 2020, Europol and the Kosovo Police concluded a Working Arrangement. The arrangement will constitute the basis for enhanced cooperation between Kosovo Police, Europol and EU Member States.

In the coming year, Kosovo should in particular:

- adopt a protocol for the handling, storage and destruction of drug precursors and start to effectively implement it;
- continue implementing programmes on rehabilitation and reintegration, inside and outside the prison system by safeguarding coordination of pre-release and post-release processes, and ensuring that the Reintegration Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is fully funded, staffed and trained;
- establish a Joint Threat Assessment Centre, including a threat level grading system on terrorism related risks;
- fully implement the relevant action plan to make the National Centre for Border Management fully operational, in order to strengthen inter-institutional and international cooperation and coordination in the field of migration.

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

## Cooperation in the field of drugs

### *Institutional set-up and legal alignment*

Kosovo's legal framework is broadly in line with European legislation, but enforcement remains weak. The 2007 Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors governs Kosovo's policy on drugs. A comprehensive, revised draft law that is aligned with more recent EU legislation, is ready for adoption. Drug-related offences are covered by the Criminal Code. A coordination mechanism to prevent and fight drug trafficking and the abuse of precursors is in place. In line with the 2018-2022 strategy and current action plan, a National Drugs Observatory is operational, although with limited resources and a vacancy at its head. Sustainable and routine collection of data on drugs should be ensured. Kosovo should formally establish an early warning system including associated risk assessment procedures and the subsequent control mechanism for adding new psychoactive substances to its drug control legislation. Cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) continued, despite limited reports and the lack of a nominated head of the designated focal point. Kosovo and the EMCDDA concluded working arrangements in June 2020.

### *Implementation and enforcement capacity*

Kosovo continues to be both a storage and a transit country, mainly for heroin and cannabis. Overall, the volume drug seizures remain low: around 824,2 kg of marijuana, 7,7 kg of heroin and 1,5 kg of cocaine were seized in 2019. Heroin seizures dropped significantly compared with 2018, which is a concern.

Organised crime groups continue to play a dominant role in large-scale drug trafficking and subsequent distribution in the EU. An increased regional effort and improved police cooperation and coordination among all countries in the region is key to identifying and dismantling the organised crime groups trafficking drugs. The prosecution service remains too understaffed and insufficiently trained to efficiently deal with drug-related offences. In the reporting period, 1,396 people were indicted for drug-related offences, investigations against 207 people were dismissed by the prosecution and 534 people were found guilty by the courts (8 were acquitted). Secure storage has been set up for seized drugs awaiting destruction. A protocol for the handling, storage and destruction of drug precursors remains necessary.

Educational and public awareness campaigns for the prevention of drug abuse are ongoing. A 24-hour drug abuse hotline, is available, and addiction treatment and methadone therapy is being offered.

### **Other issues related to drugs**

The legislation on customs measures governing intellectual property rights (IPRs) and export controls for cultural goods is aligned with the EU acquis, but the legislation on drug precursors requires further alignment.

(Customs)





# KOSOVO\*

on its European path

#EUnlargement



## Key milestones

### APRIL 2013

'Brussels Agreement' between Belgrade and Pristina signed

### APRIL 2016

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Kosovo enters into force

### MAY 2016

The European Commission proposes visa-free travel for the people of Kosovo

### OCTOBER 2016

First meeting of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council

### JULY 2018

Commission confirms that Kosovo has fulfilled all outstanding visa liberalisation benchmarks



## Trade & investment

- The EU is Kosovo's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Kosovo reached €158.2 million in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was €1.4 billion in 2019



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Kosovo
- €1.21 billion in EU assistance funds 2007-2020
- €229 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €148.4 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €1.3 billion



## Mobility & empowerment

- In 2015-2019: over 4,177 participants in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+
- 364 'Young Cells Scheme' grants have been awarded to public administration scholars
- 4,000+ young and disadvantaged people received employment and entrepreneurship training

