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Bimonthly Newsletter of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

## 2002: priorities, programme and budget

The EMCDDA's working framework for 2002 received the seal of approval at the agency's Management Board meeting in Lisbon from 16–18 January, with the adoption of the 2002 work programme and budget.

The new programme is fully consistent with the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2000–2004), having been fine-tuned to the plan's six targets.

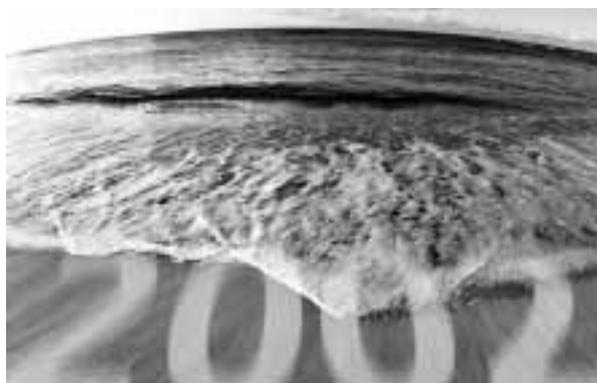
The 2002 work programme focuses on:

- monitoring the drug situation in the EU;
- monitoring responses to the drug problem;
- implementing the 1997 Joint action on new synthetic drugs; and
- monitoring national and Community strategies and policies and their impact on the drug situation.

This year's programme devotes particular attention to promoting and consolidating the set of five EMCDDA epidemiological indicators in the EU, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Board in 2001. Meeting under the chairmanship of Mike Trace (UK), the Board noted the excellent progress made in 2001 towards the implementation of these indicators and called for momentum to be maintained. In 2002, as part and parcel of monitoring the overall drug situation in the EU, the Centre will develop theoretical tools for interpreting drug trends and define possible indicators of drug-related crime.

In the area of responses, the Centre will develop common core data on prevention and outreach work in recreational settings in the EU and a set of quality models for school prevention programmes. It will also monitor outreach initiatives in nightlife settings (e.g. pill-testing); analyse information on drug treatment and efforts to prevent infectious diseases; and draft core data on the prevention of drug-related crime.

Activities under the Joint action on new synthetic drugs in 2002 will include a test phase involving the EU candidate countries in the early-warning mechanism.



*Management Board adopts 2002 work programme and a budget of 9.4 million €*

### INCB launches 2001 Annual report

Globalisation and new technologies are creating major challenges to drug law enforcement, and governments must take action to limit the dangers, says the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) in its 2001 Annual report.

The report, launched in Vienna on 27 February, shows that drugs are being sold over the Internet, private chat rooms are being used by drug dealers and online pharmacies are selling prescription-only drugs.

**Drugs sold over the Internet, private chat rooms used by dealers and online pharmacies selling prescription-only drugs...**

The INCB is particularly concerned that young people using the Internet are at risk from cyber drug dealers. The Board is calling on governments to raise public awareness, especially among parents and teachers, about young web users' exposure to messages promoting drug use. The consequences of these developments are alarming, says the Board. Young people may be drawn into drug-related

crime by misinformation, propaganda or brainwashing on the part of unseen individuals whose aim is to profit from a broader drug-using population. When the approach is 'virtual', the warning signals that might deter a young person in the real world are minimised, it says.

*Continued on page 8*

For more, see page 5 and <http://www.incb.org>

# Drug situation

## Black and minority ethnic groups and drug use

The Centre for Ethnicity and Health at the University of Central Lancashire (UK) is conducting a project on behalf of the EMCDDA 'to analyse drug use, consequences and correlates amongst minorities in the EU'.

The information will be used to: add to the knowledge base; suggest reasons for patterns of drug use in these groups (especially if they differ from those of the wider population); and inform the development of appropriate policies and services. Gaps remaining in the information will be identified at the end of the process and suggestions made for further research.

Not a great deal is known at present about drug use among Black and minority ethnic groups in the EU, so it is important to identify relevant information sources in the 15 Member States. The project team is keen to receive information from researchers or drug-service providers, as well as from Black and minority ethnic community organisations, general health and social services, social workers, the police, regional and local government services, youth services, etc.

