

The UNODC SHERLOC team is pleased to share with you Issue No. 23 of our newsletter regarding our recent efforts to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through the new SHERLOC's education database "Education for Universities (Edu4U)".



## EDITORIAL

### EDUCATION FOR UNIVERSITIES (Edu4U)

Education plays an important role in preventing crime and promoting a culture of lawfulness.

Education for Universities (Edu4U) is the new SHERLOC's database recently launched by UNODC which features more than 70 teaching modules and related education activities.

These modules have been developed in cooperation with academics and tertiary level educators with the aim of supporting them in teaching students issues related to different types of crimes namely, organized crime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, firearms, cybercrime, wildlife crime and counter-terrorism.

The current newsletter issue provides more information on the teaching modules, giving an overview of the Education for Universities (Edu4U) database.

### In this issue

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#### **SHERLOC GOES TO SCHOOL!**

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#### **FEATURED TEACHING MODULES**

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**UNTOC COP 11: ONE STEP  
CLOSER TO EFFECTIVELY  
COMBATING ORGANIZED  
CRIME**

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**FEATURED CASE ON  
LINKAGES OF CRIME TYPES:  
VIKTOR BOUT**

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#### **MEET A CONTRIBUTOR**

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# SHERLOC GOES TO SCHOOL!



## TEACHING MODULE SERIES



#SherlocGoesToSchool

SHERLOC  SHARING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES  
AND LAWS ON CRIME

SHERLOC's Education Database now includes more than 70 teaching modules on 7 crime types, organized in 6 module series. With a focus on the subject areas of organized crime, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime, wildlife crime, and counter-terrorism, the teaching modules aim to assist academics and tertiary level educators in their efforts to foster a deeper understanding of rule of law-related issues. The teaching modules can be used as stand-alone teaching materials or to complement existing courses in various disciplines such as criminology, law, political science, international relations and sociology.

Making use of innovative interactive teaching approaches and techniques, all module series provide suggestions for in-class exercises, student assessments and other teaching tools. In addition, SHERLOC hosts the Global Podcast Series that features leading academics discussing their work and research related to the topics covered by the module series.

TEACHING MODULE ON ORGANIZED CRIME



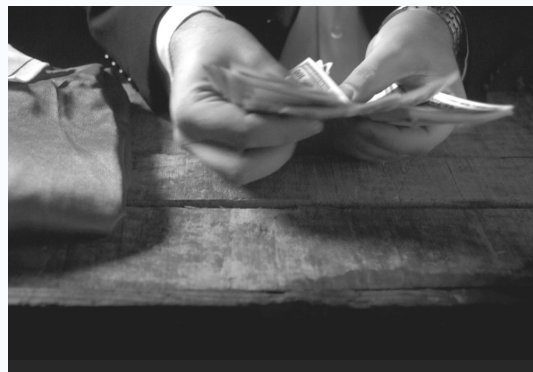
TEACHING MODULE ON TIP/SOM



TEACHING MODULE ON TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS

TEACHING MODULE ON CYBERCRIME

## FEATURED TEACHING MODULES



### ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized crime can be effectively tackled only if people have the necessary knowledge to understand it and are empowered to stand up against it. To facilitate knowledge on organized crime, UNODC developed 16 teaching modules, building upon the key provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the only international legally binding instrument to combat organized crime. The module series covers a wide range of topics, including definitions, criminalization, main markets and activities of organized criminal groups and their evolving models and structures. Furthermore, the modules cover key responses to the problem, such as law enforcement tools, prosecution strategies, sentencing and confiscation, as well as key international cooperation provisions. Specific modules deal with cross-cutting issues, such as gender and organized crime, as well as linkages between organized crime and other forms of criminal activities, such as terrorism and cybercrime. The module series is complemented by a 90-minute self-paced e-Learning course on transnational organized crime that is open to the public and free of charge.

