



E.M.C.D.D.A.

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for Drugs and Drug Addiction

DrugNet Europe

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DRUGS IN THE EU: THE KEY ISSUES

EMCDDA launches 2000 Annual report

Annual report 2000

What's new ?

On 11 October, the EMCDDA launched its fifth *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union* in Brussels. Among the main developments highlighted this year are changing trends in problem drug use. In addition to heroin dependence, the report records the emergence of problem use of cocaine (often with alcohol), multiple use of drugs, such as amphetamines, ecstasy and medicines, and heavy cannabis use.

The report says the EU estimate of 1.5 million problem drug users – still mainly heroin addicts – has remained fairly stable since last year's figure. It adds: 'What is noteworthy is that heroin-users are becoming a chronic ageing population with serious social and psychiatric problems.'

The report reflects growing concern about heavy multiple drug use arising from the ecstasy/rave scene: 'Patterns of weekend and recreational drug use increasingly involve combinations of illicit and licit drugs, including alcohol and tranquillisers. There is a significant rise in cocaine use, often in conjunction with heavy alcohol consumption.'

The proportion of clients entering treatment for heroin use is generally falling, says the report. But new admissions for cocaine or cannabis use show some rises, especially among the young. Luxembourg appears to have the highest proportion of problem drug users: around seven per thousand population aged 15 to 64. Next come Italy (around six per thousand), the UK and Spain (around five), Ireland and France (around four), and Austria, Belgium and Denmark (around three). Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden have the lowest proportion: (around two per thousand).

The report says these rates suggest little direct association between prevalence of problem drug use and national drug policies. Countries have similar, often moderate, levels whether their policies veer to the liberal or the restrictive.

New AIDS cases among injecting drug users continue to fall in France, Italy and Spain. However, AIDS cases are still rising in Portugal, while HIV infection has risen strongly in Finland and is expected to lead to increases in AIDS soon. HIV infection among drug injectors is highest in Spain (32%) and Portugal (27%). But in two-thirds of EU countries it is below 5% – in the UK as low as 1%.

Finally, on drug prevention, actions in schools, recreational settings and among high-risk groups are a priority in all EU Member States, and use of the Internet as an educational tool for young people, teachers and parents is growing. Drug-prevention training for youth workers, nightclub and bar staff is being intensified in some countries and syringe-exchange programmes are expanding EU-wide to counter falling awareness of the risks of injecting.



EMCDDA 2000 Annual report

Heroin: Overall, heroin experience remains low (one or two per hundred young adults) and school surveys show pupils are highly cautious about using it. This, explains the report, probably reflects the negative stereotype of 'the addict' and perceptions of heroin as a drug particularly associated with death and disease. However, 'heroin use is reported among young, heavy recreational users of amphetamines, ecstasy and other drugs'.

Cannabis: One in five Europeans has tried it at least once: at least 45 million people. This represents some five million up on last year's estimate. Around 15 million, roughly one in 16 of all 15 to 64-year-olds, have done so in the past 12 months. 'Cannabis remains the most widely available and commonly used drug across the EU, with substantial increases in use over the 1990s.' About one in four (25%) of 15 to 16-year-olds and close on half (40%) of those aged 18 have tried it.

Cocaine: Although less common than amphetamines or ecstasy, use is rising (particularly among socially-active groups) and spreading to a broader population. EU-wide, between 1% and 6% of 16 to 34-year-olds and 1%–2% of school-children have tried it at least once, although some surveys indicate levels of up to 4% among 15 to 16-year-olds.

Amphetamines and ecstasy: These are the second most commonly used drugs in the EU. Between 1% and 5% of 16 to 34-year-olds have taken them. Rates are higher in narrower age groups but rarely exceed 10%. However, in the UK, 16% of young adults are estimated to have used amphetamines.

The *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union* may be downloaded from the EMCDDA's website at http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications_annrep.shtml. News releases can also be downloaded from <http://www.emcdda.org/press/press.shtml>

Substitution

treatment expanding

EU-wide 'but still under-evaluated and patchy'

Substitution treatment for drug addiction is expanding across the EU, including inside prisons. But it remains patchy, under-evaluated and often controversial, says the EMCDDA's 2000 Annual report.