If you think you can contribute, or you know someone else who can, please contact us for a questionnaire (available in all 11 EU languages) at the address below.

*Chloé Carpentier, EMCDDA and Jane Fountain,  
Central Lancashire University*

Contact: Jane Fountain, Centre for Ethnicity and Health, University of Central Lancashire, c/o DrugScope, 32–36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE, UK.  
Tel: ++ 44 207 922 87 09. Fax: ++ 44 207 922 87 80. E-mail: [jane@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:jane@drugscope.org.uk)



Photo: Paulo Lopes

**Not a great deal is known about drug use among Black and minority ethnic groups in the EU, so it is important to identify relevant information sources**

## Towards indicators of drug-related crime in the EU

Over the next two years, the EMCDDA will be developing indicators of drug-related crime at EU level in order to measure the extent to which Target 5 <sup>(1)</sup> of the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2000–2004) is being met.

A first expert meeting on drug-related crime was organised at the EMCDDA from 10–11 January. Seven experts attended the session from Belgium, Germany, France, the UK and from Europol.

Discussions focused on existing concepts of drug-related crime and competing definitions. The experts also reviewed a large number of potential indicators and methodologies to measure drug-related crime that have already been used in some EU countries, the United States and Canada.

A total of 11 indicators were assessed for: the extent to which they offer an insight into the relationship between drugs and crime; their value as an indicator of drug-related crime; and the feasibility of implementing them at national and/or local level.

This reflection takes place in the context of an ongoing EMCDDA project to review definitions, data availability and possible indicators of crime related to drug use and drug users (contractor: University of Loughborough, UK. October 2001–August 2002).

*Chloé Carpentier*

<sup>(1)</sup> 'To reduce substantially over five years the number of drug-related crimes'.

## International hepatitis C conference

'Human rights/human wrongs: responding to the global challenge' was the theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> International hepatitis C conference held in Lisbon from 7–8 February. The meeting was organised by Mainliners (UK) and *Abraço* (Portugal), both of which work on improving services for drug users and those living with hepatitis and HIV.

The conference provided overviews of hepatitis C epidemiology, prevention, treatment, patient information and social policy. The EMCDDA presented European data on hepatitis C prevalence among injecting drug users, as well as its work on indicators to measure the coverage of prevention measures. The 200-strong conference adopted a set of recommendations on the themes covered. These can be downloaded from <http://www.hep-ccentre.com>

*Lucas Wiessing and Dagmar Hedrich*

## Qualitative research: ongoing debate on QED website

Qualitative research now forms part of systematic reviews of research on healthcare. However, criteria for judging the value of a qualitative research paper still need developing.

At a conference on the subject in 2001, it was suggested that qualitative researchers in the drugs field may be relying too heavily on interview data and overusing quotes in their presentations. A debate on the issue has since been developing on the EMCDDA's QED website.

Questions tackled include: Are there other research methods to study the social context? Are quotes the best way to present findings? When one of the aims of qualitative research is 'giving drug users a voice,' why then study them? How relevant is 'give-them-a-voice' for the users of 'new' drugs? Join in the debate at <http://qed.emcdda.org>

*Deborah Olszewski and Jane Fountain*

# Responses

## Drug-related treatment: redefining concepts

One of the six targets of the EU Action Plan on Drugs (2000–2004) is to ‘increase substantially the number of successfully treated addicts’. In order to shed light on this highly complex issue, the EMCDDA embarked on an exercise in 2001 to find a common classification of drug-related treatment and terms used to describe specific drug-treatment efforts.

It was in this context that 10 experts from both inside and outside the EU met in Lisbon from 8–9 February. During their discussions, the experts disputed much of the well-established drug treatment terminology, finding it either inadequate or inaccurate. The group thus suggested new terms and definitions that were more accurate and understandable in isolation, and more coherent and consistent when inter-related.

‘Drug-related treatment’ was chosen as the overall term covering treatment specifically targeted at illegal drug addiction, as well as treatment targeted towards clients with a poly-drug use pattern, including illegal drug use. The group agreed that drug-related treatment should be sub-divided into three main pillars: ‘withdrawal treatment’; ‘medically assisted treatment’; and ‘drug-free treatment’.

