

Side Event

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EFFORTS TO TACKLE TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME RELATED TO THE WESTERN BALKANS

Monday, 12 October
14:00 - 14:50

[LINK TO JOIN EVENT](#)

This event will explore the latest research and analysis of the dynamics of transnational organized crime in and related to the Western Balkans, and present initiatives which address these regional and global hotspots. The Western Balkans is a regional transit hub of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling and counterfeit goods. Due to the power and prevalence of organized criminal groups, communities across the region suffer from high levels of corruption, violence and extortion.



At this event at the UNTOC Conference of Parties, GI-TOC will present the findings of its 2019 'Hotspots' report, which explored 'Local vulnerabilities in a regional perspective' and its 2020 follow up report 'Transnational Tentacles', which explores the global hotspots of organized crime connected to the Western Balkans.

The international legal framework provided by UNTOC is one way in which transnational organized crime is being addressed in the region, along with other multilateral initiatives, such as the Berlin Process and through the OSCE. But civil society-led initiatives to build a more resilient civil society to challenge the dominance of organized crime are integral to holistic efforts to address crime hotspots in the region. This event will hear from civil society experts and leaders on these initiatives, and how they address the problems highlighted in the GI-TOC 'Hotspots' reports.

CHAIR

Michael Davidson

1st Secretary, British Embassy Vienna

PANELLISTS:

Ambassador Uglješa Ugi Zvekić

GI-TOC Senior Adviser, and Permanent Representative to the UN of the European Public Law Organization (Presentation of GI-TOC hotspots reports)

Prof. Dr. Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac

Zagreb Faculty of Law (Presentation of Balkan Criminology Initiative)

Kristina Amerhauser

GI-TOC, (Presentation of Resilience Fund initiatives in the Western Balkans)

Representative of the Albanian Chairmanship of the OSCE

closing remarks