The report observes: 'Despite overall expansion in the EU in the last 30 years, substitution treatment is still scarce in some regions and settings. Services in Greece, Finland and, Sweden, for example, have limited geographical coverage and might not reach some potential clients.'

Availability of substitution treatment in prison varies, both between and within Member States. Related legislation, prescribing practices and the overall organisation of substitution services also differ substantially within the EU.

Substitution treatment first appeared in the EU in the late 1960s in response to rising opiate use. Methadone is still the most common substitution substance used, but newer substitution substances, such as buprenorphine and LAAM, are increasing in importance, since they might be more suited or acceptable to certain users.

Despite the lack of common assessment procedures at EU level for substitution treatment, evaluations that have been carried out in Member States have helped draw a number of conclusions. A four-year evaluation of out-patients in Germany revealed that drug consumption fell while social skills and relationships improved. Meanwhile, a Dutch study showed that when different methadone doses were given to experimental groups, those receiving most became more stable and their health and social skills deteriorated less frequently. A small study of substitution with LAAM in Portugal suggested that 'quite positive results' can be achieved for selected groups of heroin users.

Women drug users face greater stigma than men



2000 Annual report: Women fear being labelled 'unfit' mothers and having their children removed if they enrol for drug treatment.

Women drug users face a greater stigma than men, according to the EMCDDA's 2000 Annual report. The report underlines the need for more tailor-made responses to take account of their special problems and requirements.

The report says drug use is seen as incompatible with a woman's role. A key element is motherhood. Women fear being labelled 'unfit' mothers and having their children removed if they enrol for treatment. This, the report adds, means that women drug users face more barriers than men in obtaining treatment relevant to their needs.

These challenging findings emerge from a special focus in the report on the specific problems of women and drugs, and the differences between the sexes. The report concludes that the limited information available shows that, while responses to male drug use tend to focus on its crime-related impact, those relating to women appear more motivated by concerns about the impact of their drug use on others: on children whose mothers are users and on men where the users are sex workers.

The report reveals that female drug users commit less property crime than men, more often supporting their habit through the sex industry. Sex work can be an established

source of income, in some cases for up to 60% of women.

Women-specific drug issues so far have not been systematically examined by EU drug-information systems. However, most Member States do have specialised programmes of varying extent and focus.

Overall, says the report, men use illicit drugs more than women. Between the ages of 15 and 16, boys and girls tend to experiment equally with cannabis. By 20 to 24 there is more male than female use. Gender differences in reported drug use in the past 12 months and in use of specific drugs are even more marked. As girls grow older, further differences between the sexes appear and strengthen.

In contrast to illegal drugs, use of medicines, such as benzodiazepines, is more common among women, with the difference increasing with age. Although the social stigma is lower, the health risks of regular use of such medicines are considerable.

The ratio of female to male drug users in treatment tends to be less than 1:3. Such women tend to be younger than men and their proportion falls with age. Rather than implying that women are treated more successfully, the figures are generally thought to under-represent women with drug problems.

Drug-related infections and harm-reduction responses

Experts from all EU Member States met at the EMCDDA from 16–17 October to discuss the way forward for improving the monitoring of drug-related infections (hepatitis B, C and HIV). Substantial progress has been made in this area in recent months. In Spring 2000, the EMCDDA disseminated draft monitoring guidelines to the REITOX National Focal Points and an overview of data availability and data-collection methods is already taking shape.

From the presentations and discussions at the meeting, it appeared feasible to collect aggregated, existing prevalence data EU wide, through the revised EMCDDA standard table (forming part of the guidelines). Special attention was paid to prevalence rates in young and recent injectors (as a proxy for recent infections). Hepatitis C notification data were found to be a useful source for following trends in some countries and will thus be included in the guidelines.

An important issue for the next meeting (14–15 May, 2001) will be how to link these basic descriptive data on prevalence (incidence) to the evaluation of interventions and their impact. A first attempt was presented at the meeting based on collecting quantitative data on the total number of needle-exchange points, clients, contacts and needles distributed, and comparing these with estimates of the number of injectors. Although the resulting figures may be uncertain, they do reveal large differences across countries in the provision and coverage of interventions.