‘Withdrawal treatment’ was offered as a more accurate term for what was previously known as detoxification. The group found the latter to be misleading as much detoxification today uses methadone or other substitution substances that are, in fact, toxic.

‘Medically assisted treatment’ was proposed to replace substitution treatment, a term found to be inaccurate as it often denotes medical interventions with drugs that neither substitute nor replace the drug originally consumed (e.g. naltrexone). The group consented to this new term which includes treatment with both agonists (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine) as well as antagonists (e.g. naltrexone).

Finally, the group found the term ‘drug-free treatment’ to be sufficiently accurate, although it noted that benzodiazepines are often used in so-called drug-free treatment programmes.

Other concepts within these three pillars were developed in the course of the meeting. A second meeting is foreseen later in 2002 to refine and fine-tune this preliminary drug-related treatment classification in the framework of the EMCDDA’s standard core data set for treatment and its evaluation of the EU Action Plan on Drugs.

*Ulrik Solberg*



**Experts disputed much of the well-established drug treatment terminology, finding it either inadequate or inaccurate**

## EDDRA: concrete examples of good practice

The Drug Addiction Treatment Centre in Lund, southern Sweden, has been running a treatment programme since 1986 for chronic cannabis users. The clinic receives around 350 patients a year, around 150 of whom are new admissions.

To assess the mental health of the clients, the Centre uses the Sense Of Coherence (SOC) scale which measures specific cognitive abilities. Clients at admission were found to have low SOC scores overall compared with those questioned in a normal sample of the Swedish population. However, after six weeks of cognitive treatment, the clients’ SOC scores were already in a ‘normality’ range, again compared with regular Swedish samples.

For more, see [http://www.emcdda.org/responses/methods\\_tools/eddra.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/responses/methods_tools/eddra.shtml)

*Ulrik Solberg*

## Working with prisoners’ families

The European Network of Drug Services in Prison (ENDSP), in co-operation with the UK based NGO, ADFAM, is carrying out a comparative research project on ‘Working with prisoners’ families’.

The initiative aims to investigate existing projects that involve prisoners’ families in drug-demand and risk-reduction activities in prison, and to create an inventory of European organisations and projects working in the field.

ENDSP and ADFAM would be interested in hearing from readers who may be aware of, or involved in, projects involving drug-dependent prisoners’ families. Information on practices in this field is lacking and would be greatly welcome.

Please contact: Karen Whitehouse, ADFAM, 32–36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE, UK. Tel: ++ 44 207 928 88 98. Fax: ++ 44 207 928 89 23. E-mail: [k.whitehouse@adfam.org.uk](mailto:k.whitehouse@adfam.org.uk)

## Recently published

An EMCDDA-funded overview of assistance to drug users in EU prisons has recently been released and can be ordered from Cranstoun Drug Services Publishing for the price of 18€ (plus 2€ postage for UK and 5€ postage for rest of EU).

Contact: Cranstoun Drug Services, Tel: ++ 44 208 543 83 33. Fax: ++ 44 208 543 43 48. <http://www.cranstoun.org>

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (2001), *An overview study: Assistance to drug users in European Union prisons*, EMCDDA Scientific Report, Cranstoun Drug Services Publishing, London, 2001.

## Bookshelf

### Cocaine: An Unauthorised Biography



*Cocaine: An Unauthorised Biography* is an illuminating account of the history of the drug written by British journalist Dominic Streatfield. The author submerges himself into the world of cocaine, tracing its course from the first medical uses to the effects of the drug on modern society. In so doing, he produces a socio-political investigation that dissects a multi-billion dollar industry, second only to oil in revenue generation.

Through narrative and interviews with scientists, drug traffickers, guerrillas and law-enforcement agents, the author transcribes his two-year study of cocaine. He traces its beginnings in the rainforests of South America and its journey into Western consciousness through Freud, to the drug cartels that grew out of its globalisation. The book is written with such comprehensive thoroughness and attention to detail that, even without quoting every source, it assumes a powerful position of authority.

