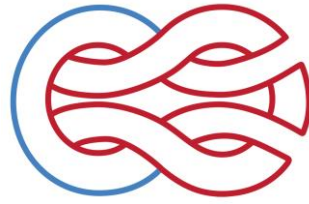


Global Organized Crime Index **2021**



South Eastern Europe

Drug Policy Network South East Europe



Global Organized Crime Index 2021

South East Europe

*Segments on drugs from the Global Organized Crime Index 2021
Published by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime*

South Eastern Europe countries' ranking



Country	Criminality	Rank (Europe)	Rank (World)
Serbia	6,21	4 (44)	33 (193)
Montenegro	6,00	4 (44)	45 (193)
Bosnia Herzegovina	5,89	5 (44)	49 (193)
Albania	5,63	9 (44)	61 (193)
Bulgaria	5,43	10 (44)	70 (193)
North Macedonia	5,31	11 (44)	74 (193)
Croatia	5,06	13 (44)	85 (193)
Greece	4,93	14 (44)	92 (193)
Romania	4,59	22 (44)	115 (193)
Slovenia	4,29	29 (44)	132 (193)

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Introduction

The **Global Organized Crime Index** is the first tool of its kind designed to assess levels of organized crime and resilience to organized criminal activity. It includes in its rankings all the UN member states - 193 countries.

The results, which draw from a comprehensive dataset informed by experts worldwide, paint a worrying picture of the reach, scale and impact of organized crime. It is a sobering thought, for instance, that nearly 80% of the world's population today live in countries with high levels of criminality. It is equally alarming to consider that the exploitation of people, in the form of human trafficking, has become the most pervasive criminal economy in the world – a development that serves as a dark reminder of the dehumanizing impact of organized crime. Meanwhile, the Index highlights how state involvement in criminality is a deeply embedded phenomenon around the world: state officials and clientelist networks who hold influence over state authorities are now the most dominant brokers of organized crime, and not cartel leaders or mafia bosses, as one might be forgiven for thinking. And these are but a few stand-out examples of the findings of this Index.

This report introduces the Global Organized Crime Index and sets out the results and implications of the 2020 data, the year in which a new pandemic began to ravage the world. Of course, organized crime is not a new phenomenon, but it is now a more urgent issue than ever. Criminal networks and their impact have spread across the globe in the last two decades, driven by geopolitical, economic and technological forces. The analysis in this report conclusively demonstrates that organized crime is the most pernicious threat to human security, development and justice in the world today.

Key findings of the report include:

- More than three-quarters of the world's population live in countries with high levels of criminality, and in countries with low resilience to organized crime
- Of all the continents, Asia has the highest levels of criminality
- Human trafficking is the most pervasive of all criminal markets globally
- Democracies have higher levels of resilience to criminality than authoritarian states
- State actors are the most dominant agents in facilitating illicit economies and inhibiting resilience to organized crime
- Many countries in conflict and fragile states experience acute vulnerability to organized crime

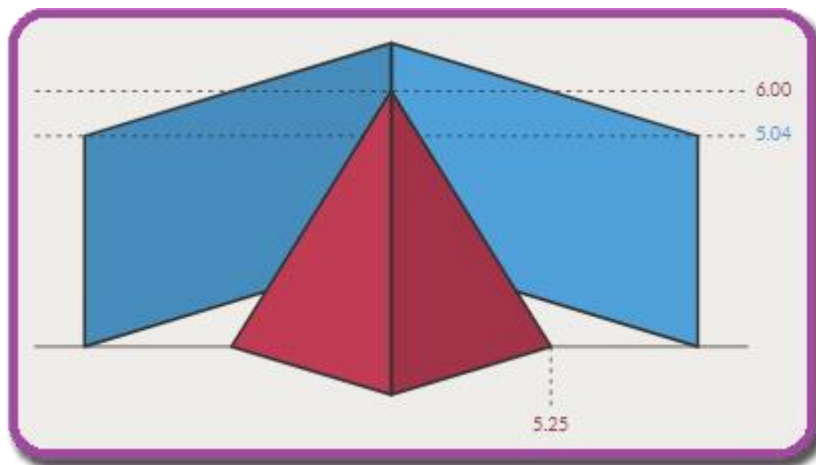


Albania

The Criminality score of 5,63 ranks Albania as 61st of 193 countries in the World, 9th of 44 European countries and 6th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Albania score on Criminal markets is 5,25, out of which Heroin trade is 6,00, Cocaine trade is 7,00, Cannabis trade is 7,00 and Synthetic drugs trade is 3,00. Criminal actors score 6,00.

