



**DRUG** **POLICING**  
BALKAN

Advanced 2013 - 2014



Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union.

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## **Introduction by Federal Minister of the Interior of Austria Mag.ª Johanna Mikl-Leitner**

**Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear Colleagues**

To combat transnational forms of crime such as illegal migration, terrorism, and trafficking in human beings, we need cross-border partnerships. The Drugs-Balkan Routes Project, which was initiated during Austria's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2006, is a flagship project to combat international organized drug trafficking in the Balkans. It was launched together with the Austrian Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with Germany, Bulgaria, and Serbia, and with the support of the European Commission.

Since the beginning of the now 7-year project duration an impressive success story has been written: 750 suspects have been arrested and 60 of them have been sentenced to in total 350 years of imprisonment in Austria alone. 400 kg of heroin, 105 kg of cocaine, and 52 kg of cannabis have been seized. These results have been achieved by a close, international police cooperation. At the same time this project confirms impressively that we will only succeed in disrupting transnational crime networks if we form close partnerships with like-minded, international partners.

Let's continue to count on this successful partnership in future as well. I am happy that as of April 2013 the Drugs-Balkan Routes Project under the direction of the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria and in cooperation with our project partners Germany and Croatia will strike a new path. Our long-term goal, i.e. to combat drug trafficking along the Balkan route to the European Union and thus to contribute to our citizens' safety, remains unchanged. As part of the 16-month project duration, one of the key features is to combat smuggling of precursors as well as to seize assets gained by the smuggling.

For the continuation of this successful project, I extend my best wishes to all those involved in the project, may you continue to have energy, perseverance, and success.

Johanna Mikl-Leitner  
Federal Minister of the Interior



# Introduction by Director of the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria General Franz Lang



**Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear Readers**

To be able to disrupt tenacious criminally organised structures, we need stern and persistent cross-border police measures on the one hand and priority objectives flexibly coordinated on the other. To achieve this, common tools, strategies, and goals are necessary. The ISEC Project "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013 - 2014" is an excellent tool to put this philosophy successfully into practice.

Initiated by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria, and financially supported by the European Commission, in the course of this 16 month project we, together with our partner countries Germany and Croatia, take action to counter criminal groups in the Balkans.

In total, 27 EU member states, accession and candidate countries, the Western Balkans, Switzerland, the Ukraine, the United States, the Russian Federation but also Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the United Nations and the European Commission are invited to take part in this project. To be able to implement this project successfully, the Western Balkans play an important role. Therefore, I am very grateful to these countries for their deep commitment.

The Balkan route continues to be the primary smuggling route for those heroin and opiate products that are mainly produced in Afghanistan. Depots along this smuggling route as well as logistics networks facilitate the international drug trafficking.

With this ISEC Project "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013 - 2014", once again we are given an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of the fight against international drug crime by an increased information exchange and targeted operational measures. Special attention will be given to the smuggling of drug precursors. And white collar crime investigators will be involved increasingly.

I am firmly convinced that this project will be a great success as well. In this spirit, I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have made this project possible, in particular the European Commission and all participating countries and organisations. The outcome of this project will be without doubt of sustainable benefit to all of us.

General Franz Lang  
Director of the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria



# The Project

## Drug Policing Balkan

### History

The Drug Policing Balkan project was launched at a high-level conference during the Austrian Presidency of the European Council in 2006, funded by EC – JLS/2005/AGIS/179.. It was attended by 24 EU member states, 5 candidate countries, 6 third countries and the international organisations Europol, Eurojust, EC, EMCDDA, Interpol and UNODC.

### A three-stage plan

has been established as a backbone for the initial project and the ensuing projects.

#### Primary activities:

- ◆ Establishing contact network along the Balkan route
- ◆ Conducting joint targeted operations and investigations
- ◆ Setting up Joint Investigation Teams (JIT)

The outcome of this conference contributed to enhancing cross-border control of the international organized drug crime on the Balkans.

### The Follow-up Conferences

- ◆ 2007 Pörschach/Austria
- ◆ 2008 Zadar/Croatia
- ◆ 2010 Sofia/Bulgaria
- ◆ 2011 Altenmarkt-Zauchensee/Austria
- ◆ 2012 Belgrade/Serbia



## Project Description

### “Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014”

The Federal Ministry of the Interior – Criminal Intelligence Service Austria – carries out a 16 months project (April 2013 – July 2014) in cooperation with the partner countries Germany and Croatia aiming at joint investigations along the Balkan Route (Hungary, Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) to fight drug trafficking to the EU, with the focus on the smuggling of precursors and forfeiture of assets originating from the smuggling.

## General objectives

Improvement of the cooperation of law enforcement with the states along the Balkan Route (focus: acceding countries and candidate countries); preparation of the mission of joint investigation teams (JIT).

## Operational objectives

Fight against forms of drug-related crime along the Balkan Route, dismantling of offender groups, seizure of drugs and recovery of assets.

## Methods

The focus of this project is the working out of and implementing common approaches and actions. This requires a constant and high quality exchange and evaluation of administrative, legal and operational information. The project will be implemented in 2 mechanisms: A-conference, B-operational meetings.

**A)** One conference in Austria; participants: investigators and experts from 27 EU member states, acceding countries and candidate countries, West Balkan countries, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Russian Federation, EUROPOL, Eurojust, INTERPOL, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, United Nations - UNODC and the European Commission. Objective is the exchange of legal and operational information in the fight against drug trafficking (including the smuggling of precursors and asset forfeiture) along the Balkan route and working out trend-setting and fundamental decisions. Special subjects will be dealt with according to the prevailing situation (e.g. asset forfeiture), worked out and discussed in workshops. The results are the basis for further joint investigations in the partner countries in cooperation with the Balkan countries. As the Balkan countries are included (Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo\*, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) the problem is tackled at the root, in particular as most of the heroin and opium products which are produced in Afghanistan are smuggled through these countries.