**Author:** Dominic Streatfield  
**Published by:** Virgin Publishing Ltd, UK  
**Language:** English  
**Date:** June 2001  
**ISBN:** 1-85227921-4  
**Price:** £ 20.00/32.77€ (hardback), paperback published shortly  
**Ordering information:**  
<http://www.virginbooks.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

### The social acceptance and cultural promotion of drugs

Rises and falls in drug consumption are closely related to how drugs are socially accepted and promoted.

There is a long tradition in our society to promote substances such as alcohol and tobacco by creating positive symbolic links to them. And these links change in line with advertisers' interests. This can be illustrated by the shift in imagery in the marketing of alcohol and tobacco over the years. The symbol of the adult man has gradually given way to images of independent young people living life in the fast lane – with a particular accent on young women.

The result of this 'cultural promotion' is that many young Europeans start using these substances earlier than was previously the case. Young women now use more tobacco than men, and are also catching them up in terms of alcohol use.

But social acceptance of *illegal* drugs is also being sought, as was the case with LSD in the psychedelic culture of the 1960s and 1970s and with ecstasy in the 'house' culture of the 1980s and 1990s.

This promotion is not without its economic interests, as is clearly the case with cannabis in Europe today. Increasing numbers of people are living from the substance – be they producers, dealers, magazine editors or book authors.

The strategy of the pro-cannabis movement – which was born during the hippie era of the 1960s, but which now has more economic and cultural weight – is to seek positive links with ecology, health, and social values such as tolerance and solidarity, and thus to convey cannabis users as the victims of an ignorant and oppressive society.

Clearly, the greater the social acceptance of a substance, the more difficult it is to influence its use, since any information on possible related problems tends to be ignored.

As a result, prevention efforts today will need to reflect seriously upon cultural and economic reasoning of this kind.

*Amador Calafat,  
President, IREFREA,  
Editor of Adicciones*



*Amador Calafat is the author of several studies on recreational drug use and is the editor of a monograph on cannabis in which he presents a study on the strategy for legitimising the cannabis culture:*

Calafat, A., Juan, M., Becoña, E., Fernández, C., Gil, E., and Llopis, J.J. (2000) 'Strategies and organisation of the pro-cannabis culture', *Adicciones*, Vol. 12, suppl. 2, 231–273.

Irefrea (*Institut de Recherche Européenne sur les Facteurs de Risque chez l'Enfant et l'Adolescent*) is a European association of prevention professionals (<http://www.irefrea.org>).

Further reading:

Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M. (1998), 'Explaining recent increases in student marijuana use: impact of perceived risks and disapproval, 1976 through 1996', *American Journal of Public Health*, 887–892.

The greater  
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## Enlargement Reitox Academy Training Programme kicks off in Athens

The Reitox Academy Training Programme kicked off in Athens from 11–13 February. The programme aims to boost the exchange of know-how and best practice between present and future Reitox partners and to strengthen their contribution to the EMCDDA's work programme.

Hosted by the Greek national focal point, the first foundation course focused on the 'Development of national action plans on drug information and establishing national drug information networks in the EU candidate countries'. National focal points and representatives from all 13 candidate countries and five EU countries attended the meeting and received practical information from Reitox and EU experts. The 10 EU pre-accession advisers working in the candidate countries in the framework of the European Commission's Phare Twinning Project also participated.

The course allowed the new Reitox partners to air any problems encountered in their work and to receive support from the rest of the network. In this respect, the course offered a good example of horizontal communication, from which all focal points can benefit. Staff at the Greek focal point felt the course had helped them broaden their scope and become more motivated to join the enlargement process.

*Manina Terzidou,  
Greek national focal point*

**INCB: Some States 'circumvent the mandated controls of cannabis through legal manoeuvres'**

evidence to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Under the Convention, the WHO is mandated to determine which substances are liable to abuse and should be under control. Article 3 of the Convention has a specific mechanism for de-scheduling or re-scheduling narcotic drugs and to ignore this procedure is to ignore established international law, says the INCB.

## Partners Legalising cannabis 'historical mistake' says INCB

Treating cannabis like alcohol and tobacco would be a 'historical mistake' says the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its *2001 Annual report*. The report says it would be 'imprudent to add to the burden on national health-care systems with another harmful substance like cannabis'.