The Resilience score of 5,05 ranks Albania as 87th of 193 countries in the World, 36th of 44 European countries and 10th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

Albania is a key transit country for heroin, as well as cocaine trafficked from Latin America. Albanian criminal actors also play central roles in Europe's heroin and cocaine markets. Mafia-style groups have formed associations with South American cartels, the 'Ndrangheta and cocaine producers, allowing them to import vast quantities of high-quality cocaine at competitive prices and giving them access to a complex global infrastructure. Albanian criminal groups however, are not just engaged in trafficking cocaine to Europe, but are also involved in its storage and distribution, and have increasingly consolidated their influence over wholesalers and retail markets across the continent. As a result, Albanian organized criminals have come to control a significant share of Europe's cocaine trade.

Albania is also a transit country for heroin trafficked to Europe through the Balkan route from Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Trafficking is undertaken by mafia-style actors and criminal networks that are known to cooperate with other criminal actors involved in the heroin supply chain. Most heroin is trafficked into Albania by land, through North Macedonia, but heroin-processing laboratories have also been uncovered internally by Albanian police.

Albania has been one of the largest producers of cannabis in Europe for at least a decade. In recent years, however, cultivation has declined drastically, largely due to police intervention, the destruction of plantations, and state efforts to change the business model. Nevertheless, stockpiles remain and, for now, Albania continues to be a significant source of cannabis for the EU, with the drug reportedly transported by sea via Italy and by land through Greece and Montenegro.

The criminal market for synthetic drugs in Albania is the smallest of the drug markets in the country. Synthetic drugs are imported into Albania primarily from neighbouring countries, such as Serbia and Bulgaria, as well as various EU countries. In general, while cannabis appears to be relatively widely consumed domestically, consumption rates of harder drugs are low in Albania.

Civil society

Civil society organizations (CSOs) with donor support remain the primary providers of aid for most cases involving vulnerable groups, rather than by government agencies.

The culture of crime prevention in Albania is relatively underdeveloped. Civil society and media engagement in countering organized crime is limited. Many civil society organizations are dependent on external donors for financial support while public funding for CSOs is minimal and not yet legally regulated.

See the full country profile of Albania [following this link>>>](#).

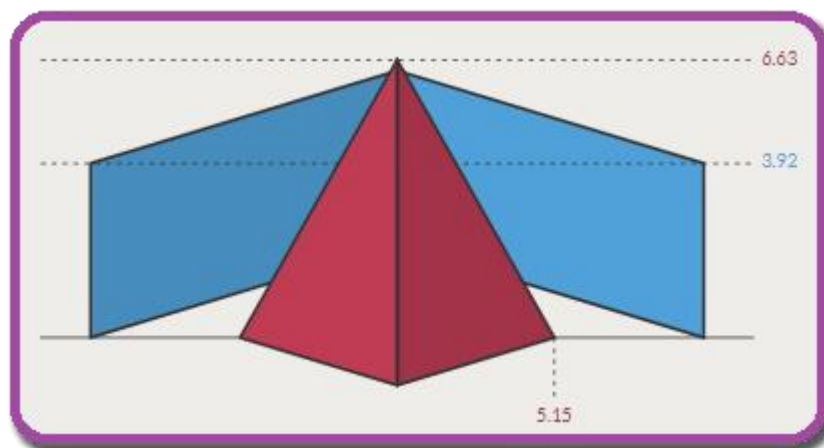


Bosnia Herzegovina

The Criminality score of 5,89 ranks Bosnia and Herzegovina as 49th of 193 countries in the World, 5th of 44 European countries and 5th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Bosnia and Herzegovina score on Criminal markets is 5,15, out of which Heroin trade is 6,00, Cocaine trade is 4,50, Cannabis trade is 5,50 and Synthetic drugs trade is 5,50. Criminal actors score 6,63.

The Resilience score of 3,92 ranks Bosnia and Herzegovina as 138th of 193 countries in the World, 42nd of 44 European countries and 15th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

Bosnia and Herzegovina is an important transit country for heroin and cannabis bound for Europe. Domestic consumption of cannabis and some cultivation and production of cannabis and synthetic drugs, such as MDMA, also known as ecstasy or molly, is known to occur. It is on the route for heroin trafficked for Central Europe, making Bosnia and Herzegovina an important transit and storage country for heroin and precursor chemicals such as acidic anhydride. Chemical components for MDMA, including rare crystal powder, are imported from EU countries, such as the Netherlands and Germany, and are then produced in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Cannabis is transported from Albania to Bosnia and Herzegovina from where it is trafficked to Western European countries. Moreover, Bosnia and Herzegovina has recently become a source of sour cannabis, with reports of emerging indoor cultivation and growing production in the southern and western parts of the country.

The crime market for cocaine in Bosnia and Herzegovina is less valuable and pervasive than the markets for other drugs. However, more groups are entering the market and stronger ties have been established between crime groups in Republika Srpska (with affiliations to crime organizations in Serbia and Montenegro) and Latin American drug traffickers.