<sup>1)</sup> Within this booklet this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence



**B)** In 8 operational meetings joint investigations will be planned and arranged. They will be held according to need (status of investigations) and serve the coordination of the countries concerned (EU member states and West Balkan states), in order to break up offender groups operating along the Balkan Route. About 13 investigators (the participants will come from EU member states and West Balkan states, EUROPOL and Eurojust according to the need) will participate. It is the objective to get organisations in the different countries to adopt a common strategy in the fight against drug smuggling along the Balkan Route. Legal aspects and intelligence on suspects are coordinated as well as the location and the timing of the intervention and action. Subsequently, JITs are to be set up to destroy criminal groups, to seize illegal drugs and to recover assets gained by drug trafficking. The output will be an improvement of the communication between the different countries and organisations. The joint information is the basis for operational activities aimed at the arrest of offenders.

## Beneficiaries

### Drug investigators from:

- ◆ EU member states
- ◆ West Balkan countries (accessing countries and candidate countries)

as well as

- ◆ EUROPOL
- ◆ INTERPOL
- ◆ EMCDDA
- ◆ EC and
- ◆ UNODC

## The innovative character

The breaking up of criminal organised structures requires strong and permanent cross-border CID measures the priorities of which change constantly.

The innovative character of this new project along the Balkan Route translates in particular in the involvement of economic crime investigators and the intended use of the judicial instrument of asset forfeiture.



# Responsibilities Contact Persons

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## Kick off Meeting

16th April 2013, Vienna/Austria

Austria started with its partner countries Germany and Croatia as well as with Europol the new project "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014".



The Project Team – Austria, Croatia, Germany – and Europol

# 1<sup>st</sup> Operational Meeting

2th to 3rd May 2013, Prague/Czech Republic

Although the meeting was initially planned for June 2013 it had to be held in advance due to tactical reasons relating to the investigations. In the course of the discussion of the operation "DOMISLAVA" a foundation for the fight against the "Balkan Cartel" was laid. Agreement was reached that further details should be discussed during the conference from 5th to 7th June 2013 in Bad Erlach/Austria. Fundamental investigation strategies were declared.



## Conclusions of the operation „DOMISLAVA“:

- ◆ The responsible Croatian prosecutor will send a letter to the responsible prosecutor office of the Netherlands with the request of starting a parallel investigation in the Netherlands (wiretapping their phones and secret surveillance) against known suspects.
- ◆ After the Croatian National Antidrug Unit received telephony information from the Guardia Civil linked to the seizure of 590 kilogram cocaine in Marbella, the Croatian National Antidrug Unit will send an official police letter to Spain (Guardia Civil) with all unified information and with a request for opening a parallel investigation in Spain (wiretapping their phones and secret surveillance).
- ◆ The Croatian National Antidrug Unit will deliver all information linked to Serbia to the Serbian National Antidrug Unit, also all telephony information will be delivered to the Austrian colleagues with the aim of finding possible matches with Austrian on-going investigations. Croatia will consider sharing information linked to Bulgaria with the Bulgarian National Police.
- ◆ Define of real time information exchange between the countries Netherlands, Spain, Hungary, Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.
- ◆ Delivery of all information regarding target persons and phones in all countries to EUROPOL.





NSBERG ASIA HOTEL

## **The Project Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014**

### **Conference**

Bad Erlach  
Austria

5th to 7th June 2013

Asia Resort Linsberg Betriebs GmbH  
Thermenplatz 1 | A-2822 Bad Erlach  
t +43 2627 48000-320 | f +43 2627 48000 - 50  
[www.linsbergasia.at](http://www.linsbergasia.at)  
[mail@linsbergasia.at](mailto:mail@linsbergasia.at)

## Conference

5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013, Bad Erlach/Austria



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Austria continues to be an innovative driving force in the field of combatting organised international drug-related crime along the Balkan route.

Participating countries/organisations with the overall number of 78 attendees were Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Swiss, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Hungary, DEA, EUROPOL, UNODC.



Left to right – Director of Criminal Intelligence Service Austria, General Franz Lang, UNODC - Research officer Thomas Pietschmann, Operational & Strategic Advisor Europol, Ulrich Gundlach, Director-General for Public Security Austria Konrad Kogler, Head of office 3.3 Drug related crime / CIS Austria Gerhard Stadler



Director-General for Public Security Austria Konrad Kogler



Director of Criminal Intelligence Service  
Austria, General Franz Lang

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Head of office 3.3 Drug related crime / CIS  
Austria Gerhard Stadler

## The conference is being held

### Key topics – workshops – outcomes

Well-founded know-how supplemented with up-to-date spreading information indicates soon the focuses of the conference and therefore also the further project course.



1. **“DARK NET”** – the new black market on the internet. Anonymous, with the lowest possible risk and the best possible profit chances essential drug trafficking is practised all over the world (beneath child pornography, arms trade, trafficking of women, contract killings). Absolutely incognito and with the lowest risk drugs of all kinds are traded world-wide with the maximum profit by using the electronic currency „Bitcoin“.

### Clear preferences of the “online drug trafficking” are:

- ◆ Complete anonymity
- ◆ Enormous choice (“Free Market System”)!
- ◆ Clear rules
- ◆ Feedback/rating system
- ◆ Low (no) risk
- ◆ High quality directly from the source
- ◆ No middle men
- ◆ Operating “from the living room”

The TOR-Browser – the door to cyber-crime

## The easy way to Onion Routing



Just try it:

Follow the link in your chosen browser (or just goggle „Tor Browser Paket“) and download the self installing software.