The Board is concerned that some signatory States to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs are 'circumventing the mandated controls of cannabis through legal manoeuvres' and are 'undermining the principle of the international drug control treaties which clearly state that the use of drugs should be limited to medical and scientific purposes only'.

The opinions of the Board run counter to a tendency in some countries in recent years to relax controls on cannabis. Some are introducing legislation involving the decriminalisation of cannabis cultivation or possession for personal use. In the EU, for example, Spain, Italy, Luxemburg and Portugal do not penalise possession for personal use nor is it a criminal offence.

The INCB invites any government with scientific evidence that the control of cannabis under the 1961 Convention is unjustified to submit this

## Drugs-Lex Latest developments at the EMCDDA

### Legal correspondents to meet

National legal correspondents, appointed by the EMCDDA Management Board to feed and update country data in the European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD), will meet in Lisbon at the end of May. This will be the third meeting of the correspondents, who have played a key role in the development and success of the database to date.

Discussions will focus on the ELDD's performance during its first year, including any teething troubles and room for improvement. Also considered will be the feasibility of including EU legislation

in the database in the future and of extending the ELDD's coverage to the EU candidate countries. On the latter, the EMCDDA will hold a seminar in the spring to establish a network of legal correspondents from these countries.

### Comparative analyses underway

The EMCDDA's idea for a Legal Information System on Drugs was conceived in 1998 to collect Member States' legislation on drugs and subsequently to provide analyses of it.

With the legislation now to hand through the ELDD, these analyses are

now underway. Two have already been completed and have each been downloaded over 1 500 times to date, demonstrating public interest in this type of information.

This year, the ELDD aims to complete five new comparative studies. The subjects earmarked for analysis of the legal situation are: medical use of cannabis; fixed quantities of drugs for personal use, trafficking etc; drugs and driving; administrative sanctions; and the situation in the EU candidate countries. See <http://eldd.emcdda.org>

*Brendan Hughes*

## Reitox Nordic cluster meeting

A Reitox cluster meeting, bringing together the national focal points of the four Nordic countries (Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden) and the EMCDDA's Reitox co-ordination staff, was hosted by the Norwegian focal point on 28 January.

The meeting came at the end of a week of individual sessions between the EMCDDA and the four focal points and was the last in a series of cluster meetings begun in 2001 to improve data quality and networking.

General discussions were held on similarities and differences in data collection, analysis and reporting in these countries, while strong and weak points were identified and proposals for improvement made.

There is a specific focus on alcohol data in the Nordic countries, due to the fact that their treatment systems generally deal with both alcohol and drug data and that information sources are often the same. The participants underlined the need to make a clearer distinction in information sources between the two categories and to analyse general patterns of consumption (combination of drugs, users group, etc.) rather than the use of individual substances.

European and national priorities in terms of information collection often differ, particularly concerning the five key indicators (e.g. different deadlines, definitions, political priorities). This could create serious problems for data provision. Among the solutions foreseen were: the use of statistical techniques to adapt national data to EU data, and the creation of new information sources. Short reports noting key developments and results at national level were seen as good way of improving harmonisation between European and national data.

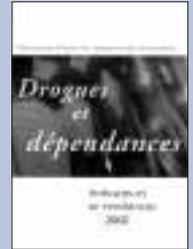
Finally, countries exchanged experience on different practices in writing their annual national reports and on dissemination activities. On the latter, they underlined the need for national dissemination channels, such as documentation centres and newsletters. Enlargement to the Central and East European Countries (CEECs) was touched upon and considered a major development that will change the overall picture of the European network.

Linda Montanari

## Spotlight French National Focal Point *Observatoire français des drogues et des toxicomanies (OFDT)*

On 17 January, the French national focal point (OFDT) released the 2002 edition of *Drogues et dépendances – indicateurs et tendances*, bringing together the latest available data on the drug situation in France.

The 370-page publication aims to shed light on the extent and complexity of the drug phenomenon as well as initiatives designed to respond to it. The book examines the issue from a variety of angles ranging from the health, social and penal consequences of the use of licit and illicit psychoactive substances, to current prevention measures and the legal framework.