Civil society

Civil society organizations (CSOs) continue to play a role in the response to organized crime, particularly when it comes to victim support. While progress has been made in building institutional mechanisms for cooperation between governments and CSOs, there remains room to improve the inclusion of civil society in decision making.

See the full country profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina [following this link>>>](#).

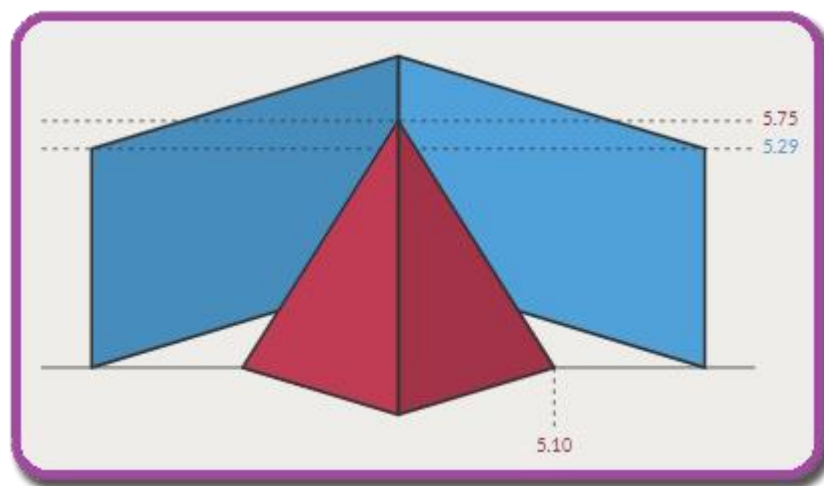


Bulgaria

The Criminality score of 5,43 ranks Bulgaria as 70st of 193 countries in the World, 10th of 44 European countries and 7th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Bulgaria score on Criminal markets is 5,10, out of which Heroin trade is 6,00, Cocaine trade is 4,00, Cannabis trade is 5,00 and Synthetic drugs trade is 6,00. Criminal actors score 5,75.

The Resilience score of 5,29 ranks Bulgaria as 71st of 193 countries in the World, 30th of 44 European countries and 7th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

Bulgaria is an important transit country for the heroin market, with domestic networks being involved mostly in logistics. Reportedly, about 20% of the heroin travelling through the Balkans passes through the country, although this figure is likely to have decreased following the COVID-19 lockdowns. Most of the heroin is bound for Western Europe and comes from Turkey. Local demand accounts for a small part of the profits made. Heroin is the preferred drug of the marginalized, especially the Roma community, who are allegedly involved in trafficking small quantities of heroin from Turkey and distributing it in Bulgaria. Corruption is an important element of heroin trafficking, yet there are low levels of violence within the drug market in general.

Although Serbia was a primary entry point for cocaine in the past, recent reports claim that flows have shifted to Romania and Bulgaria. The latter is primarily a transit country, but a small market exists in the larger cities and resorts. Bulgarian-based criminal networks have traditionally played a logistical role in cocaine trafficking, successfully facilitating large-scale operations from South America to Western Europe. However, they are now increasingly organizing their own operations and recruiting mules to traffic cocaine directly to their destination markets.

Bulgaria is mainly a transit country for the illegal cannabis market, which has grown massively since 2018. Criminal networks are involved in the logistics of cannabis trafficking from Albania to Turkey, Serbia and Romania. Recently, increasing quantities of cannabis grown in Bulgaria have been exported to Turkey and Greece. Cannabis is the most prevalent drug in the country and demand is widespread, which has prompted organized-crime groups to enter the market. Corruption most likely plays an important role in cannabis trafficking, with checkpoints on the Macedonian, Romanian and Turkish borders being the most vulnerable. The consumption of synthetic drugs is also on the rise in Bulgaria. Groups from the Sofia region have established themselves as amphetamine producers, while groups in the southeast of the country specialize in methamphetamine production. Police reports indicate a rise in courier deliveries of synthetic drugs purchased online. Precursors also transit through or are destined for Bulgaria, while synthetic drugs arriving from the Netherlands, Belgium and the Czech Republic are trafficked through Bulgaria to Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa. Foreign criminal actors, mostly of Turkish origin and based in Western Europe, reportedly organize these flows.

Civil society

While NGOs and citizens are officially considered an integral part of the state's efforts to tackle crime, the government is not very open to criticism. Civil society organizations do their best to improve the country, but the state is not fully committed to promoting their independence.

See the full country profile of Bulgaria [following this link>>>](#).