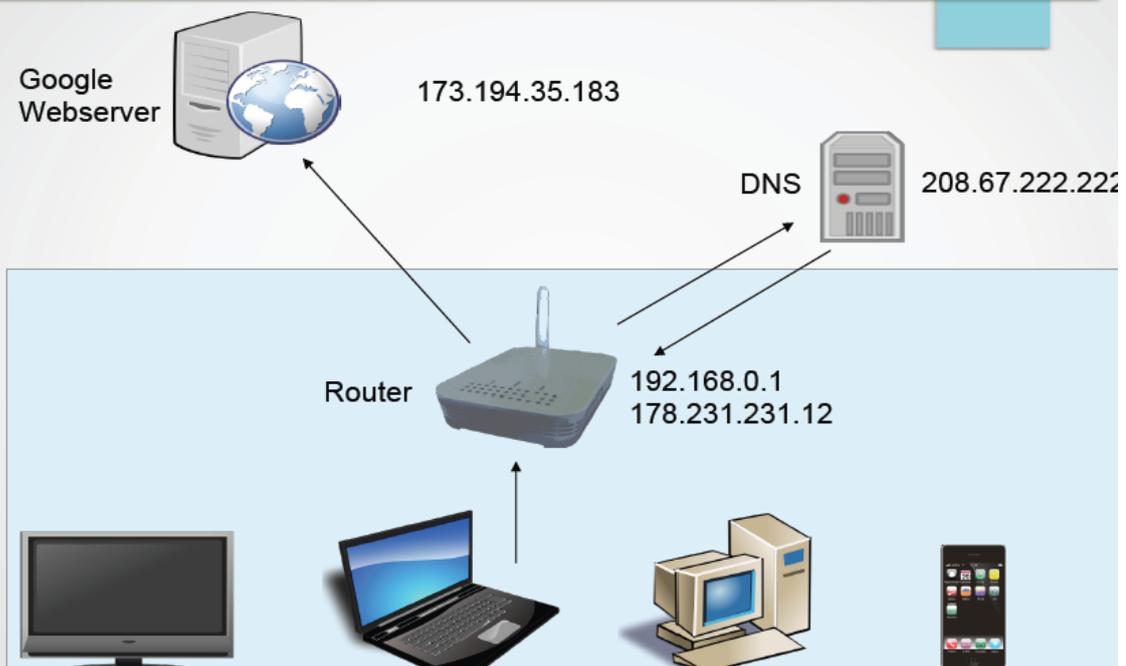
[http://www.chip.de/downloads/Tor-Browser-Paket\\_22479695.html](http://www.chip.de/downloads/Tor-Browser-Paket_22479695.html)

Now just start the installed application. You're surfing anonymous now. Done!

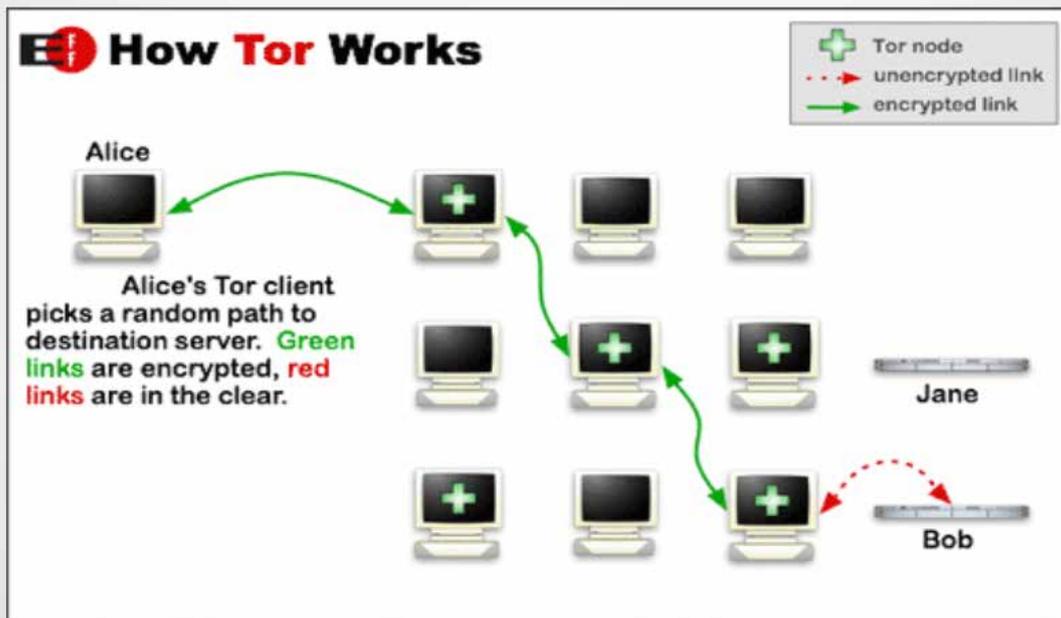
SEITE 18

Austria offers well-founded insights into technical processes and the working field of criminal intelligence and presents a successful investigation.

## Calling Google



## How Tor works



SEITE 19

## Options To Investigate A SR-Seller

- Securing Several Surveillance Tapes From Post Offices

Suspect Changed  
His Look Several Times



UKA WIEN - ERMITTLUNGSDIENST EB 6 © TAIFERNER Robert

Outcome: Austria examines together with its partner countries Germany and Croatia possible investigations in the field of "Dark net in conjunction with experts of cyber-crime and undercover investigators in the internet".



2. The “Balkan Cartel” – a network for cocaine smuggling from Latin America to Europe. Through the initiative of Croatia a work shop was held where the countries Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, the Netherlands as well as Austria and Europol participated.

Outcome: The establishment of a “Balkan shield” for the defence of the risk potential was discussed. Europol showed full support. It was agreed to collect further information and to consider additional steps after analysis.