*Drogues et dépendances* is the fourth publication of its kind since 1995 and collates data produced by OFDT and its partner organisations. It is an exhaustive work constituting a valuable reference tool which answers a broad array of general and specific questions.

The publication is accompanied by a CD-ROM containing OFDT studies, publications and databases.

Contact: Hassan Berber, OFDT, 105 rue Lafayette, F-75110 Paris.  
Tel: ++ 33 1 53 20 16 16. Fax: ++ 33 1 53 20 16 00.  
<http://www.drogues.gouv.fr/fr/index.html>

## Documentation ELISAD Gateway project

- Funded by the European Commission,** The European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ELISAD) held the first meeting of its Gateway project at the EMCDDA from 6–8 February.
- the project will create a portal to quality online resources** Funded by the European Commission, the project will create a portal to quality online resources in the area of alcohol and other drugs, using the ELISAD network.
- online resources** The project will be co-ordinated collectively by the network's information and documentation specialists and will be monitored externally by the EMCDDA.

Expected users of the portal are professionals involved in political, social and medical research as well as others working in the area of alcohol and other drugs.

For more, see <http://www.elisad.org>

Adelaide Seita Duarte

# Products and services



## New publications *Guidelines for the evaluation of outreach work*

### EMCDDA Manuals series, No 2

Policy-makers and practitioners around the world acknowledge the importance of outreach work in the drugs field. But the fact that it is a good idea does not mean that every project is of a high standard.

Clients, policy-makers and project staff need ways to assess whether projects are fulfilling their aims and objectives.

The EMCDDA's publication *Guidelines for the evaluation of outreach work: a manual for outreach practitioners* aims to help outreach teams: understand their project's aims and objectives; value their activities; and improve these activities and their worth.

This latest publication in the EMCDDA Manuals series is available free of charge. It can also be downloaded in PDF format from: <http://www.emcdda.org/infopoint/publications/manuals.shtml>

## Coming soon

- *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.
- *Prosecution of drug users in Europe: varying pathways to similar objectives,* EMCDDA Insights series No 5.

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

## General report of activities 2001

The EMCDDA's *General report of activities 2001* is now available online at <http://www.emcdda.org/infopoint/publications/activities.shtml>

This annual publication provides a detailed progress report of the EMCDDA's activities over a 12-month period. The report this year has been restructured to reflect the Centre's new working framework and work programmes (2001–2003 and 2001). Full details of the new structure and working priorities are given, together with an account of the progress and outputs for each thematic project.

The information provided is supplemented with further links to ongoing work and project results. The report is a useful resource for all those seeking comprehensive information on the Centre and its work and it is hoped that this new presentation will facilitate consultation.

Rosemary de Sousa

## Press information

Journalists wishing to keep up-to-date with the EMCDDA's activities are invited to register on the EMCDDA's website at <http://www.emcdda.org/infopoint/register.cfm>

In so doing, they will be signing up for regular postings on the website, including news releases, feature articles, briefing papers and links to the latest *Drugnet Europe*.

For general *News and media services* see [http://www.emcdda.org/infopoint/news\\_media.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/infopoint/news_media.shtml)

## Resources Useful products on the drugs issue

### Heroin trial report

A recent report on the results of two trials with the medical co-prescription of heroin in the Netherlands is now available from the Central Committee on the Treatment of Heroin Addicts (CCBH) at <http://www.ccbh.nl/ENG/index.htm> The report can also be ordered in hardcopy.

Contact: CCHB, Universiteitsweg 100, NL-3584 CG Utrecht.

### Website

DailyDose is a website providing links to news and reports on drug and alcohol misuse and addiction. Updated twice a day, DailyDose carries headlines from a wide range of information providers including agencies working on substance misuse, newspapers, governments, education, law and medical bodies, and scientific publications. See <http://www.dailydose.net>

### Conference

The European Network of Drug Services in Prison (ENDSP) is organising its 6<sup>th</sup> International conference in Vienna from 10–12 October 2002 entitled 'Engaging with change: some practical applications of knowledge'. Topics to be covered will include the role of prisons in drug use, multi-agency co-operation, and drug policies and their effectiveness.