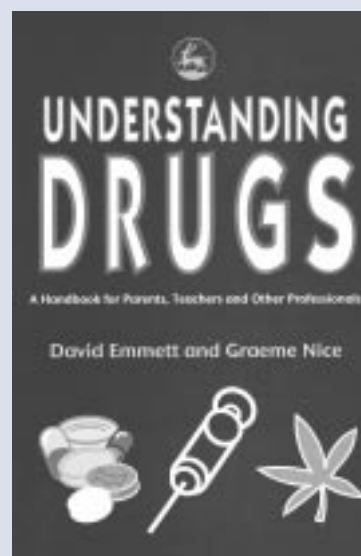
The EMCDDA's work on aggregated data will be complemented by a multi-city study of community-wide surveys to monitor drug-related infections, for which a proposal is currently being prepared. At the meeting, many countries expressed their interest in participating in the study and national funding, on the whole, appears available.

Lucas Wiessing



Harm-reduction responses: a needle-exchange programme in Portugal.

BOOKSHELF



Understanding Drugs A Handbook for Parents, Teachers and Other Professionals

Understanding drugs is an invaluable guide for any adult working or living with young people or anyone introducing a drugs policy into an institution. Young people tend to know more about drugs than their parents and this book aims to redress that imbalance.

The book opens with a brief history of drug use and an overview of the current world drug situation. This is followed by eight informative chapters covering the properties, adverse effects, legal position and marketing of: cannabis; stimulants (amphetamines); hallucinogens (LSD, ecstasy); opiates (heroin); volatile substances (solvents); tranquillisers; anabolic steroids; and over-the-counter medicines. The chapters also include the drugs' street names and associated slang and are illustrated with photographs and diagrams.

The second section of the book examines issues such as: the signs and symptoms of drug misuse; managing drug-related incidents; common reasons for drug misuse; the legalisation debate and the 'language of drugs'. Also available is *Understanding drug issues: A workbook of photocopiable resources raising issues for young people* (ISBN: 1-85302-558-5, EUR 34.33/£19.95).

Published by: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, UK.

Authors: David Emmett and Graeme Nice.

Date: 1998.

Language: English.

ISBN: 1-85302-400-7.

Price: EUR 22.28/£12.95.

Volumes may be ordered from: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JB, UK.

Tel: ++ 44 020 7833 2307. Fax: ++ 44 020 7837 2917.

E-mail: post@jkp.com. Http://www.jkp.com.

The EMCDDA is responsible for the selection of materials for the Bookshelf and for the text presented. However, responsibility for the content of these materials and the opinions expressed therein lies with the authors themselves.

FEATURE

Early-childhood
interventions'Parental attention, a
strong factor in drug
prevention'

Early-childhood interventions are an under-explored topic in the area of demand reduction. Interventions targeted at young children, whether within the family or at the kindergarten, are still relatively rare in the EU and, in many cases, they focus on the children of drug users, leaving aside children with other risk profiles. An analysis of programmes contained in the REITOX 1999 *National reports*¹ and the EMCDDA's EDDRA information system reveals that some structured programmes *do* exist in the EU that provide a clear, but as yet inconclusive, picture of the possibilities in this field.

In 1992, the German REITOX Focal Point (IFT) concluded from worldwide evaluation reports on substance-abuse prevention programmes that preventive measures had to begin when children are still very young. Some of the studies analysed suggested that parental child-rearing styles strongly influence their children's ability to acquire the aptitudes which determine whether or not they engage in drug abuse as they grow older. According to the study, children observed from age 7–10, who later turned to drugs, tended to exhibit characteristics such as lack of self-confidence, inability to develop healthy relationships and emotional impairment. They also received inadequate parental attention. It was concluded that preventive measures aimed at improving parenting must start early (aged 5–8).

An overwhelming majority of primary drug-prevention interventions in Europe begin relatively late, in secondary education. Moreover, most family interventions target the systemic interactions in families generally, without specifically targeting young children's developmental needs or addressing parenting skills during early childhood. A recent study (Wakschlag and Hans, 1999) confirms, for ages 0–10, the strong relationship between the lack of

mothers' responsiveness during infancy and the later development of disruptive behaviour disorder, which in itself is a forerunner of drug abuse during adolescence.

Such studies have led to recommendations for early-childhood interventions in a broad range of settings, involving family, school and support institutions. Interventions that can change the functioning of, and interactions in, families promise better long-term effects and are more culture-sensitive than broad curricular-based interventions.