Further steps regarding the operation “DOMISLAVA” will be discussed.



Croatia states a significant increase in the smuggling of herbal cannabis originating from Albania, via Croatia and Hungary to the countries of the European Union. This issue is seen as a serious problem. The participating countries of the workshop Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary and Croatia agreed upon the fact that this issue should be a main topic in the current project.



### Administrative measures:

- ◆ Strategic crime analysis along the Balkan route – through the initiative of Switzerland the question arises if data of the seizure of drugs and anonymised additional data in the field of the Balkan route can be collected and analysed.
- ◆ This step would be welcomed by Europol and the UNODC.
- ◆ According to the conference and through the initiative of Austria the UNODC provided a „safe“ information platform on the internet where law enforcement agencies have world-wide access to and where they can get exclusive information.
- ◆ The judicial instrument of asset recovery as well as the problem of precursor smuggling were illuminated for future investigations in a sensitive way.



Left to right – Marco Maric,  
Swiss Criminal Federal Police  
Thomas Pietschmann, United  
Nations Office on Drugs and  
Crime (UNODC)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Operational Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, Zagreb/Croatia

Taking into account the latest excellent success of investigations of the Viennese police in cooperation with Bavaria and to the explicit wish of Croatia the issue "Dark net" became an important subject and the topic of an operational meeting in Zagreb/Croatia from 17th to 18th July 2013.



### Drogenring von Wien aus gesprengt

**Deutsche Fahnder haben einen internationalen Drogenhändlerring zerschlagen. Dabei wurde einer der größten Internetdrogendealer verhaftet. Auf die Spur des Deutschen kam die Wiener Polizei vor einem Jahr.**

Im Juli 2012 konnte die Wiener Polizei einen Drogendealer, der in Wien wohnhaft ist, ausforschen und festnehmen. Er war auf der „Silk Road“ aktiv, die man sich laut Wiener Polizei als eine Art „Amazon für illegale Geschäfte“ vorstellen kann. Insgesamt betrieb der mittlerweile verurteilte Mann mehrere Internetdrogenshops. Über einen Zeitraum von 18 Monaten soll er fast 350 Transaktionen mit Abnehmern auf der ganzen Welt durchgeführt haben. Der Wiener handelte laut Polizei mit vielen Substanzen, unter anderem mit Ecstasy, MDMA, Amphetaminen und LSD.

#### „Nummer eins“ im Internetdrogenhandel in Haft

Bei den Ermittlungen stieß die Polizei auf Abnehmer und Kuriere in Wien, Salzburg und dem Burgenland. Immer wieder tauchte dabei ein Deutscher auf, der den Wiener Dealer beliefert haben dürfte. Wie sich später herausstellte, gilt er als die Nummer eins im internationalen Internetdrogenhandel.

Nach einem Bericht der französischen Nachrichtenagentur AFP gab es dann in der vergangenen Woche eine Razzia in mehreren deutschen Bundesländern, bei der 18 Kilogramm Amphetamin sowie mehrere Fahrzeuge, Immobilien, Konten und Bargeld in einem Gesamtwert von 700.000 Euro sichergestellt und vier Verdächtige festgenommen wurden. Einer von ihnen war der Haupttäter und umtriebige Lieferant des Wiener Dealers.

Die Drogen wurden via Internet praktisch direkt bei den Produzenten organisiert und ebenso via Internet an Abnehmer auf der ganzen Welt geliefert. Die Täter benutzten dazu ein verschlüsseltes Netzwerk, ein „Darknet“.

09.07.2013

[mehr Wien-News ►](#)



### Keywords of the report of the ORF:

- ◆ German drug agents have battered an international drug ring
- ◆ One of the most important drug dealers world-wide was arrested
- ◆ “Silk road” – the “Amazon for illegal trade”
- ◆ Raid in several German federal states – seizure of amphetamine, cars, real estates, accounts and cash – total amount of € 700.000,- and arrest of 4 suspects
- ◆ Perpetrators were using an encrypted network called “Dark net”

The participants: The project team Austria, Germany and Croatia involving other experts of the fields criminal investigation, undercover investigation and cyber-crime.

### Conclusion:

- ◆ Drug trafficking on the internet was confirmed unanimously and unambiguously to be a challenging potential origin of danger
- ◆ Austria, Germany and Croatia intend to combat this special form of crime together in the future
- ◆ Austria’s cooperation with Germany recently led to the arrest of the drug trafficker “Pfandleiher” who is well-considered to be the best known dealer among insiders all over the world. Croatia as a new EU member state is now increasingly confronted with this form of crime – the first Croatian drug sellers are already acting in the network (this was proved during the 2nd operational meeting by way of internet research).

### Short-time measures:

- ◆ Focus on “Dark net” activities in the field of the Balkan route – observation of active cyber-crime perpetrators
- ◆ Intended network building between the countries Austria, Germany, Croatia and Netherlands involving investigators, undercover investigators and cyber-crime experts



## Success announcement in the fight against an Albanian – Macedonian perpetrator group

On 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 at 16:50 an Albanian and a Polish suspect could be arrested by the Police Headquarters Frankfurt/Germany (JIT-Vineyard) AG JADE – K63. This success is based on criminal intelligence findings of the ISEC project “Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2009-2012” as well as on the on-going information exchange with the project partners during the project “Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014”.

The persons concerned are suspected of having purchased 558 g cocaine in Aachen/Germany for profitable resale. The cocaine has been seized.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Operational Meeting

5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Frankfurt/Germany

Subject of the investigation coordination was a criminal group from Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with its ramifications. The already existing investigation approaches in the countries Germany, FYROM, Austria and Switzerland have been merged and a focused criminal investigation has been determined – foundation of the “Operation Umbrella”.

Furthermore arrests and house searches in Germany and FYROM are planned.