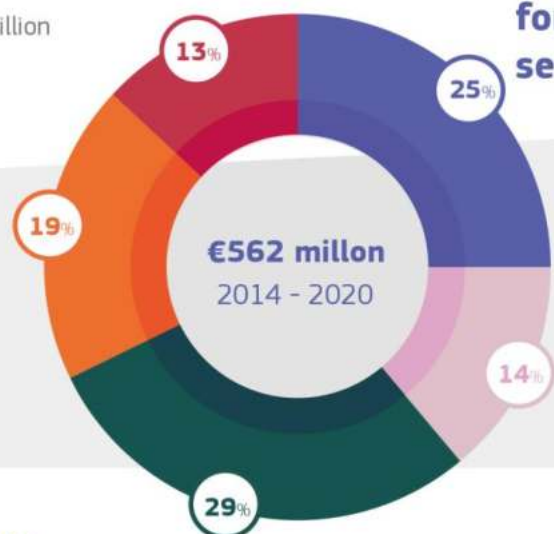


## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors

- Democracy and governance
- Rule of law and fundamental rights
- Environment, climate action and energy
- Transport
- Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development



## COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €68 million in bilateral assistance for Kosovo to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €100 million was approved by the EU in Macro-Financial Assistance for Kosovo and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence



## Montenegro

### Freedom of expression

After a second-instance court annulled the verdict in the case of a journalist convicted on charges of setting up a criminal organisation and drug trafficking, which had raised concerns about journalists' ability to perform their duties professionally and without fear of legal repercussions, the renewed proceedings are currently ongoing.

### Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security

Montenegro is moderately prepared in the area of justice, freedom and security. The legislative and institutional frameworks are now largely in place. Some progress was achieved in addressing last year's recommendations, in particular as regards adopting standard operating procedures on financial investigations and strengthening the institutional capacity in the area of migration, asylum and border management.

In the coming year, Montenegro should in particular:

- review the legal and operational approach towards financial investigations, money laundering, asset recovery, to align it with EU and international standards and practices; establish an integrated approach between all the bodies involved and provide them with the necessary legal and operational tools to create the conditions for establishing a convincing track record in this area;
- take concrete measures to limit the use of plea bargains to exceptional cases, in order to enhance the transparency and the credibility of the judicial response to organised crime through a more deterrent and consistent sanctioning policy;
- further strengthen the capacity to deal with mixed migration flows and the integration of refugees; continue to increase human and material resources devoted to border management and the migrant registration system.

### Institutional set-up and legal alignment

The police needs more senior investigators for organised crime, drug smuggling, specialists in charge of special investigative measures, experts in cybercrime, economic crime and forensics.

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Following a Constitutional Court ruling from 2018, a number of Special Investigative Measures (SIMs), that are key for conducting criminal investigations, are no longer applicable. The prosecution is deprived of using undercover activities or the so-called "controlled delivery" when a consignment of drugs is detected and allowed to go forward in order to secure evidence against the perpetrators. This seriously hampers the fight against serious and organised crime. Restoring a full use of SIMs, in full respect of constitutional principles, should be ensured as a matter of priority.



## Implementation and enforcement capacity

Special Prosecutor's Office for organised crime and high-level corruption (SPO) conducted 31 investigations targeting 293 people in 2019. Up to 45 investigations were launched in relation to serious crime, a large majority of which in the area of drug trafficking; 62 final convictions for serious crimes were pronounced, all based on plea bargains, with sentences from three months of in-house imprisonment to two years of imprisonment.

The criminal scene in Montenegro remains dominated by frequent gang-related murders (up to 44 gangs-related murders since 2012, including six in 2019 and two in the first three months of 2020). Homicides involving Montenegrin criminal groups have also occurred abroad (9 since 2018) including in Spain, Germany, Austria and Greece. At the same time, the number of arrests of members of crime groups reached the unprecedented number of 333 people from 2018 to the first quarter of 2020, including 19 arrested abroad.

In general, the number of investigations and prosecutions for serious and organised crimes has increased exponentially in 2018-2019 compared with 2016-2017, by respectively 150% and 100%. This reflects the positive impact of the coordinated work of the SPO and Special Police Unit (SPU), an increased capacity to address drug smuggling, and good international police and judicial cooperation.