[Read more here](#)

### TIP/SOM

The modules on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants offer an overview of different forms of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and their impact on the human rights of migrants and victims of trafficking. The series is composed of 14 modules - five modules on TIP, five modules on SOM, and four joint modules on both crime types, covering various areas of the topics such as definitions, prevention, criminal justice response as well as similarities and differences between the two crime types. The corresponding Teaching Guide provides relevant background information and a brief overview of five core learning principles to guide lecturers who wish to use the module series in the classroom.

[Read more here](#)

## FEATURED TEACHING MODULES



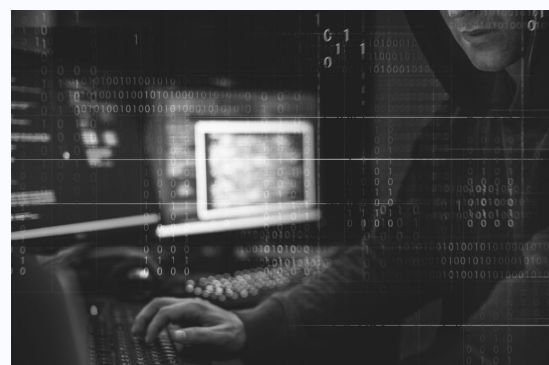
### TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS

Preventing and minimizing the misuse, diversion, illicit proliferation, and trafficking of weapons requires knowledge of the interactions between the legal and illicit firearms markets. Therefore, the series seeks to deepen an understanding of this phenomenon, as well as counter-measures and activities to reduce the availability of illicit firearms, allowing for a positive impact on peace and security. The eight teaching modules provide lecturers with the necessary guidance and resources to teach their students on the introduction to the world of firearms, different types of firearms, legal and illicit markets in firearms, international and national legal frameworks and regulations, the role of firearms in the criminal activities of organized criminal groups and terrorist groups, and the criminal justice responses that aim to control firearms-related criminality.

[Read more here](#)

### CYBERCRIME

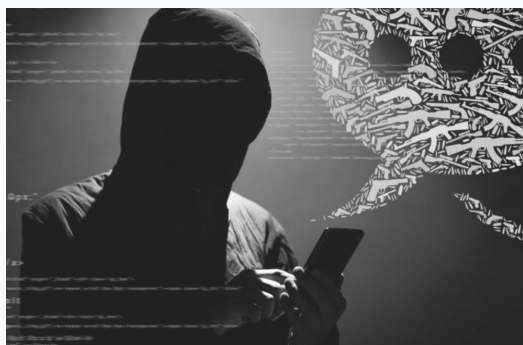
High levels of digitalization and digital inter-connectivity have created opportunities for many forms of cybercriminal activities. To address this challenge, the fourteen modules on cybercrime integrate resources collected from around the world on different aspects of cybercrime such as legislation, investigation and prevention. While the teaching modules provide lecturers with the guidelines and resources to build a comprehensive course on cybercrime, the corresponding Teaching Guide, developed together with the Global Programme on Cybercrime, offers pedagogical guidance.



[Read more here](#)



## FEATURED TEACHING MODULES



### COUNTER-TERRORISM

The module series on counter-terrorism is primarily designed around the international framework including United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and key objectives of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to enhance national, regional and international efforts to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate related offences. Additionally, they embed several interdisciplinary perspectives such as history, international relations, computer science, victimology and criminology. Gender, Youth and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 dimensions and perspectives are also considered. The modules identify several contemporary issues, reflecting some national and regional priorities, challenges, policies and good practices. Pedagogical guidance for lecturers is provided in the accompanying Teaching Guide on Counter-Terrorism.

[Read more here](#)

### WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime has a devastating impact on biodiversity, undermines national and regional security, and weakens the rule of law. The five available modules on wildlife crime provide an overview of this phenomenon and cover its many aspects - the scope and scale of illicit markets for wildlife and forest products; the range of international frameworks governing this space; the criminal justice responses to such crimes; the illegal exploitation of wild flora; and the role of sustainable livelihoods and community engagement in preventing and combating wildlife crime. Regionalized content is available for Eastern and Southern Africa, with further regionalized content for the Pacific to be made available in 2023.