## 4<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Bad Erlach/Austria

The coordination measures of the concerned meeting focused on an Albanian, Kosovar and Albanian-Montenegrin complex of offender groups whose area of operations extends to Austria and Germany. The concerned offender groups are mostly trading with cannabis.

Albania, Kosovo and Austria laid the foundation for the operation "PERENDIMI".



Further conversations lead to the insight that Albania is in charge of knowledge about offender structures which relates to the operation "UMBRELLA", initiated at the 3rd operational meeting in Frankfurt/Germany.

Also different methods of smuggling were discussed. With little risk cannabis is smuggled from Albania to Kosovo with the aid of pack mules. They can cover long distances and are trained to run away at the sight of action forces dressed in uniforms.



So the concerned meeting served its purpose once again – namely the connecting information exchange – the basis in order to effectively combat the border crossing organised drug related crime.





18<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Lasting impacts of the 3<sup>rd</sup> operational meeting from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in Frankfurt/Germany

Crucial factors for the major strike against the international drug mafia were the information exchange and coordination measures during the 3<sup>rd</sup> operational meeting from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in Frankfurt/Germany. The arrests and house searches mentioned below show the success.

Source: <http://www.bild.de/regional/frankfurt/frankfurt-am-main/polizei-sprengt-heroin-kartell-32468878.bild.htm>.

**120 VERDÄCHTIGE FESTGENOMMEN, STOFF FÜR 2 MIO SICHERGESTELLT**

# Polizei sprengt Heroin-Kartell

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120 suspects arrested, seizure of drugs valued at EUR 2 million  
Police discloses heroin cartel

During a large-scale police action against an international drug cartel based in FYROM 14 persons could be arrested in FYROM and Maintal/Germany.

In this case a total of 120 suspects were arrested. There was a seizure of 32 kilo Heroin, 5,5 kg Cocaine, 7 kg Marihuana, 700 kg extenders and an amount of EUR 200.000. Street price of the drugs: EUR 2 million.



# 5<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Pravets/Bulgaria

The Russian Federation and Bulgaria are setting new impulses in combating drug trafficking. The special aspect of this operational meeting became apparent in the additional presence of most senior decision makers of the Russian Federation and of Bulgaria.

ISEC-Project  
 "Joint Investigations along the Balkan Route to combat drug trafficking into the EU (incl. precursor-smuggling and confiscation of criminal assets)"  
 "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013- 2014"

**5<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONAL MEETING**  
 Pravets/Bulgaria  
 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**PARTICIPANTS**

Name	Authority	Signature
<b>Russian Delegation</b>		
Mr Michael KIYKO	Deputy Director, FDCS (Colonel-General)	
Mr Vladimir VISOTSKY	Counselor to the Director, FDCS (Major-General)	
Mr Alexander SHIROKOZHUKHOV	Deputy Head, Directorate of countering drug criminality FDCS (Colonel)	
Mr Igor VOBLIKOV	Official Representative of FDCS in Austrian Republic	
<b>Bulgarian Delegation</b>		
Mr Mario TRIFONOV	Deputy Director SDPOP/SANS	
Mr Iliya PULOV (to be confirmed)	Director of IOCD	
Mr Georgi PEKIN	SDPOP -Anti Drug Unit	
Mr Ivan VASILEV	SDPOP -Anti Drug Unit	

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Ms Mariya BOZHILOVA	IOCD – Europol National Unit	
<b>Austrian Delegation</b>		
Mr Christian MADER	Federal Criminal Intell. Service Austria Data-management Head of organization and budget DPB	
Mr Thomas DORNER	Federal Criminal Intell. Service Austria Anti Drug Unit Head of operational management DPB	
Mr Peter BUNYAI	Federal Criminal Intell. Service Austria Anti Drug Unit Member of steering group/operational management DPB	
Mr Stefan THURNER	Police Attaché, Austrian Embassy Sofia	
<b>Europol</b>		
Mr Anatoly KOSSEV	AWF SOC – FP Heroin Specialist Officer, Europol	
<b>Interpreter</b>		
Ms Gergana SLIVENSKA (BG-DE)		
Ms Valentina GALANOVA (RUS-DE)		
Desislava Yordanova SANS		
Mitko Yordanov SANS		



From left to right:  
 Valentina Galanova / Interpreter, Christian Mader / CIS-Austria, Iliya Pulov / Director of IOCD, Mario Trifonov / Deputy Director SDPOP/ SANS, Mariya Bozhilova / IOCD-Europol National Unit, Desislava Yordanova / SANS, Ivan Vasilev /SDPOP / Anti-Drug Unit, Stefan Thurner / Police Attaché Austrian Embassy Sofia, Thomas Dorner / CIS-Austria, Peter Bunyai / CIS-Austria, Michael Kiyko / Deputy Director FDCS, Vladimir Visotsky / Counsellor to the Director FDCS, Anatoly Kossev / AWF SOC – FP Heroin/Europol, Mitko Yordanov /SANS, Igor Voblikov / Official Representative of FDCS in Austria, Alexander Shirokozuhkhov / Deputy Head, Directorate of countering drug criminality FDCS

All participants worked with great motivation on developing operational measures for the destruction of a Russian/Bulgarian perpetrator circle.



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Beside strategy discussions the countries Russia and Bulgaria agreed in concrete cases upon a future targeted information exchange and development of cooperation. Austria is willing to support these measures. Europol also assured its support.



From left to right Michael Kiyko / Deputy Director FDCS, Mario Trifonov / Deputy Director SDPOP/SANS

From left to right Michael Kiyko / Deputy Director FDCS, Anatoly Koshev / AWF SOC – FP Heroin/ Europol

From left to right Christian Mader / CIS-Austria, Michael Kiyko / Deputy Director FDCS

## 6<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in Skopje/FYROM

Because of the extraordinary scope of this operational meeting it was divided into two different segments “high level” and “operational investigation”. Due to complex programmes the meeting was extended from originally planned 1,5 days to 3 days at a large.