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Ten preliminary investigations and seven investigations into money-laundering were conducted in 2019, regarding 122 entities, including one case of a value of EUR 25 million.

In a prominent case, the two suspects of laundering EUR 19 million coming from drug smuggling activities, who had been convicted in first instance to 11 years of prison, but acquitted in 2017 by an Appeal Court, won court cases against the state in November 2019 for unlawful detention and are entitled to a EUR 103,000 compensation each.

## Cooperation in the field of drugs

### *Institutional setup and legal alignment*

Montenegro's legal, institutional and strategic frameworks in this area are largely aligned with the EU acquis. However, on the demand side, there was no progress in addressing the deficiencies of the national drug information system, in accordance with EU standards. The National Drug Observatory (NDO) remains understaffed, has limited budget autonomy and does not sufficiently fulfil its coordination function.

Montenegro provided for the first time in five years a national drug report. However, despite good technical and scientific capacity in the forensic laboratory and other institutions dealing with drug-related issues, data collection on drugs remains fragmented, and does not rely on protocols compliant with the EMCDDA standards. The National Early Warning System (NEWS) is not fully operational. The recommendations from a July 2018 report by the EMCDDA have not been addressed. The NDO needs to be strengthened as a matter of priority in order to become an

authoritative source of information, preparing regular comprehensive national reports on drugs in Montenegro, and providing an evidence-based source for drug-related national policies.

On the law-enforcement side, the police has two units in charge of drug-related crimes, one for petty drug smuggling offences and a second one for organised drug trafficking. The latter consists only of eight staff members, despite the fact that drug smuggling is the main activity of Montenegrin crime groups, mainly operating outside the country. The need for more investigators in this unit, the provision to this unit of a direct access to international channels of communication such as SIENA, and the restoration of the full use of special investigative measures need to be addressed as a matter of priority to improve the law-enforcement's efficiency in this area. The fight against drug smuggling is a top priority of the national Threat Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime (SOCTA).

#### *Implementation and enforcement capacity*

2.4 tons of drugs were seized in 2019, of which 2.2 tons of marijuana. Seizures of cocaine and heroin have surged by respectively 250% and 1300 % compared with last year, partly reflecting international trends. In addition, 39 kg of cocaine and one ton of marijuana were seized abroad, as a result of international investigations. Montenegro participated in four multi-country police operations involving Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Germany, France, the United States, Australia, Albania and Serbia.

The number of drug cases investigated in Montenegro continued to increase in 2019 and the first quarter of 2020, consolidating the trend of the previous year. In 2019, the number of investigations into cases of drug smuggling rose to 155, of which five qualified for organised crime and 150 for serious crime. In the first quarter of 2020, six new investigations for organised drug smuggling were launched. Eleven investigations were conducted with international cooperation in 2019, a 175% surge compared with 2018, leading to a number of successful high profile operations. In a major international police operation conducted in February 2020, 5.7 tons of cocaine were seized and 7 crew members, including 4 Montenegrin nationals, arrested on a ship navigating from Venezuela to Greece. The operation was a result of cooperation between the United Kingdom, Serbia, the Netherlands, amongst other partners, and was based on the intelligence provided by the Montenegrin police. Another complex international investigation, led by Montenegro, supported by Europol and involving law enforcement agencies from Austria, Croatia, France, Portugal, Serbia and Slovenia, severely disrupted one of the smuggling routes from Central America to Europe. Eight individuals were arrested in March 2020 in several countries after 20 locations had been searched. In another prominent case, the German police seized in the port of Hamburg half a ton of cocaine from a ship sailing under the Montenegrin flag and owned by the Bar Shipping-Montenegro Line, a state-owned company. The action was conducted by the Montenegrin police with colleagues from the United States, Germany and several other European countries.

Thirty-seven final convictions for drug smuggling associated with organised crime were pronounced, including 34 based on plea bargains. Some 126 final convictions for less severe drug offences were pronounced, of which 73 based on plea bargains. The total amount of fines and penalties recovered accounted for EUR 178,000. In drug-related cases qualifying as serious crimes, financial investigations, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crimes remained rare.