[Read more here](#)



**Something exciting  
is coming soon!**

SHERLOC.UNODC.ORG

**SHERLQC**  
SHARING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES  
AND LAWS ON CRIME

## WHAT'S NEXT? / COMING UP

Currently, all teaching modules are available in English, but UNODC is striving to make them available in a variety of other UN official languages and beyond. If you find our resources useful, continue to keep an eye on SHERLOC Education Portal for additional material in the coming months!



# UNTOC COP 11: ONE STEP CLOSER TO EFFECTIVELY COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME



The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime took place in Vienna from the 17th to the 21st of October 2022. This year's COP was one for the books, with a record number of both participants and side events, as well as third-highest number of resolutions.

The participation in this year's COP highlighted an increase in the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in organized crime matters, with over 1500 participants from 134 countries, 22 international organizations and 196 civil society organizations. Alongside the discussions in plenary setting, over 60 side events were held, with the team of the Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention organizing panel discussions on strategies against organized crime, emerging trends in organized crime, combating waste trafficking, responding to illegal mining and trafficking in metals and minerals, and mainstreaming gender and human rights in implementation of the Convention.





# UNTOC COP 11: ONE STEP CLOSER TO EFFECTIVELY COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME



The side events, held in a hybrid format, allowed for the Global Programme and the SHERLOC team to showcase tools and knowledge products on the abovementioned areas developed in the last two years. With speakers from Member States, civil society organisations, academia and UNODC, the discussions were an opportunity to reflect on the roles that legislation, strategies and policies can play in preventing and combating different facets of organized crime, as well as to share good practices and lessons learned in an engaging format.

Delegates adopted 6 resolutions and 2 decisions in total, covering crimes affecting the environment, trafficking in persons, firearms and cultural property, as well as technical assistance and international cooperation against organized crime. Resolution 11/2, which focused on technical assistance, endorsed the recommendations developed by the COP Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance that was convened in May 2022. This resolution touched on a number of key points related to the implementation of the Convention, calling upon States to develop comprehensive strategies against organized crime and highlighting the importance of mainstreaming gender and human rights considerations throughout their design and implementation. Furthermore, the resolution emphasized the significance of the SHERLOC Knowledge Management Portal, encouraging States to update their legislative records in the database, including for the purpose of facilitating their participation in the UNTOC Review Mechanism.





# UNTOC COP 11: ONE STEP CLOSER TO EFFECTIVELY COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

Recognizing the transnational nature of organized crime, delegates acknowledged that organized crime cannot be effectively prevented and countered without international cooperation. This was done through the adoption of Resolution 11/1, which emphasized that the Convention remains a key tool for strengthening international cooperation against organized crime. In addition, and in a timely manner with the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) being held in November 2022, crimes that affect the environment was a key topic on the agenda. Resolution 11/3, focusing on preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment, endorsed key recommendations adopted by the Working Groups on International Cooperation and Government Experts on Technical Assistance, which touched upon the criminalization aspect, multi-stakeholder responses, international cooperation and technical assistance to counter such crimes. The possible nexus between transnational organized crimes that affect the environment and other forms of organized crime was also highlighted, with SHERLOC mentioned as a key tool to gather, analyze and disseminate knowledge on this matter.

COP11 showcased the willingness and determination of States to effectively prevent and counter transnational organized crime from a comprehensive approach including human rights and gender considerations. Although there is a long way ahead, the encouraging engagement of the global community on a wide range of issues related to organized crime highlights that we have moved yet one step closer to realizing the full potential of the Convention.



# FEATURED CASE ON LINKAGES OF CRIME TYPES: VIKTOR BOUT

The defendant Viktor Bout, an international arms trafficker who earned the notorious nickname of “Sanctions Buster” due to violating United Nations arms embargo in several countries, was arrested in late 2007 in an international sting operation coordinated by the US Drug Enforcement Administration. The authorities used three confidential sources, two of which posed as representatives of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (the “FARC”), a revolutionary organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States (until 2021).