The “high level” segment was represented by the meeting of the director for public security Mitko Chavkov and General Franz Lang, director of the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service.



From left to right Director Mitko Chavkov and General Franz Lang

<http://www.mvr.gov.mk/ShowAnnouncements.aspx?ItemID=13109&mid=1367&tabId=358&tabindex=0>  
(Website of the Ministry of the Interior)

### Meeting of director Chavkov with the Austrian colleague Lang

Today a meeting of the director for public security Mitko Chavkov and General Franz Lang, director of the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service, took place in the Ministry of the Interior. The aim was an information exchange as well as a deepening of the future cooperation.

Director Chavkov expressed his satisfaction concerning the existing cooperation and announced an even more intensive combating of criminal groups, particularly in the field of the illegal drug trafficking.

The guests were also informed about the latest reforms within the Macedonian police, especially about the results in the department of combating organized crime. An intensification of multi-disciplinary approach by integrating several departments like financial crime and money laundering shall be forced.

Also future strategic priorities for combating criminal groups in the field of international transport were discussed.

Director Lang emphasized the good cooperation with the Macedonian Ministry of the Interior on all levels in the last ten years.

Both partners declared their disposition to and hope of a further intensive cooperation.

The Macedonian press also reported about this meeting, to read the article please see the link <http://www.novini.mk/read/609984/makedonskata-policija-pointenzivno-kje-se-spravuva-so-kriminalnite-grupi>  
(Online: Novini.mk)



## 7<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting

5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Bern/Switzerland

Successful bridge building to the platform of Europol – European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT).



Mr Rene Karsten, Head of Department Serious and Organized Crime Bern/Switzerland (the third from the left) and the operational meeting team.

During the project conference from 5 to 7 June 2013 in Bad Erlach/Austria the approach for a strategic crime analysis along the Balkan Route was discussed. The 7<sup>th</sup> operational meeting in Bern served as continuance of this measure. Also Switzerland participated as initiator of the representational operational meeting, beside the countries Austria, Germany and Croatia, which are responsible for the project.



Moderated by Switzerland and Germany the countries Albania, Bulgaria, FYROM, Kosovo and Serbia were invited to lay down their ideas. Europol provided assistance.

Approaches and outcomes: The subject was illuminated by the initiative of the German Zollkriminalamt (ZKA). The ZKA expressed its willingness to examine whether the already existing “Balkan info system” can also be opened and used for the police sector.

This initiative was already submitted in the context of the EU-Empact-Project “Cocaine/Heroin” as “Operational Action Plan” (OAP). By means of this operational meeting there was looked for ways to achieve further findings in this area. These results shall also flow into EMPACT with sustainable benefit.

Results: The ZKA will experimentally allow the country Kosovo a temporarily limited access to the data application “Balkan info system”. The outcome shall flow into EMPACT for further decisions. All other Balkan countries will be invited to join the data application.

## Sensational success on 12th March 2014

In the course of undercover investigations against a Serbian/Albanian offender group three perpetrators (2 Serbs and 1 Albanian) could be arrested on the 12 March 2014 in the area of Schwechat/Lower-Austria. Furthermore there could be achieved a seizure of a total quantity of 161 kg Marihuana (in a bunker garage in Schwechat/Lower Austria). International investigations against the concerned offender group were led as part of the JIT Vineyard initiated during the previous ISEC project "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2009-2012". The street value of the cannabis amounts to € 1.288.000,-.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Istanbul/Turkey

Due to information from undercover investigators it became known that 4 kg opium were planned to be smuggled from Turkey to Austria. As a result an ad hoc operational meeting of Austrian and Turkish investigators was organised in Istanbul/Turkey where they agreed upon a criminal tactic approach.

**Outcome:** On 20 March 2014 a seizure of 4 kg Opium with a street value of € 40.000,- could be achieved at the airport Atatürk in Istanbul/Turkey. Altogether three persons were arrested in Turkey and Austria.



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## Subsequent positive impacts of the 7<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting in Bern/Switzerland



By the letter of 23 April 2014 the German Zollkriminalamt (ZKA) confirms the official approval of the extension of the customs information system on national and international police stations and of the improvement of the information exchange about seizures on the so called Balkan Route on the part of the World Customs Organisation. The measures will be continued in the context of EMPACT.



## 9<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Zagreb/Croatia

Topic of the meeting was a Croatian offender group involved in organised heroin smuggling. Tyrol/Austria had been the most important destination for the smuggling. Officials of the Croatian Ministry of Interior discussed together with regional investigators from Rijeka/Croatia, the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria and regional investigators from Tyrol the further procedure. Already in February 2014 the Croatian investigators arrested 3 persons and confiscated illegal drugs and stolen goods in the form of high-quality branded clothing. In early April 2014 9 suspects have been arrested by the Landeskriminalamt Tyrol. Drugs and large amounts of cash could be seized.

The analysis of the results from Austrian and Croatian telephone surveillances lead to further findings about criminal activities by means of drug related crime.



# 10<sup>th</sup> Operational Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Dubrovnik/Croatia

The new threat scenario "DARK NET" calls for innovative combating strategies! Since the start of the project the countries Germany, Croatia and Austria are working on a further development of already successful investigation methods.

Already at the first conference of the project "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014" from 5 to 7 June in Bad Erlach/Austria the topic was emphasized for the future combating of international organised drug related crime.

The information exchange and the network formation were continued at the 2nd operational meeting from 17 to 18 July 2013 in Zagreb/Croatia. The required structural composition of a powerful criminal Law Enforcement Team was discussed.