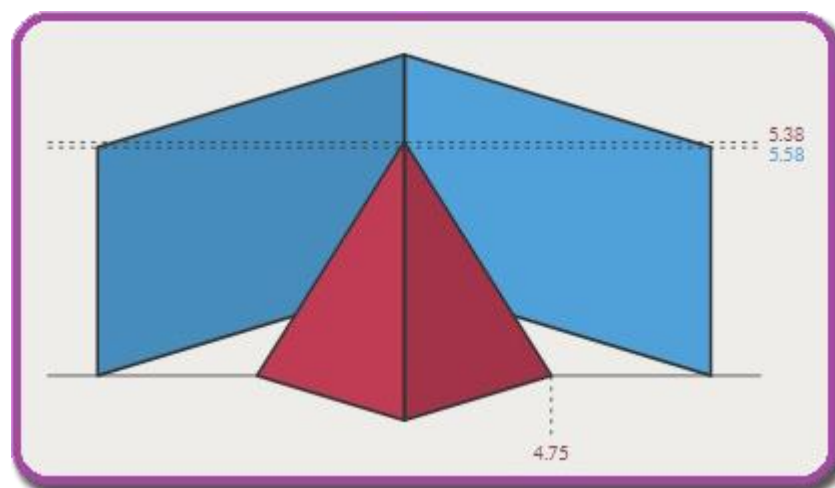


Croatia

The Criminality score of 5,06 ranks Croatia as 85th of 193 countries in the World, 13th of 44 European countries and 10th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Croatia score on Criminal markets is 4,75, out of which Heroin trade is 5,00, Cocaine trade is 5,50, Cannabis trade is 5,50 and Synthetic drugs trade is 5,50. Criminal actors score 5,38.

The Resilience score of 5,58 ranks Croatia as 51st of 193 countries in the World, 26th of 44 European countries and 4th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

Available information suggests that several small criminal groups with flexible organizational structures dominate the Croatian drug market. Most of the heroin distributed in Croatia and transiting through the country originates in Afghanistan and is smuggled from there via Ottoman-era routes on to southeast and west Europe. Traditionally, cocaine shipments, usually from South and Central America, were trafficked into Croatia by sea or land from Western Europe or Turkey. However, more recently, organized crime groups in the Western Balkans, including those with members of Croatian origin, have established more direct cocaine trafficking routes from South America to the European market, in collaboration with South American cartels. The domestic cocaine market is concentrated in major cities such as Zagreb, Split and Dubrovnik.

Cannabis use is widespread in Croatia, with herbal cannabis being the most frequently seized substance in the country. Although the number of dismantled cannabis plantations in the country has remained stable over the past years, there has been an increase in the number of dismantled indoor cultivation sites. Despite the domestic cultivation of cannabis, most of it originates in Albania and is smuggled into Croatia via Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Groups smuggling cannabis into Croatia use both land and maritime routes.

Domestic demand for synthetic drugs is arguably on the rise, with MDMA being the most consumed synthetic drug in Croatia. Amphetamines and MDMA are smuggled primarily from producing countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands, while methamphetamine is smuggled from Eastern Europe and Asia. Nevertheless, production takes place in Croatia as well, with a number of small laboratories having been identified and disrupted. Reports also indicate new psychoactive substances being mainly bought online.

Civil society

NGOs often cite a lack of help from the government in their victim- and witness support efforts. There is a project on victim support, protection and compensation being implemented, which, among other things, aims to establish a central information point that makes possible the extraction of statistical data on victim-support procedures on individual cases.

See the full country profile of Croatia [following this link>>>](#).

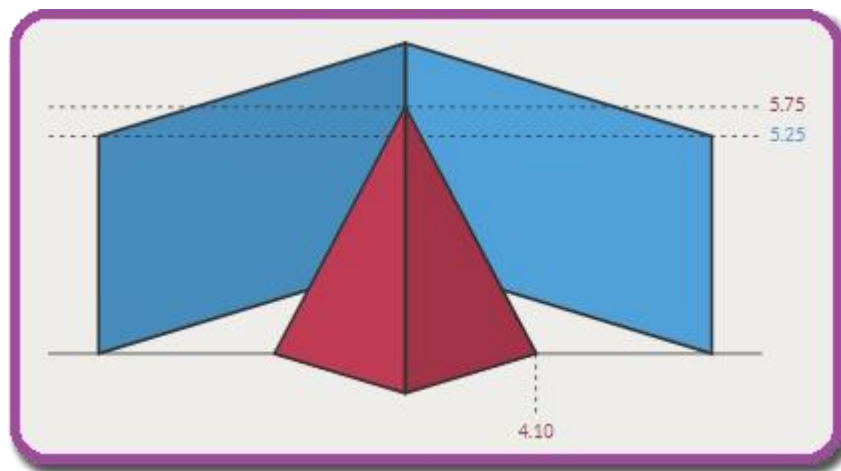


Greece

The Criminality score of 4,93 ranks Greece as 92nd of 193 countries in the World, 14th of 44 European countries and 3rd of 8 Southern European countries.

Greece score on Criminal markets is 4,10, out of which Heroin trade is 6,00, Cocaine trade is 3,50, Cannabis trade is 5,00 and Synthetic drugs trade is 2,50. Criminal actors score 5,75.