Contact: Edoardo Spacca, European Network of Drug Services in Prison, Cranstoun Drug Services, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Broadway House, 112–134 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL, UK.  
Tel: ++ 44 208 543 83 33.  
Fax: ++ 44 208 543 43 48  
E-mail: [espacca@cranstoun.org.uk](mailto:espacca@cranstoun.org.uk)  
<http://www.cranstoun.demon.co.uk>

**Organisations wishing to publicise their newsletters, magazines, websites, CD-ROMs or any other resources are invited to contact [Kathryn.Robertson@emcdda.org](mailto:Kathryn.Robertson@emcdda.org)**



## Calendar 2002

### EMCDDA meetings

- 14–15 March:** Training seminar with EU candidate countries on the treatment demand key indicator, Utrecht.
- 27 March:** EMCDDA Bureau meeting, Lisbon.
- 4–5 April:** EMCDDA Scientific Committee meeting, Lisbon.
- 23–24 May:** EMCDDA expert group annual meeting on the population surveys key indicator, Lisbon.

### External meetings

- 3–7 March:** 13<sup>th</sup> International conference on the reduction of drug-related harm and 2<sup>nd</sup> International harm-reduction congress on women and drugs, Ljubljana.
- 6–7 March:** Seminar on 'Quality in prevention: theoretical advancements and practical instruments', Segovia.
- 7–8 March:** Latin America mechanism meeting, Madrid.
- 11–15 March:** Annual meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), Vienna.
- 13–17 March:** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Telematics and Prevention Conference, Athens.
- 24–27 March:** 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Night-life Substance Abuse and Related Health Issues/Club Health 2002, Rimini.
- 25–27 March:** Conference on 'Drug policies and their impacts', Wilton Park, Sussex.
- 10–12 April:** Annual meeting of the Corporation group of drug control services at European airports, Madrid.
- 18–19 April:** Permanent Correspondents, Pompidou Group, Strasbourg.
- 25–26 April:** OFDT Trend project, European seminar, Paris.

### EU meetings

- 4 March:** Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.
- 11 April:** Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.

## Statutory bodies

### 2002: priorities, programme and budget

*Continued from page 1*

Meanwhile, work in monitoring national and Community strategies and policies will focus on producing comparative analyses of key issues; expanding the European Legal Database on Drugs (see page 5); and establishing an information baseline designed to evaluate the EU Action Plan on Drugs.

One of the key agenda items broached by the Management Board was the external evaluation of the Reitox national focal points undertaken in 2001. The Board members welcomed the report and several favoured a revision of the network's functioning. In particular, the present system of co-financing of each national focal point (50% from the EMCDDA and 50% from the Member State) was discussed. The meeting pointed to the need to refine or replace the system in order to assure stability and security for the focal points and for the network as a whole.

The Board adopted a budget of 9.4 million € for 2002. Of this 33 % of resources are earmarked for monitoring the drug situation; 28 % for monitoring responses; 9 % for implementing the Joint action on new synthetic drugs; 15 % for monitoring drug strategies and their impact; and 15 % for the Reitox network.

Also adopted at the meeting were the *General report of activities 2001* (see page 7) and the preliminary draft budget for 2003.

The next meeting of the Management Board will take place from 3–5 July in Lisbon.

*Kathleen Hernalsteen*

### Drugnet Europe in Spanish

In January this year, the EMCDDA released *Drugnet Europe* for the first time in Spanish, bringing the total number of language versions of the newsletter to five. Readers wishing to subscribe free of charge to the Spanish version are invited to do so via e-mail ([info@emcdda.org](mailto:info@emcdda.org)) stating the quantity required.

### Drugs in focus: Issue No 2

Issue No 2 of *Drugs in focus*, the EMCDDA's new series of policy briefings, will be released mid-March in the 11 EU languages and Norwegian. This issue focuses on 'Drug users and the law in the EU' and provides an overview of the latest developments in drug legislation in Europe.

Policy-makers wishing to subscribe free of charge to these briefings are invited to do so via e-mail ([info@emcdda.org](mailto:info@emcdda.org)) stating the language version and quantity required. Feedback on the briefings is also welcome at the same e-mail address.



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