The 10th operational meeting from 6 to 8 May was already held under the influence of findings from the DARKNET and from the investigation of suspicious persons. The result was the splitting of the conversations into two components. On 6 May undercover investigators exchanges sensitive information relating to the first component. Referring to the second component a general survey and assessment of the present situation were carried out.

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One came to a unanimous insight that it is possible to effectively combat the new form of crime by already used strategies and methods.





## The highlight 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Austria got informed by the European Commission that the together with Germany and Croatia submitted project

“DarkNet – Joint investigations to combat drug trafficking via the virtual market within and also into the EU” - HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000005995

has been proposed for promotion.

This offers the possibility to integrate the groundwork performed during the EU-funded project “Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014” with sustainable benefit into the new project.

### ISEC GENERAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2013

#### Annex I - List of awarded proposals

	Project number	Applicant (in English)	Country	Project Title- EN	Maximum eligible cost accepted	Maximum EU grant	grant %
1	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000006004	POLISH BORDER GUARD	Poland	Combating aviation threats and development of new training standards for Polish Border Guard Inflight Security Officers and EU Authorities	1.221.000,00 EUR	1.098.900,00 EUR	90,00%
2	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000005997	REGIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN LUBLIN	Poland	Forensic science common challenge for the law enforcement in the European Union	211.070,50 EUR	189.983,50 EUR	90,00%
3	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000005982	MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, POLICE	Slovenia	SEcurity DYes	329.284,11 EUR	296.355,70 EUR	90,00%
4	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000006984	LITHUANIAN CRIMINAL POLICE BUREAU	Lithuania	SIENA integration with th case management systems of the International Liaison Office of the Lithuanian CPB and the International Police Cooperation Division of the Swedish NBI	188.216,21 EUR	169.394,59 EUR	90,00%
5	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000006001	D'APPOLONIA S.P.A.	Italy	IFIND Information Finding In Nonstructured Data	515.607,32 EUR	464.046,59 EUR	90,00%
6	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000005975	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR/FEDERAL BUREAU OF ANTI-CORR	Austria	SIENA FOR ANTICORRUPTION AUTHORITIES (SAACA)	294.442,60 EUR	264.998,34 EUR	90,00%
7	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000005990	COVENTRY UNIVERSITY	United Kingdom	Examination of Firearms and Forensics in Europe and across Territories (EFFECT)	683.589,56 EUR	597.230,60 EUR	90,00%
8	HOME/2013/ISEC/AG/4000005995	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR/ CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERV	Austria	Joint investigations to combat drug trafficking via the virtual market (darknet) within and also into the EU	471.809,51 EUR	424.448,56 EUR	90,00%
						3.505.337,88 €	





# The Project Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014

## Conference

Bad Erlach  
Austria

24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Asia Resort Linsberg Betriebs GmbH  
Thermenplatz 1 | A-2822 Bad Erlach  
t +43 2627 48000-320 | f +43 2627 48000 - 50  
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[mail@linsbergasia.at](mailto:mail@linsbergasia.at)



## Successful completion of the police Balkan-drug-project and „starting into the DarkNet“

The director of the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria, General Franz Lang, opened the conference



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From left to right General Franz Lang/Austria, Gerhard Stadler/Austria, Wolfgang Oegl/Germany, Drazen Rastovic/Croatia

With the results of the project “Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014” against international drug related crime Austria and Germany are now declaring war on drug trafficking via „Darknet“.

(Bad Erlach/Lower Austria, 25 June 2014) From 24 to 26 June 2014 investigators and leaders from international organisations participated in the final conference of the project “Drug Policing Balkan

Advanced 2013-2014". This final meeting served not just the purpose of concluding the performed work but also the discussion and strategy formulation for the future combating of drug crime in Europe.

With the conclusion of the project an eight years series of projects comes to an end: The project "Drug Policing Balkan" had already been started during the Austrian EU council presidency 2006. At that time 24 EU member states, five candidate countries, six third countries as well as Europol, Eurojust, the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) were involved. The overarching objective of the project was to fight together against drug crime along the Balkan Route. This project was funded by the European Commission and led by the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service.

From 2009 till 2012 the second project "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2009-2012" was carried out and the measures were intensified. Beside the creation of a contact network for investigation experts along the Balkan route new targets like joint key actions and investigations as well as the building up of the so-called Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) were set. During these three years more than 750 persons were arrested and condemnations of more than 350 years sentenced. By means of joint investigations a total of 105 kg Cocaine, 400 kg Heroin, 52 kg Cannabis, 2 kg Amphetamine and more than € 452.000,- (cash) could be seized. These seizures had a black market value of about 37 million euros.

The third and last edition of the project "Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014" had its focus not just on the seizure of drugs, but especially on the asset which was derived from criminal acts. This represents a measure which significantly harms criminal organisations, since it made it possible to interfere in their logistics. A second emphasis was placed on illegal trafficking of drug precursors along the Balkan route. The basis for these measures was the establishment of "JIT Vineyard" through the Austrian initiative together with the project partners Germany, FYROM and Netherlands. This contract, signed in September 2012 in Den Haag by the public prosecutor's offices and responsible police units of these countries as well as Europol and Eurojust, was intended to simplify the judicial legal assistance process. These efforts made the numerous successes possible in the first place. From the existence of the JITs to the present day 169 persons were arrested and drugs and financial assets were seized in these four countries.

An important success was achieved by the project partner Croatia in the course of simultaneously realised financial investigations (like the "Balkan Cartel"). A further strike in 2013 was the arrest of 120 suspects when a Heroin Cartel in Germany was dismantled. Illegal drugs with a street value of two million euros could be seized. In 2014 Austria managed to seize 161 kg Marihuana with a street value of 1,3 million euros.