The REITOX 1999 *National reports* offer an overview of ongoing early-childhood interventions in EU Member States. In all countries, the general goals are promoting parental attachment and promoting competencies and affective attitudes. Approaches are based on the concept that strong mother-child integration, the ability to defer gratification, to accept frustrations and to avoid boredom are proven protective factors against addictive behaviours. Beyond these generic statements, there appears to be a tendency in countries such as Austria, Germany, Italy and Spain to focus strongly on early-prevention interventions with young children in general, whereas in Belgium, Denmark and France, the accent is more on treatment issues and on children of drug users. The UK offers the only example where specific measures during infancy are implemented but without being reduced to drug-users' children. These include the Sure Start programme, an integrated package of child-care services for new parents who will be visited by a representative before their baby reaches three months, offering advice on health care, feeding, local childcare services, etc.

The EMCDDA's EDDRA information system available at <http://www.emcdda.org> contains information on

evaluated early-childhood interventions. These include the Swedish programme Humlan (Bumblebee) which offers early support to children and youngsters with problematic behaviour and adjustment problems. Also featured is the German-Austrian 'Toy-free Kindergarten' project which encourages communication and other skills among young children in a toy-free environment. Other approaches use outreach or street-work techniques, for example 'Adventure in the City', a role-playing game in Portugal addressing school failure and drop-out as well as poor social competence and low self awareness as risk factors.

This short overview confirms again that the added value of studying different European experiences lies in the broad diversity of ideas and strategies across the EU. These are a valuable pool of inspiration for further development, provided the information is duly gathered and disseminated. This development is needed since most requirements for a real broad-based early-onset prevention in Europe are not yet fulfilled.

Finally, drug prevention must start earlier, be long-term and be allowed to continue uninterrupted. Prevention can no longer be relegated to special services, measures or campaigns, but must be part of the daily life of families, schools and similar institutions. This places parents as well as the staff of pre-schools and schools in a position of key importance. The family is a central intervention site where preventive measures can be applied. Europe is moving steadily in this direction.

Gregor Burkhardt

¹ *National reports* are prepared by the REITOX Focal Points every year and provide data for the EMCDDA's *Annual report*.



THE EMCDDA AND ITS PARTNERS

*Pompidou Group Ministerial Conference:
European ministers agree stronger action against drugs
Sintra 12–13 October, 2000*

European ministers put action against drugs onto a firmer footing in October at their Ministerial Conference in Sintra, Portugal.

The Conference, which focused on 'Harm reduction as an element in the global and multidisciplinary approach to the problems of drug addiction', looked at ways in which countries are trying to reduce the damage caused to individuals and to society when users fail or refuse to give up drugs.

Among others, the ministers agreed new directions for the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group, giving the green light to a new work programme which will widen the Group's scope, lead to innovative approaches in combating drug abuse and strengthen its management structure to cope with a fully pan-European membership.

Licit drug abuse – including glue-sniffing and abuse of prescription drugs such as Valium – will now come under the Group's remit when part of the drug-abuse scene. The Group's modernised structure will help it cope with enlargement: at present it boasts 32 members but could include 45 in the future.



The Conference also adopted a political declaration in which Ministers agreed a blueprint to strengthen European action against drugs. This included a commitment to the UN drug conventions and to international and regional co-operation on drugs, based on the principles adopted at the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs. The declaration reiterates the importance of prevention and stresses the importance of new technologies in addressing the drugs problem (prevention, information, monitoring, co-operation). It also encourages countries and international bodies to implement a mechanism for multidisciplinary risk assessments of psychoactive substances in order to create more evidence-based drug policies.

Ireland succeeded Portugal as chair of the Group for the next three years with the Slovak Republic as vice-chair. EMCDDA staff members followed the Conference proceedings and distributed its publications. During the Conference, Ministers from Hungary, Poland and Turkey, and a representative from Malta, visited the EMCDDA.

Ignacio Vázquez Moliní

Dignity and self esteem against addiction

If I close my eyes I shut out the world' was the title of the 6th annual meeting of Rainbow, an international association of therapeutic communities. The meeting (26–28 October) was held at the San Patrignano community, Italy, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, and under the chairmanship of Pino Arlacchi, Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

The meeting provided a forum for national and international drug experts, actors, politicians, businessmen and NGOs to openly debate current drug problems and responses to them. The EMCDDA presented the latest findings of its recently published 2000 *Annual report*.