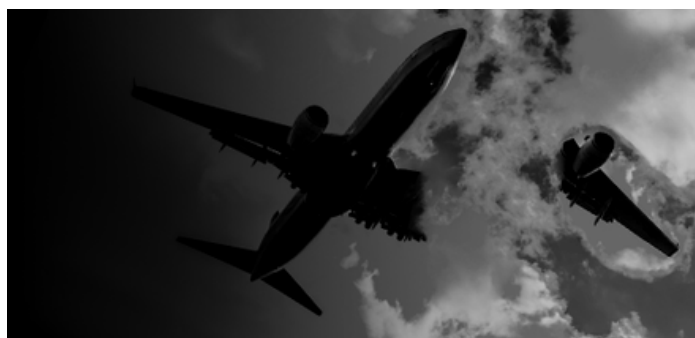
In early 2008, a colleague of the defendant met the confidential sources on the island of Curaçao, in the Caribbean, and later – at the request of the defendant – in Romania to discuss the possibility of a multimillion-dollar weapons transaction supposedly in order to aid the FARC. On 5 March 2008, the defendant and his colleague both met the confidential sources in a hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. While being secretly recorded, Bout repeatedly supported the FARC’s intention to use his weapons to kill American pilots stationed in Colombia. A day later, the defendant was arrested by Thai authorities.

**Viktor Bout, a notorious international arms trafficker, was found guilty on all counts and sentenced to 25 years in prison.**

On 16 November 2010, he was extradited to the United States, where he stood trial for conspiracy to kill United States nationals, conspiracy to kill United States officers and employees, conspiracy to acquire and export a missile system designed to destroy aircraft, and conspiracy to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization. On 5 April 2012, he was found guilty on all counts and sentenced to 25 years in prison. This judgment was later confirmed by an appellate court.

The case offers valuable insights into the linkages between different crime types, namely the participation in an organized criminal group, in line with Art. 5 of UNTOC, arms trafficking and terrorism. It further highlights the importance of special investigative techniques, pursuant to Art. 20 of UNTOC, as well as international cooperation and extradition, in accordance with Art. 16 of UNTOC, in effectively prosecuting such cases.

After having spent over twelve years in U.S. detention, the U.S. government confirmed on 8 December 2022 that Viktor Bout had been released back to Russia in exchange for the release of Brittney Griner, a former basketball player who had been convicted of cannabis possession in Russia. The prisoner exchange took place in the United Arab Emirates after months of negotiations.



This feature has been adapted from the original SHERLOC case entry. To find out more about this case, click [here](#) to access it on SHERLOC. The case is also featured in the UNODC Teaching Module Series on Organized Crime, which can be accessed [here](#).

SHERLOC



SEASON'S GREETINGS  
FROM THE SHERLOC TEAM



## MEET A CONTRIBUTOR

This issue's featured contributor is Sona Jacinova.

Sona joined the UNODC Global Programme on Implementing the Organized Crime Convention in June 2022. Sona is coordinating the transfer of teaching modules on organized crime, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime, counter-terrorism, wildlife crime as well as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants to the SHERLOC Knowledge Management Portal and serving as a focal point for SHERLOC's Education for Universities Initiative (Edu4U). Before joining the programme, Sona worked as an Associate Liaison Officer in United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Vienna, representing the UN Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), Peace Operations (DPO) and Operational Support (DOS). Prior that, Sona worked in UNODC's Crime Research Section, where she researched trends and patterns of criminal activities linked to organized crime within the project Measuring and Assessing Organized Crime in the Western Balkans (MACRO).

Sona is originally from Slovakia and holds a Doctor's degree in Law from University of Pavol Jozef Safarik in Slovakia and a Master's degree in Countering Organized Crime and Terrorism from University College London, UK.