Also the communication with the Balkan countries was fruitful: with the approval of the World Customs Organization for the trial expansion of the international "Balkan info system" for interested countries and their police authorities an improvement of the information exchange could be marked.

The final conference in Bad Erlach was attended by 80 participants from all 28 EU member states, four candidate countries (FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA and the Russian Federation. Europol, Eurojust, Interpol, EMCDDA, UNODC and the European Commission also delegated high-level experts.



A central result of the ten operational meetings and the conferences in Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, Switzerland, Serbia, Czech Republic, Turkey and Austria is the challenging source of danger of drug trafficking in the Internet. The “DarkNet” is difficult to control and uses also international drug trafficking for its activities in the meantime. Austria and Germany will therefore emphasize on this issue and fight together against this special form of crime in the future. On this occasion the project “DarkNet – Joint investigations to combat drug trafficking via the virtual market within and also into the EU” has been submitted to the EU. This provides the opportunity to integrate the performed groundwork of the EU-funded project “Drug Policing Balkan Advanced 2013-2014” with sustainable benefit into the new project. Simultaneously Austria and Germany will play a leading role in combating this new criminal phenomenon.

Donnerstag, 26. Juni 2014  
Suchtgiftjäger des

# Schlag

Über die Balkanroute werden Heroin, Kokain und Haschisch tonnenweise in den EU-Raum geschleust. Um die Schmuggelpfade der Drogenmafia zu durchkreuzen, hat das Bundeskriminalamt in den vergangenen acht Jahren ein beachtliches Kontakt-Netzwerk innerhalb der europäischen Suchtgiftjäger aufgebaut.

Ihre Routen führen über Berge, ihre Geheimwege über die Balkanmeere. Die Balkanmafia und ihre Drogenkuriere schleichen auf abenteuerlichen Pfaden Richtung

VON CHRISTOPH MATZL

Europa. Dennoch haben die Fahnder im Zuge ihres „Drug Policing Balkan“-Projektes allein in drei Jahren 750 Dealer verhaftet und 105 Kilo Kokain, 400 Kilo Heroin sowie 52 Kilo Can-

# Bundeskriminalamtes bauten Kontakt-Netzwerk unter den Kriminalisten auf: gegen Drogen-Mafia am Balkan

Donnerstag, 26. Juni 2014

ÖSTERREICH



Foto: Christoph Matzl (1), Gerhard Barthele (1)

Bei einer Kommandoaktion der mazedonischen Elite-Einheit „Die Tiger“ wurden Dealer überrumpelt. nabis, d. h. Rauschgift im Wert von 37 Millionen Euro sicher gestellt. Jetzt in der Schlussphase des Projektes steht die Abschöpfung des Millionen-Vermögens der Drogenpaten im Vorder-

grund. „Auf diese Weise wird die Logistik der Kartelle gestört“, sagte Konrad Kogler, Generaldirektor für die Öffentliche Sicherheit zur Bilanz-Konferenz in Bad Erlauch (NÖ). Und: Künftig

wird ein weiterer dunkler Drogenpfad, nämlich der des Internets, ins Visier genommen: Unter dem Kommando-Kode „DarkNet“ geht es verstärkt den Internet-Dealern an den Kragen.

Internet-Deals sind ein neues Kriminalitätsphänomen, dem wir mit aller Kraft den Kampf ansagen.



General Franz Lang, Direktor des Bundeskriminalamtes

## KONFERENZ Drogennetze schießen sich auf das „DarkNet“ ein

**Bad Erlauch.** Die führenden Drogennetzer aus mehr als 40 Ländern sind bis Donnerstag in der Asia-Therme Linzberg in Bad Erlauch zu Gast. Ziel der Abschlussveranstaltung des „Drug Policing Balkan“-Projektes ist es, gemeinsame Wege im Kampf gegen neue Kriminalitätsformen zu finden. Bundespräsident des (BK) General Franz Lang erklärte der Direktor der Balkanroute wurde 2006 im Rahmen der EU-Ratspräsidentschaft gestartet. „Anfangs EU-Ratspräsidentschaft, um operativen Rahmen aufzubauen und die jeweiligen Drogennetzer abenzuwickeln“, berichtet Lang von den abenteuerlichen Großfahndungen.

Vermögen, Häuser und Yacht der Bosse sichergestellt. Insgesamt wurden Tonnen Suchtmittel, vorwiegend Heroin, beschlagnahmt. Rund 1100 Verhaftungen haben zu mehr als 500 Jahren an verhängten Haftstrafen geführt. Ein bedeutender Erfolg war 2013 die Zerschlagung der Frankfurter-Mafia, einem Heroin-Kartell in Deutschland mit 120 Festnahmen.

**Drogenpakete** Mit Abschluss des schiffbrüchigen Balkanprojektes sagen die österreichischen und Deutschland so genannten Drogenkriminalisten, dass der Kampf an den Drogenkartellen in den kommenden Monaten ein paar Millionen Euro um, wir haben Einträge bei den Ermittlungen in den verschlüsselten und anonymisierten Verwerk auf Basis der Ermittlungen in den vergangenen Monaten. „Drogenhändler sind federführend bei den Ermittlungen in den verschlüsselten und anonymisierten Verwerk auf Basis der Ermittlungen in den vergangenen Monaten.“

## NIEDERÖSTERREICH

Donnerstag | 26. Juni 2014  
KURIER

„Mit Beteiligung österreichischer Ermittler wurden am orthodoxen Weihnachtsfesttag von 240 Polizisten in Wien rund um Skopje 16 Drogenbussen beschlagnahmt und die Drahtzieher Armaturen und Beschläge aus Gold“ schildern Lang und der führende Balkan-Ermittler des Projektes war es außerdem, an das Geld der Organisationen zu gelangen. So wurden nicht nur Drogen, sondern auch das angehäufte



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