The therapeutic community of San Patrignano, located in Romagna, is a low-threshold labour-based community where drug addicts are admitted to programmes regardless of nationality, sex, health status, social condition or criminal record. Some 600 demands for placements are satisfied every year and, since 1978, over 15,000 drug addicts have received therapy.

San Patrignano aims to rebuild personal dignity and self-esteem by reinforcing the individual's societal role and encouraging individuality. It achieves this through a range of activities including furniture making, wine producing, market gardening and printing; activities which in turn enable the community to support its costs. Since 1995, 21 inhabitants of San Patrignano have received a university degree.

Danilo Ballotta

For further information see:
<http://www.rainbow-against-drugs.org> and
<http://www.sanpatrignano.org>

Harmonising drug laws in the Andean region

Harmonising drug laws in the Andean countries was the focus of a seminar organised by the Spanish NGO, the Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (FAD) (Foundation for Help against Drug Addiction) from 3–6 October in Lisbon. The seminar was hosted by the EMCDDA and financed by the European Commission. High-level European and Andean experts discussed the objectives and principles of a harmonised approach to drug policy in the region. For further information see <http://www.fad.es>.

Danilo Ballotta

Risk-assessment

meetings:

GHB and

ketamine

An enlarged EMCDDA Scientific Committee met in Lisbon from 25–26 September to assess the risks of the drugs GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) and ketamine (2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)-cyclohexanone). The Committee assessed the health and social risks and possible consequences of prohibition of the substances as set out under Article 4 (risk assessment) of the June 1997 Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs.

The meeting resulted in the adoption of risk-assessment reports on GHB and ketamine in the framework of the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs. These reports were submitted on 13 October to the French Presidency of the Horizontal Drugs Group (Council of the EU) and the European Commission for further consideration in accordance with Article 5 of the Joint Action (procedures for bringing substances under control). The reports are due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Horizontal Drugs Group on 22 November. The EMCDDA foresees the publication of these risk-assessments reports in the course of 2001. See next issue of *DrugNet Europe* for an update.

Lena Westberg



EMCDDA STATUTORY
BODIES

Management Board adopts reform plan
and medium-term perspectives



At its 20th meeting in Lisbon from 6–8 September, the EMCDDA Management Board adopted an internal reform plan for the agency, drawn up by the Director following an evaluation of the Centre by external consultants in 1999–2000. Also adopted were medium-term perspectives for the Centre, as compiled by an EMCDDA Management Board

Working Group (Chairman: Sir Jack Stewart-Clark).

The adoption of these documents marks a turning point in the Centre's development since they propose a completely new approach, both as regards working methods as well as the scope of the agency's work areas.

This new approach will permeate the Centre's next annual and triennial work programmes (2001 and 2001–2003), to be adopted by the Board at its meeting from 10–12 January 2001.

Kathleen Hernalsteen

REITOX network provides input
to EMCDDA programmes

The implications of the EMCDDA reform plan for the REITOX network, the activities foreseen by the Centre for the period 2001–2003, and future steps for enlargement were among the issues discussed by the Heads of the REITOX Focal Points who met in Lisbon from 16–18 October.

A workshop focusing on forthcoming activities led to a series of concrete proposals from the network regarding the EMCDDA's draft three-year work programme (2001–2003). These included a call to prioritise the five EMCDDA epidemiological indicators and progressively tackle new areas as set out in the EU action plan on drugs (2001–2004).

A second workshop analysed ways of guaranteeing the quality of data collected and of improving the functioning of the entire REITOX network. Given that methods to guarantee data quality differ from country to country, the EMCDDA proposed organising REITOX cluster

group meetings on this issue in order to exchange good practice.

The Chairman of the REITOX Steering Group,¹ created by the EMCDDA Management Board in September, was also present at the meeting. Mr Willy Brunson (Belgium) was given a valuable insight into the role of the network and the chance to ask questions on issues related to its functioning. The conclusions of the Steering Group, due to be presented and adopted at the next Management Board meeting in January 2001, may pave the way for a possible external evaluation of the REITOX network.

The EMCDDA would like to thank the Portuguese Focal point (IPDT) for having hosted this 20th meeting of the network. The next meeting of the Heads of the REITOX Focal Points will take place at the EMCDDA from 14–16 February 2001.