The Resilience score of 5,25 ranks Greece as 72nd of 193 countries in the World, 31st of 44 European countries and 5th of 8 Southern European countries.



Drugs

Greece is a transit, destination and source country for cannabis, which is the most widely trafficked and consumed drug in the country. Albania supplies cannabis to most European countries via the Greece-Italy route. High numbers of cannabis seizures take place within the areas of Thesprotia and Ioannina, both of which border Albania. Many of the organized-crime groups in Greece who are involved in the cannabis trade are also involved in arms trafficking, human smuggling, money laundering and forgery. Greece is also a transit and destination country for the heroin trade, which is operated mainly by local organized-crime groups, who collaborate with transnational crime groups. The country serves as an entry point for the Balkan route, which links trafficking corridors from areas with the highest production of opioids in the world with consumer countries in Europe. Law-enforcement officials have noted an increase in the use of an alternative route from Turkey to Greece and into Bulgaria, Albania or North Macedonia. Domestically, Attica, Thessaloniki, Epirus, the Ionian Islands and Crete have all been highlighted as heroin-trade hotspots. Heroin is transported across land, air and sea corridors, with the drug crossing borders illegally via commercial flights, air couriers, postal services and small boats.

Greece is a transit and, to a lesser extent, destination country for shipments of cocaine arriving directly from South America or indirectly via Spain and Italy. Cocaine is usually smuggled in container ships transporting legal imports. The Greek port of Piraeus, one of the largest container ports in Europe, is the primary entry point for cocaine being smuggled into the country. Greece acts as a gateway for Latin American organized-crime groups to gain access to European markets. The majority of organizations in the cocaine trade are poly-drug groups that traffic mainly cannabis. Demand for cocaine within Greece is concentrated in the larger cities like Athens, Thessaloniki and Piraeus. Greece is primarily a transit country for synthetic drugs travelling from the Netherlands or Bulgaria to Turkey. Greece is also increasingly becoming a destination country for synthetic drugs, particularly for consumption by young people and tourists. Reports suggest that the main actors involved in this market are independent low-level dealers, although larger organized groups are also implicated.

Civil society

Private companies and NGOs have implemented publicity campaigns aimed at making civilians more aware of organized crime. However, the highly politicized and semi-military nature of the Greek police has negatively affected prevention efforts.

On the whole, civil society in Greece is weak, but there are several NGOs, some of which are supported by the state, that tackle issues such as human trafficking and illegal drugs.

See the full country profile of Greece [following this link>>>](#).

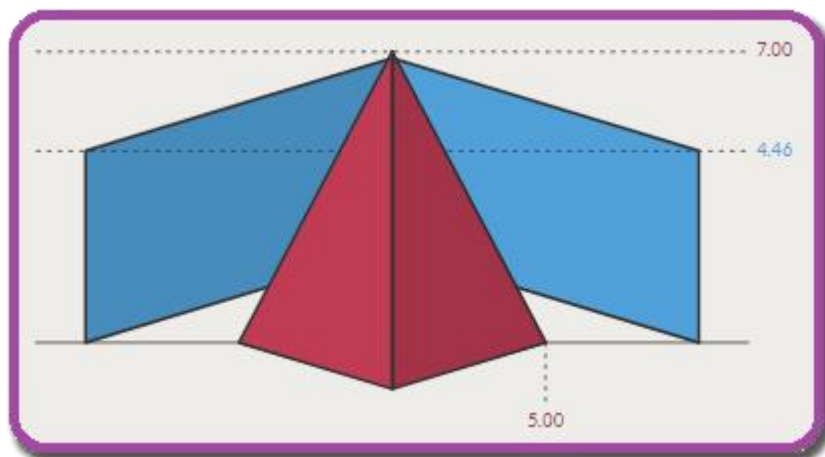


Montenegro

The Criminality score of 6,00 ranks Montenegro as 45th of 193 countries in the World, 4th of 44 European countries and 4th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Montenegro score on Criminal markets is 5,00, out of which Heroin trade is 5,50, Cocaine trade is 7,50, Cannabis trade is 5,50 and Synthetic drugs trade is 4,50. Criminal actors score 7,00.

The Resilience score of 4,46 ranks Montenegro as 112th of 193 countries in the World, 38th of 44 European countries and 12th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

Montenegro is a transit country for heroin, where Albanian and Kosovar heroin is smuggled into Serbia and the EU. Several organized crime groups are involved in the market bringing with them significant levels of violence. Despite its role as a transit country, domestic consumption of heroin remains low.

Montenegro is primarily a transit country, and to some extent a destination country, for cocaine. Montenegro is the main entry point for cocaine trafficked through the Balkans into the EU, particularly cocaine coming from Latin America. The market is controlled by several mafiastyle groups, most notably the Kavač clan and the Škaljari clan. High levels of violence are associated with the trade. However, local consumption is relatively low because of the high price of the drug.