Some 5 tons of seized drugs were destroyed by the authorities on 15 June, upon request of the High Court, more than two years after the previous destruction. The lack of adequate storage for seized drugs and precursors prior to destruction was not addressed. Changes to the criminal law which would allow the immediate destruction of the drug to avoid storing it pending trial, while keeping evidences and samples, were not addressed.

### **Other issues related to drugs**

On drug precursors, Montenegro's list of controlled substances is designed to be compliant with the EU acquis. Montenegro has mechanisms in place to detect smuggled drug precursors and requires economic operators to report suspicious orders or transactions in line with EU procedures; however, national legislation remained only partly aligned. On good laboratory practices, national legislation is designed to be aligned with the EU acquis.

(Chapter 1: Free movement of goods)

On drug abuse prevention and harm reduction, Montenegro continued to implement its 2019-2020 action plan of the 2013-2020 strategy for the implementation of the drug-abuse prevention. Guidelines on providing aid to drug addicts were adopted and are being implemented. Civil Society's involvement in drug abuse prevention activities supported by the state budget was encouraged. However, some organisations found the funds for the implementation insufficient. The European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs (ESPAD) was conducted and was followed by some interactive sessions in primary and secondary schools.

On health inequalities, access to healthcare services appears to be available for all vulnerable groups. However, it is reported that treatment options for drug users are limited and almost non-existent for children. A survey found that over 95% of domiciled Roma and Egyptian population have medical cards, compared to 75% of displaced Roma and Egyptians.

(Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection)

Montenegro needs to further align its legislation on drug precursors and customs security and to adopt implementing legislation on the export control of cultural goods.

(Chapter 29: Customs union)



# MONTENEGRO

on its European path

#EUenlargement



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## Key milestones

### DECEMBER 2008

Application for EU Membership

### MAY 2010

Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

### DECEMBER 2010

EU candidate country status granted

### JUNE 2012

EU decides to open accession negotiations

### JUNE 2020

After eight years of accession negotiations all the 33 screened chapters have been opened, of which 3 are provisionally closed



## Trade & investment

- The EU is Montenegro's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Montenegro reached €55.3 million in 2018
- Volume of trade with the EU was €1.38 billion in 2019

In 2019



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Montenegro
- €504.9 million in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €804 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €172.9 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €1.7 billion



## Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- In 2015-2020: over 4,188 participants in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+
- Reforms of the social welfare and child-care systems implemented with EU support



## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors



## COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €53 million in bilateral assistance for Montenegro to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €60 million was approved by the EU in Macro-Financial Assistance for Montenegro and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region.

Last updated: 10/2020



## North Macedonia

### Fundamental rights

Healthcare in prisons remains an issue of serious concern, including with regard to juveniles and to treatment of drug addictions.

### Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security

North Macedonia is moderately prepared to implement the EU *acquis*. Good progress was made including in meeting last year's recommendation to effectively implement some of the institutional reforms of the security sector as well as the reform of the intelligence services. The operational capacities of law enforcement agencies also improved. Efforts need to continue in implementing the strategy for Strengthening the Capacities for Conducting Financial Investigations and Confiscation of Property. Migration management efforts continued. The status agreement with the EU for cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency has not been signed yet. Registration of migrants and protection-sensitive profiling still needs to be carried out in a more systematic manner. Measures to counter violent extremism and fight terrorism need to continue.

In the coming year, the country should, in particular:

- ensure that institutional reforms of the security sector (criminal police, financial units, intelligence services, National Coordination Centre for the Fight against Organised Crime) are translated into a proactive policy of implementing the strategic documents and achieving further tangible results;
- ensure implementation of the priorities of the Joint Action Plan on Counterterrorism and effective performance of the Coordinator's office.

#### Institutional set-up and legal alignment

Regarding the legal framework, the Criminal Code is broadly in line with EU standards and criminalises trafficking in human beings, online child pornography, computer crime and drug trafficking.