Frédérie Denecker

¹ Composed of representatives of the EMCDDA Management Board, Scientific Committee, REITOX Focal Points and of the EMCDDA Executive Director.

EMCDDA at the Frankfurt Book Fair

From 18–20 October, the EMCDDA attended the 52nd Frankfurt Book Fair, the largest international trade fair for the publishing world. The Centre participated at the stand of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (EUR-OP) where it displayed its latest publications and general publicity material on its work.

In the run-up to the fair, the Centre contacted over 180 commercial publishers in order to introduce its publications and gauge interest in potential licensing and co-publishing agreements. On 19 October, the EMCDDA was among the guest speakers at the European Union Publishers' Forum, where it presented the guiding principles of its publications programme and offered elements of potential interest to commercial publishers. These contacts were further pursued at the fair and partnerships with interested publishing houses are presently being followed up.

This year, the Centre produced a number of marketing materials for display at the fair, including a publicity bookmark advertising its recently published *2000 Annual report* and a catalogue of EMCDDA publications, *Drugs in Europe*, available in English, French and German (see EMCDDA publications below).



EMCDDA publicity bookmark.

Online Information 2000: exhibition and conference

Latest developments in information and communication will be exchanged and explored at Online Information 2000, the largest and most comprehensive information-industry event in the world. Taking place in London from 5–7 December, Online will bring electronic information content, delivery and usage into focus for thousands of information users and providers.

The Online Information 2000 exhibition will showcase an extensive range of global information products and services. The EMCDDA will be among the exhibitors present at the European Union stand together with the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, the European Environment Agency and Eurostat.

In parallel, the Online Information 2000 conference will bring together over a thousand international information professionals and offer participants the chance to learn from experts and determine the key factors shaping the information-industry landscape today.

Further information on Online Information 2000 is available at: <http://www.online-information.co.uk>.



2000 European Information Association Awards

The European Information Association (EIA) is currently calling for nominations for the 2000 EIA Information Sources Award. The award ceremony will take place during the EIA's annual meeting in March 2001.

The aim of the award, launched in 1991, is to recognise excellence in publications and electronic products from, and about, the European Union. By recognising good sources, the organisation hopes to contribute to raising standards in this area of information provision.

EIA members nominate new or improved information sources. Categories include: documentation (official EU and non-official); and electronic sources (databases/CD-ROMs and web sites).

The EMCDDA's web site (<http://www.emcdda.org>) was highly commended in the 1999 EIA awards presented in March 2000. According to the judges: 'The site is particularly well presented with a very clear brand image which matches the EMCDDA's publications. The content is genuinely useful (not simply peripheral) and well laid out with a good use of colour'. The winner of the category was the University of Mannheim's European Documentation Centre (<http://www.unimannheim.de/users/ddz/edz/eedz.html>).

The EIA is a UK-based international body of information specialists whose aim is to develop, co-ordinate and improve access to information on the European Union.

Please contact: Catherine Webb, EIA Manager & Eurotalk Listowner, European Information Association, Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD, UK. Tel: ++ 44 161 228 3691. Fax: ++ 44 161 236 6547.

E-mail: eia@manchestergb.demon.co.uk/<http://www.eia.org.uk>



EMCDDA PUBLICATIONS

New publications:

- *Reviewing current practice in drug-substitution treatment in the European Union*, EMCDDA Insights series No.3. Available in English.
- *Drugs in Europe*. EMCDDA publications catalogue. Available in English, French and German.

Coming soon (2001):

- *Report on the risk assessment of GHB in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs*. Available in English.
- *Report on the risk assessment of ketamine in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs*. Available in English.



Further information on all EMCDDA publications and details of how to order titles are available on the EMCDDA website at <http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications.shtml>.

SPOTLIGHT

University Mental Health Research
Institute

Latest resources from the Greek REITOX Focal Point

UMHRI

The Greek REITOX Focal Point, the University Mental Health Research Institute (UMHRI) has published the following resources in 2000. These are available exclusively in Greek, unless specified otherwise.