Montenegro is a major transit country for cannabis originating from Albania and transported to Bosnia and Serbia. Cannabis is also the most seized and consumed drug in the country, with a visible increase in consumption rates over the last decade. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the price of cannabis increased due to a higher demand for recreational use.

The production of synthetic drugs is also on the rise in Montenegro, with several laboratories being detected in recent years. In line with more production, consumption rates are also increasing, albeit from relatively low levels. Because of the small size of the market, there is little evidence of organized crime involvement.

Civil society

As part of its EU accession process, some efforts have been made to involve civil society in policy discussions, but these have been superficial. Civil society organizations are also highly influenced by Russian disinformation campaigns and those that intensify social divides.

See the full country profile of Montenegro [following this link>>>](#).

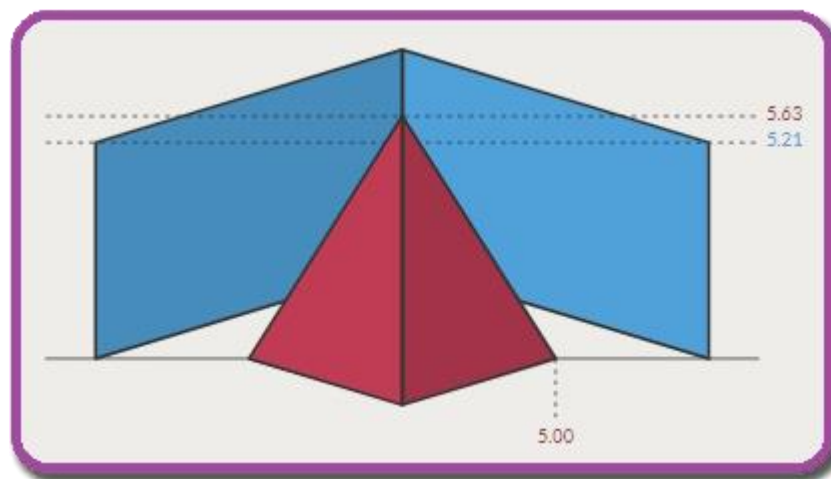


North Macedonia

The Criminality score of 5,31 ranks North Macedonia as 74th of 193 countries in the World, 11th of 44 European countries and 8th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

North Macedonia score on Criminal markets is 5,00, out of which Heroin trade is 6,50, Cocaine trade is 5,00, Cannabis trade is 6,00 and Synthetic drugs trade is 5,50. Criminal actors score 5,63.

The Resilience score of 5,21 ranks North Macedonia as 76th of 193 countries in the World, 32nd of 44 European countries and 8th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

North Macedonia is a minor source country for heroin and a key transit point for Afghan and Turkish heroin being moved through the Balkan route towards Europe. North Macedonian groups based in Veles, Štip and Kočani control the market. There is low domestic consumption of heroin, with related low levels of violence. North Macedonia is also a transit and, to some extent, a destination country, for cocaine. Cocaine arrives from Latin America through the Balkan route moving on towards Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece. Local groups involved in the cocaine market cooperate with Albanian criminal groups and prices have remained stable throughout the pandemic suggesting supply and demand has not been affected much.

North Macedonia is a transit country for cannabis moved from Albania into Turkey, where demand for the drug is high. North Macedonia also has a large domestic market, and the trade is associated with some violence over control of trafficking routes. There have been attempts by Albanian criminal groups to join the North Macedonian cannabis market, but these have been unsuccessful due to police intervention. Supply chains do not seem to have been affected by the pandemic, but prices have risen due to increased demand and reduced workforce available for harvesting.

Whereas most synthetic drugs are produced in Serbia, police are increasingly finding laboratories in North Macedonia. There appears to be cooperation between North Macedonian groups and Serbian and Albanian criminal groups. The local market for synthetic drugs is increasing.

Civil society

Despite the political goodwill, however, victim support is mainly provided by NGOs which receive financial support from foreign entities.

There is no repression of civil society from the new government, however the number of organizations working on issues related to organized crime is relatively low. The government has made significant improvements in working with civil society organizations and involving them in the legislative process.

See the full country profile of North Macedonia [following this link>>>](#).