#### Implementation and enforcement capacity

In 2019, North Macedonia's track record for fighting organised crime improved further. The investigations mainly concern migrants' smuggling or drugs related offences. 31 trials were held during the last 2 years, resulting in first instance convictions for 71 individuals (including plea bargaining). In 2019, there were 56 final convictions.



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Cooperation with Europol is well established following the conclusion of a strategic agreement in 2007 and an operational agreement in 2011. There is operational cooperation in the fight against trafficking of human beings, weapons, and drugs.

### Cooperation in the field of drugs

#### *Institutional set-up and legal alignment*

The law on drug and psychotropic substance control needs to be revised to be fully aligned with the EU acquis and provide an early warning system for detecting new psychoactive substances. A National Drugs Observatory exists since 2007 in the Ministry of Health. The 2014-2020 national drug strategy is aligned with the 2013-2020 EU drugs strategy.

#### *Implementation and enforcement capacity*

Until the 31 March 2020, the track record of North Macedonia for seizing drugs and dismantling organised crime groups continued to improve. There was an increase in the detection of drug-related criminal offences and in the number of perpetrators. 16 criminal charges were pressed against 28 individuals. Altogether, 986 kilogrammes of various narcotics were seized (1,538 kilogrammes in 2018) by the Ministry of the Interior. The largest share was marijuana (977.2 kilogrammes), followed by heroin (5,687.22 grammes), cocaine (1853.3 grammes), and hashish (5,419 grammes). The Custom Administration seized 410,663.72 grammes of marijuana. Investigations resulted in the dismantling of six organised criminal groups (8 in 2018). Cooperation with neighbouring countries is good, including ad hoc cooperation.

The operational capacity of the National Drugs Observatory still needs to be strengthened so it can implement its drug-monitoring tasks. Data collection, analysis and reporting in line with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addictions' requirements and methodologies requires further strengthening. There is still no national early warning system in North Macedonia. The lack of secure storage for drugs and drug precursors prior to destruction remains an issue of concern

### **Other issues related to drugs**

The licensing, monitoring and control systems for businesses dealing with drug precursors and civil explosives are also operational.

(Chapter 1: Free movement of goods)

On health inequalities, the programme for active healthcare allows several target groups to access healthcare, including the Roma community, people living in remote areas, people living with HIV/AIDS, drug users and people with disabilities. The same programme also helps providing contraceptives to women from socially vulnerable groups, although distribution is done via hospitals. However, the government still needs to adopt a new multi-annual strategy to combat HIV.

(Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection)

On administrative and operational capacity, the standards of professional integrity and quality controls were applied. This also facilitated the seizures of drugs and counterfeit goods.

The Customs Administration took part in 14 international operations to combat illicit trade in drugs, counterfeit goods and medicines, excise goods, weapons, explosives, dangerous waste and chemicals, wildlife and plants, cultural goods, and to combat trafficking in people.

(Chapter 29: Customs union)



# NORTH MACEDONIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

## Key milestones

### MARCH 2004

Application for EU membership

### DECEMBER 2005

EU candidate country status granted

### OCTOBER 2009

First recommendation to open accession negotiations

### DECEMBER 2009

Entry into force of visa liberalisation

### APRIL 2018

Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations

### JUNE 2018

The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations

### MARCH 2020

EU decides to open accession negotiations

### JULY 2020

Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States

Source: EU Data



## Trade & investment

- The EU is North Macedonia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in North Macedonia reached €44.16 million in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was €10 billion in 2019

In 2019



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to North Macedonia
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €818 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €181.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €2.1 billion



## Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- In 2015-2019: over 3,000 participants in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS +
- Pre-accession support has modernised sections of the Pan-European Corridor X motorway and railway Corridors VII and X



## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors



€633 million  
2014 - 2020



## COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €66 million in bilateral assistance for North Macedonia to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €160 million was approved by the EU in Macro-Financial Assistance for North Macedonia and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region.