Offline

- Greek REITOX Focal Point (2000) *Annual Report on the Drug Situation in Greece 1999*, University Mental Health Research Institute, Athens.
- Vasiou, P. (ed.) (2000) *Greek Bibliography for Drugs in Greece for the year 1999*, University Mental Health Research Institute, Athens.
- Boukouvala, V., Yotsidi, V., Lyraki, C. (eds) (2000) *Guide to the Prevention and Therapeutic Services in Greece*, University Mental Health Research Institute, Athens.
- Terzidou, M., Maka, Z., Kokkevi, A. (2000) *Greek High School students: Health, School and Family. International Survey on Health Behaviour in School Aged Children*, University Mental Health Research Institute, Athens. (This publication has an English summary).

- Paralemou, Z., Ploumidaki, A., Yotsidi, V. (2000) *Evaluation Report on the difficulties and needs of the Prevention Centers of the OKANA and Local Authorities*, University Mental Health Research Institute, Athens.
- Greek REITOX Focal Point (2000) *Treatment Demand Indicator for Drug Users, Guide for Data Collection based on the New Protocol*, University Mental Health Research Institute, Athens.

Online

A Greek Bibliography of Drugs from 1979–1999 is available in English on the Focal Point's website at: <http://www.hol.gr/umhri>

Future online projects include the installation of four electronic databases on the UMHRI website:

- the *Greek Bibliography on Drugs*, organised as a database (in Greek and English);
- the Greek early-warning system;
- drug-related research projects; and
- prevention and therapeutic projects.

For further information, please contact: Greek REITOX Focal Point, University Mental Health Research Institute (UMHRI), PO Box 66517, 15601 Athens. Tel: ++ 30 1 653 69 02. Fax: ++ 30 1 653 72 73.

WEBWATCH

<http://www.q4q.nl/methwork>

This site is run by Euro-Methwork, a forum for all those active in the methadone field in the European regions. The site is designed for researchers, policy-makers and practitioners but also for heroin users, their families and friends.

Among others, the site includes a contact database of methadone providers in the EU, known as the Methadone Assistance Point (MAP).

Users may also download the Euro-Methwork newsletter and the *European Methadone Guidelines* (available in English, French, German and Spanish).

Advice on setting up methadone programmes is also available. This can include advice on where to buy methadone, whether to use an automated methadone dispenser, what type of software to buy and how to train staff.

Euro-Methwork is financially supported by the European Commission.

EMCDDA Calendar

- 23–24 November** – Expert meeting on drug-related deaths, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 27 November** – EMCDDA Bureau meeting, Lisbon.
- 4–5 December** – Qualitative research expert meeting, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 7–8 December** – EDDRA managers meeting, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 11–12 December** – 14th EMCDDA Scientific Committee meeting, Lisbon.
- 10–12 January** – 21st meeting of the EMCDDA Management Board, Lisbon.

Other Meetings

- 5–7 November** – Seminar on prevention evaluation and quality indicators, Madrid.
- 9–11 November** – ELISAD 2000 Meeting: Linking Together, Prague.
- 10–11 November** – 5th International

Hepatitis C Conference, Amsterdam.

- 10–15 November** – DHS Fachkonferenz Sucht 2000, Karlsruhe.
- 22–23 November** – Culture and performances - *Gestion des drogues en 2000*, *Drugbeleid 2000*, Brussels.
- 22–25 November** – Encouraging health promotion for drugs users within the criminal justice system, conference incorporating the 4th European Conference of Drugs and HIV/AIDS Services in Prison, Hamburg.
- 22–26 November** – ADAT and ITACA conferences on adequacy in drug-abuse treatment and care in Europe, Athens.
- 23–24 November** – Drug dependence in Europe: new goals, new challenges in public health, Collège de France, Paris. French Presidency of the EU, European Commission, MILDT.
- 23–25 November** – Training on prevention quality and evaluation, Mestre, Venice.

27 November – Technical advisory network of the Mentor Foundation, Stockholm, Sweden.

- 28–30 November** – 3rd National Conference on Drugs, Genova.
- 5–7 December** – Online Information 2000, London.
- 6 December** – Meeting of the taskforce on causes-of-death statistics, EUROSTAT, Paris.
- 7–9 December** – Urban Security and Democracy Forum, Naples.
- 12–13 December 2000** – Workshop on public policy against drugs, Italian Institute for Social Medicine, Rome.

Selected EU Meetings

- 22 November** – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.
- 18 December** – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.