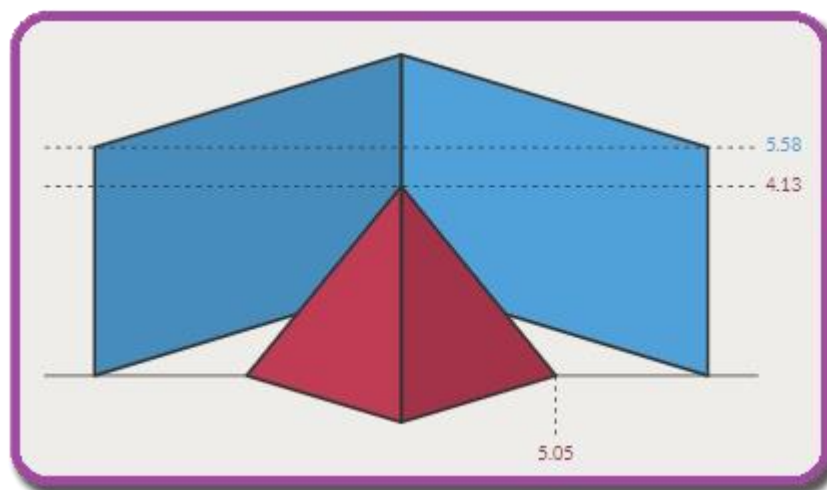


Romania

The Criminality score of 4,59 ranks Romania as 115th of 193 countries in the World, 22nd of 44 European countries and 13th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Romania score on Criminal markets is 5,05, out of which Heroin trade is 5,50, Cocaine trade is 5,50, Cannabis trade is 4,50 and Synthetic drugs trade is 4,50. Criminal actors score 4,13.

The Resilience score of 5,58 ranks Romania as 51st of 193 countries in the World, 26th of 44 European countries and 4th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

Romania forms part of the north Balkan route used for heroin produced in Afghanistan. The heroin entering Romania is either for local consumption or destined for Central and Western Europe. Cannabis is the most commonly used drug in Romania. Most users are young adults between the ages of 15 and 34. The drug is imported into Romania from Spain, Greece and Albania; however, the majority of cannabis seized in the country is domestically produced.

Cocaine is the second most-seized drug in Romania. A large amount of it enters the country through Constanta harbour, from where it follows the Balkan route towards Western Europe, utilizing the same infrastructure developed for the trafficking of large quantities of heroin and synthetic drugs. Romanians living in South America, as well as South Americans living in Romania, create key links for organized crime groups trafficking cocaine. MDMA/Ecstasy seized in Romania is trafficked mainly from Germany and the Netherlands; while amphetamine is usually trafficked from Germany, Belgium and Bulgaria. New psychoactive substances come predominantly from Asia and usually arrive via postal services.

Civil society

Victims have a right to protection and are also entitled to free legal aid and financial compensation. Assistance is provided by social service organizations in both the public and private sectors.

The country's preventive approach aims to raise public awareness and reduce demand, as well as to reduce the vulnerability of target groups, enhance their capacity to protect themselves and promote relevant hotlines through which people can report their suspicions and/or receive support. The state often implements its preventive activities in partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations. However, civil society's access to funding has been seriously impeded under the current government, which has phased out many of Romania's major institutional programmes and limited NGOs' access to EU structural funds.

See the full country profile of Romania [following this link>>>](#).

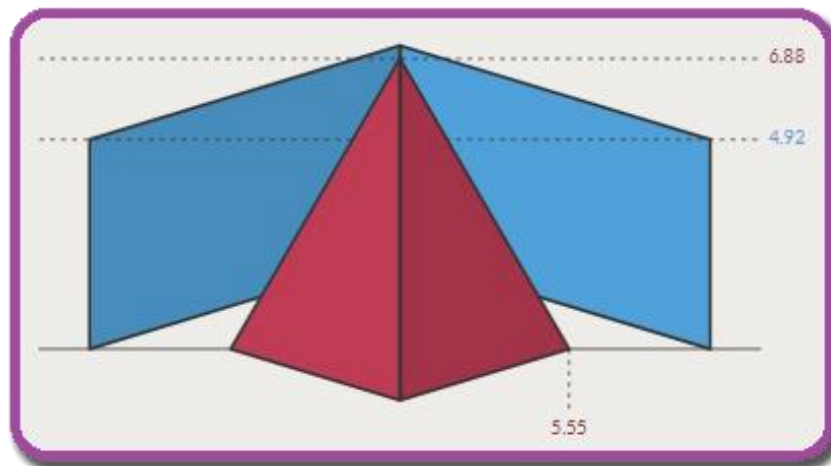


Serbia

The Criminality score of 6,21 ranks Serbia as 33rd of 193 countries in the World, 2nd of 44 European countries and 2nd of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Serbia score on Criminal markets is 5,55, out of which Heroin trade is 7,00, Cocaine trade is 5,50, Cannabis trade is 6,00 and Synthetic drugs trade is 6,00. Criminal actors score 6,88.

The Resilience score of 4,29 ranks Serbia as 93rd of 193 countries in the World, 37th of 44 European countries and 11th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

The heroin market is among the most pervasive and violent criminal markets in Serbia and involves several organized-crime groups. Serbia acts as a transit country, as local groups cooperate with foreign criminal networks to move heroin from Afghanistan into the Balkans. Serbia also has the highest number of heroin users in the Western Balkans.