Last updated: 10/2020





## Serbia

### Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security

Serbia has some level of preparation to implement the EU *acquis* on justice, freedom and security. Some progress was made on last year's recommendations, notably as regards the adoption of the strategy and action plan for the control of light and small-calibre weapons. Serbia also continued to improve its international police cooperation. Serbia continued to significantly contribute, as a transit country, to the management of the mixed migration flows towards the EU by playing an active and constructive role and cooperating effectively with its neighbours and EU Member States. It also continued to effectively implement the integrated border management strategy and its action plan.

Serbia has yet to establish a convincing track record of effective investigations, prosecutions and final convictions in serious and organised crime cases, and to further align with the EU visa policy.

In the coming period, Serbia should in particular:

- increase the financial and human resources capacity of the Prosecutor's Office for Organised Crime;
- continue increasing border controls, especially border surveillance including identification and registration measures in full respect of fundamental rights, and increase efforts to detect and prevent smuggling of migrants;
- refrain from further diverging from the EU visa policy and take concrete steps to fully align with it, in particular with regard to the main countries of origin of irregular migration to the EU.

#### Cooperation in the field of drugs

##### *Institutional set-up and legal alignment*

Serbia has a national drugs strategy covering 2014–21. In April 2019, Serbia adopted amendments to the law on substance used in illicit manufacturing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The National Monitoring Centre for Drugs, located in the Ministry of Health, manages the national early warning system (NEWS). The Serbian NEWS is operational and aligned to some extent with European standards. The first Serbian early warning system profile was published in July 2019 on the website of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). It was drafted by Serbian experts who were supported by EMCDDA staff, and presents the structure, objectives and working methods of the Serbian system. Serbia continued to report on first-time detections of new psychoactive substances on its territory during the first half of 2019.

The responsibilities of the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs need to be better delineated from other state bodies, notably as regards coordination vis-à-vis the Office for Combating Drugs, an inter-ministerial coordination office. Both this office and the Serbian national drug observatory (NDO) have received the necessary staff increase. The NDO has achieved a good level of preparation to participate as a full member of the EMCDDA and of the Reitox network (the European information network of drugs and drug addiction).

Serbia is still in the process of aligning its data collection, analysis and reporting with EMCDDA requirements and methodologies. A working arrangement between the EMCDDA and the Office for Combating Drugs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health was finalised for signature.

#### *Implementation and enforcement capacity*

In 2019, 995 individuals were convicted (at first instance) of illegal possession and trafficking of narcotics, 69 of whom had committed the offence within the context of organised crime. During the second half of 2019, a total of 4.5 tons of various substances (including around 109 kg of heroin) were confiscated compared with 2.7 tons, including 59 kg of heroin during the first half of 2019. The discrepancy between the large quantity of drugs seized and the number of convictions is noteworthy.

According to current legislation, it is not possible to keep only a small sample as material evidence for court proceedings, instead, the entire seized quantity is required. An appropriate process for destroying drugs and drug precursors has yet to be set up. Overall, this policy area would benefit from a more proactive and comprehensive approach.

#### **Other issues related to drugs**

There was no progress on preventing drug abuse.

On health inequalities, access to healthcare services needs to be improved for people with disabilities, people living with HIV, children and adults who use drugs, prisoners, women involved in prostitution, LGBTI people, internally displaced persons and the Roma.  
(Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection)

Serbia also took a number of measures to align with the EU *acquis* on drug precursors.  
(Chapter 29: Customs union)



# SERBIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

## Key milestones

### DECEMBER 2009

Application for EU membership

### MARCH 2012

EU Candidate country status granted

### JUNE 2013

EU decides to open accession negotiations

### SEPTEMBER 2013

Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

### DECEMBER 2019

18 chapters out of 35 opened of which 2 provisionally closed



## Trade & investment

- The EU is Serbia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Serbia reached €2 billion in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was over €24 billion in 2019

In 2019



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Serbia
- €2.79 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- Over €5.5 billion provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €210.2 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €5.4 billion
- €162.2 million in disaster relief after the floods in 2014