Serbia is a transit and destination country for cannabis, although there is evidence of increasing domestic cultivation. Cannabis from Albania and Turkey is trafficked into Serbia and moved predominantly into Central Europe. Due to the affordability of cannabis, there is a large market in Serbia, but there appears to be very little violence associated with it.

Serbia is a source, transit and destination country for synthetic drugs and is the main source of synthetic drugs in the region. Synthetic drugs are produced in small quantities in hidden labs throughout Serbia and are mainly exported to Western Europe, neighbouring states and the Middle East. There is, however, a small but growing domestic market.

Serbia is a transit and destination country for cocaine, with the dominant Serbian criminal groups collaborating with trafficking groups from Montenegro. However, the violence between rival Montenegrin groups often takes place in Serbia and there are ongoing assassinations. The growing demand and availability of cocaine suggest that the domestic market is growing.

Civil society

Serbia has a strong civil society that fights robustly against organized crime, even in the face of hostility from the government. The government does not encourage civil-society organizations and has so far resisted putting in place any strategy to improve cooperation with, and effectiveness of, civil-society organizations.

See the full country profile of Serbia [following this link>>>](#).

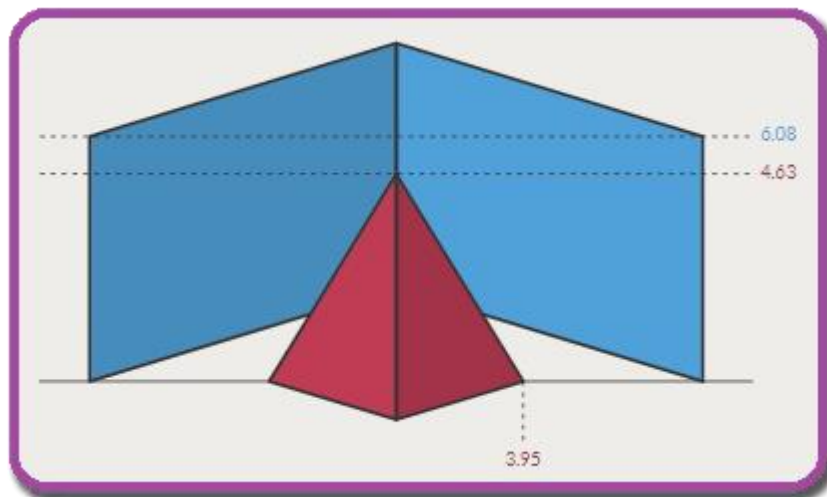


Slovenia

The Criminality score of 4,29 ranks Slovenia as 132nd of 193 countries in the World, 29th of 44 European countries and 16th of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.

Slovenia score on Criminal markets is 3,95, out of which Heroin trade is 4,00, Cocaine trade is 4,50, Cannabis trade is 5,00 and Synthetic drugs trade is 5,50. Criminal actors score 4,63.

The Resilience score of 6,08 ranks Slovenia as 36th of 193 countries in the World, 25th of 44 European countries and 3rd of 17 Central & Eastern European countries.



Drugs

As with other criminal markets in Slovenia, the fact that the country is situated on the Balkan route and is a part of the EU, as well as the Schengen zone, makes it an attractive drug market. Slovenian authorities believe that most drug trafficking in the country involves either criminal networks operating solely within Slovenia or foreign actors operating as international criminal networks. Cannabis is one of the largest illicit drug markets in Slovenia, which is primarily a source and transit country for the illegal cannabis trade. The local produce is sufficient to meet domestic demand, and a portion of the production is intended for neighbouring markets. Overall, attitudes towards cannabis are relaxing both in government and the wider society, and it is the most socially accepted illicit drug in Slovenia. Meanwhile, Slovenia is primarily a transit and, to a lesser extent, a destination country for heroin originating from Central Asia or Turkey, which reaches Slovenia through Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Serbia. Compared to other countries in the region, heroin usage is lower in Slovenia.

With regards to the cocaine trade, Slovenia is a transit and, to a lesser extent, a destination country. The majority of the cocaine that reaches Slovenia is destined for other countries. Foreign authorities have said that Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro are hubs for cocaine trafficking to Western Europe. As for synthetic drugs, the market is believed to be relatively small.

Slovenia is one of the countries with the lowest percentage of lifetime usage of MDMA and amphetamine; however, this is said to be increasing dramatically. There is also a market for new psychoactive substances (NPS), which were especially popular among the youth. However, since many NPSs were declared illegal in 2018, the market has changed, with many substances disappearing and new ones appearing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has also been a marked increase in the use of organized home delivery and the darknet to acquire synthetic drugs.

Civil society

While Slovenia does make significant efforts in having productive relationships with NGOs and civil society actors, the relationship between civil society actors, government actors and the media is sometimes unstable, especially in light of cases in which NGOs were discredited or pressured by local government officials or the media.

See the full country profile of Slovenia [following this link>>>](#).