## Mobility & empowerment

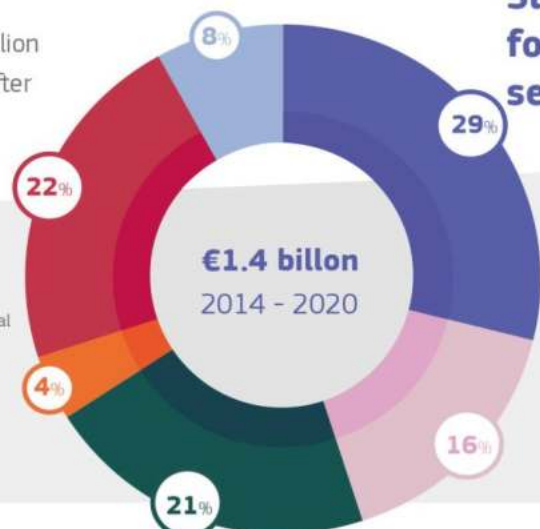
- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- In 2015-2019: over 12,470 participants in academic exchange under Erasmus+
- €33 million in support to civil society from 2014-2020



## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors



## COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €93.4 million in bilateral assistance for Serbia to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region.

Last updated: 10/2020



## Turkey

### Fundamental rights

Efforts to protect Roma children and youngsters from drug abuse should be stepped up via preventive social services and enhanced educational opportunities.

### Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security

Turkey is moderately prepared in the area of justice, freedom and security. There was some progress, in particular in the area of migration and asylum policy. Turkey continued to make significant efforts in hosting and addressing the needs of almost four million refugees, and in preventing illegal crossings towards the EU. Throughout 2019, Turkey was committed to the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016 and played a key role in addressing the challenges of migratory flows along the Eastern Mediterranean route, but as of late February 2020, encouraged crossings to the EU and called for a new agreement replacing the March 2016 Statement. A comprehensive amendment to the Law on Foreigners and International Protection was adopted in December with implications on irregular migration and asylum that need to be followed up with implementing legislation. There was some progress in the implementation of the recommendations of last year's report. However, Turkey is not implementing the provisions relating to third-country nationals in the EU-Turkey readmission agreement, despite these entering into force in October 2017. Turkey still needs to align its legislation on data protection with European standards, which is a precondition for an international agreement with the EU on the exchange of personal data between Europol and Turkey, currently being negotiated. Most of the recommendations remain valid.

In the coming year, Turkey should in particular:

- continue implementing the EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016 and implement all the provisions of the EU-Turkey readmission agreement towards all EU Member States;
- align legislation on personal data protection with European standards, to allow for the conclusion of an EU-Turkey international agreement for the exchange of personal data between Europol and Turkey;
- revise legislation and practices on terrorism in line with the European Convention on Human Rights, European Court of Human Rights case-law and the EU acquis and practices. The proportionality principle should be observed in practice.

### Implementation and enforcement capacity

Turkey's cooperation with the EU agencies on organised crime, on money laundering and on trafficking of drugs should be increased, particularly given Turkey's position as a major trans-shipment point for heroin entering Europe and for the smuggling of precursors.

## Cooperation in the field of drugs

### *Institutional set-up and legal alignment*

The High Council for the Fight against Drugs is responsible for interinstitutional coordination and monitoring. It includes ministers involved in delivering the objectives of the national anti-drug strategy for 2018-2023. The Board for the Fight against Drugs supports the work of the High Council, and the Ministry of Health provides the secretariat. The research committee conducts research on drug addiction and new types of addiction. A separate scientific committee, composed of academics, is tasked with making scientific recommendations for studies and training on drug abuse. This committee is established within the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction under the counter narcotics department of the police. The National Early Warning System on new psychoactive substances is managed by the same Centre.

### *Implementation and enforcement capacity*

Turkey remains a transit route for drugs between Asia and Europe. In 2019, Turkish law enforcement bodies conducted operations that resulted in the seizure of 80,707 kg of cannabis, 1,509 kg of cocaine, 18,531 kg of heroin, 8,909,892 ecstasy tablets and 22,738,579 captagon tablets.

Since 2008, a total of 861 new psychoactive substances have been included in legislation as a result of the activities of the National Early Warning System. The number of sniffer dogs used by the police increased to 441 from 431 in 2019. Narcotics teams specialised in fighting drugs operate now in all 81 provinces, to focus especially on high-risk locations such as schools. Turkey continued to report to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The quality and quantity of data Turkey provides has been improving in recent years. Rehabilitation and treatment capacity in the country needs to be further increased, despite the increase in the number of treatment centres.

Turkey's capacity for data collection and analysis was strengthened. The Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction worked on a dynamic system for an instant data flow concerning the fight against drugs, which should be fully operational in November 2020.

### **Other issues related to drugs**

On procedural measures, there is a specific licensing and regulation system for economic operators dealing with drug precursors, with a strict follow-up and monitoring system in cooperation with the police and customs authorities.

(Chapter 1: Free movement of goods)

Turkey participates in the European Environmental Agency, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the Civil Protection Mechanism.

(Annex I – Relations between the EU and Turkey)





# TURKEY

on its European path

#EUenlargement

## Key milestones

- 1995**  
Customs Union enters into force
- DECEMBER 1999**  
EU candidate country status granted
- DECEMBER 2004**  
EU decides to open accession negotiations
- DECEMBER 2013**  
Visa liberalisation dialogue launched
- NOVEMBER 2015**  
First EU-Turkey Summit held
- MARCH 2016**  
EU-Turkey Statement
- JUNE 2018**  
The Council noted that Turkey's accession negotiations have effectively come to a standstill and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing
- MARCH 2019**  
54<sup>th</sup> EU-Turkey Association Council held
- MARCH 2020**  
EU-Turkey Leaders' meeting takes place in Brussels



## Trade & investment

- Turkey is the EU's sixth largest trading partner
- Approximately 42% of Turkish trade occurs with the EU
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Turkey reached €70 billion in 2018

In 2019



## EU funding

- The EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey provides €6 billion in support of refugees (mostly from Syria) and host communities. An additional €485 million humanitarian funding will extend two flagship programmes launched under the Facility until end 2021. In addition, under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, EU assistance to Turkey amounts to €3.2 billion over seven years (2014-2020) after cuts due to lack of progress on key reforms
- Another €479.9 million mobilised over 2014-20 through other instruments (EIDHR, IcSP, HUMA, MADAD, CBC)
- Priority areas of funding are civil society, Union Programmes (e.g. Erasmus+), migration and the rule of law



## Mobility & empowerment

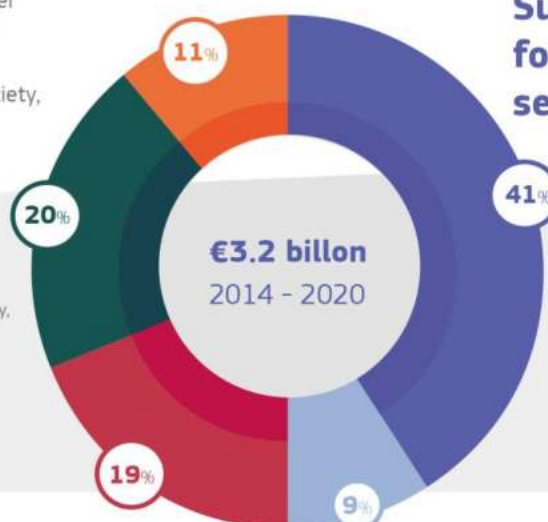
- 11% of EU funding for transport sector from 2014-2020
- In 2004 - 2018: over 90,000 participants in academic exchanges under ERASMUS+
- In 2004 - 2018: 30,000+ EU students to Turkey with Erasmus



## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening fundamental rights, the rule of law, the judiciary and democracy
- Reforming public administration
- Supporting governance and active citizenship
- Improving transport and energy connections
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors



## COVID-19 response

€83 million of EU funds have been redirected to assist Turkey in its COVID-19 response, for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 cases and support to the most vulnerable. Other measures include the extension of implementing periods for some projects under IPA and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, as well as the shipment of two tubes of testing material (sufficient material for 40,000 tests) to two laboratories in Turkey.

