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Mapping national drug strategies and coordination arrangements in the EU

A new EMCDDA research project on national drug strategies and coordination arrangements reveals common trends in these areas in the European Union. Data for the study ⁽¹⁾ were primarily gathered from interviews with national coordinators and governmental officials in the 15 EU countries plus Norway and from analysis of official drug strategies and action plans as well as Reitox national reports.

The study shows how, despite national differences in terminology and understanding, a new culture actions and evaluation is gradually emerging in the field of drugs, in general, and in national drug strategies, in particular. Whereas, in the period 1987–1997, only four national drug strategies had been adopted, in the five years between 1998 and 2002 at least 25 strategic documents were adopted at national and regional level in the European Union. Evaluation and assessment of results are the keywords of this new trend, whereas measuring performance and delivering concrete outputs – in other words, trying to increase the effectiveness of drug policy – are the main objectives.

Furthermore, over the last two to three years, most EU countries have also appointed a national drug coordinator for the first time ever. In this area, the study shows how coordination responsibilities lie predominantly within health and social administrations (in at least 11 out of the 16 countries), with a growing tendency to cover supply and demand reduction holistically. Common elements – prevention, treatment, research, information, supply reduction, international cooperation – are visible as the individual themes addressed by the strategies, underpinned, in some cases, by specific performance indicators.

Danilo Ballotta

⁽¹⁾ Study conducted by the EMCDDA, in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs of the European Commission. The full report can be downloaded at http://www.emcdda.org/policy_law/national.shtml



Photo: Photo Disc

The fight against drugs: a priority for the European Union

The fight against drugs should be tackled at EU level

The last European public opinion survey, Eurobarometer ⁽¹⁾, showed that the majority of European citizens believe that the fight against drugs should be tackled at EU level rather than at national level. Among the 11 post-Amsterdam strategic policy areas, they ranked the fight against drugs in fourth place, after the fight against international terrorism, the fight against the trade and exploitation of human beings and the fight against organised crime.

The survey reveals that 71 % of European citizens would prefer decisions in this policy area to be made at EU level.

The high level of confidence displayed by European citizens in these survey results is a real challenge for the EU legislators, requiring firm commitment.

The EU is currently conducting the Action Plan on Drugs (2000–2004) and the European Commission will deliver a communication on the mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan before the end of the year.

Cécile Martel

⁽¹⁾ Eurobarometer 56, April 2002. <http://europa.eu.int/comm/public-opinion>

Drug situation

Injecting drug use receives major attention at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona

The XIVth international AIDS conference took place in Barcelona, Spain, on 7–12 July. It proved to be a scientific conference of considerable merit, with over 15 000 participants and extensive media coverage.

The bold objective of global access to HIV treatment, initiated at the 2000 Durban conference, was further developed and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has begun operations ⁽¹⁾.

Injecting drug use (IDU) received significant attention for the first time.

A plenary speech focused on the alarming IDU–HIV epidemics in eastern Europe and other regions and on prevention and human rights for drug users.

A number of sessions and satellite symposia drew attention to the role of injecting drug use in the spread of HIV and the existing evidence on the effectiveness of prevention. Special attention was given to the situation in the Ukraine and Afghanistan. HIV prevalence in the Ukraine in the general population is now at 1 %, following widespread epidemics among IDUs. The war in Afghanistan has resulted in a significant increase in injecting opiates in Pakistan.

The EMCDDA presented data at the conference showing that HIV transmission continues at a high rate among subgroups of IDUs in western Europe.

More information on the conference can be found at <http://www.aids2002.com>

Lucas Wiessing

⁽¹⁾ See also <http://www.globalfundatm.org/> and news release No 5 at http://www.emcdda.org/infopoint/news_media/newsrelease.org/



Photo: Diarlov/Noticias

HIV transmission continues at a high rate among subgroups of IDUs in western Europe

New qualitative drug research workgroup on consumer perspectives

In January 2001, an expert meeting was held at the EMCDDA to explore the possibility of developing a conceptual framework for describing and predicting changes in drug use. An outcome of this meeting was a proposal that the QED network should be utilised to develop in workgroup an instrument to collect comparable information on consumer perspectives and to explore its utility in helping to predict changes in drug trends. The obvious major advantage of developing a standard instrument is the potential for comparable qualitative information across the European Union and over time.

Uwe Kemmesies from Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, an expert adviser for the EMCDDA QED website <http://qed.emcdda.org/>, is developing a measure – the Semantic Differential (SD) – designed to measure the attractiveness (or unattractiveness) of particular drugs in different sections of the population. In June 2002, an expert workgroup was established to discuss and develop the SD instrument. This team is now identifying research projects that are suitable for piloting the SD in a small number of EU countries. For the pilot, these projects will be those targeting drug users who spend time in a setting where problem drug users congregate, and school surveys.

For further information, please contact Deborah Olszewski mail to: deborah.olszewski@emcdda.org

Deborah Olszewski

Towards a standard module on drug availability within the EMQ

The European Model Questionnaire (EMQ) is a set of common core items for gathering data from, or for inclusion in, national questionnaires. The EMQ, together with methodological recommendations, constitutes the guidelines of the key indicator ‘prevalence of drug use among the general population’.

The first meeting took place at the EMCDDA on 21–22 May 2002, on ‘Questions on drug availability within population survey questionnaires’, with experts from Denmark, France, Greece and Portugal. On the basis of a preliminary inventory made by the EMCDDA, the expert group analysed the questions on drug availability that are already used in various countries of the EU.

They also discussed the concepts underlying the various examples of questions, such as: exposure, perceived availability, access and price.

The issue of the validity of such questions was raised. It was suggested that examples of validity studies should be looked for in the literature and that, whenever possible, secondary analyses should be conducted with the help of experts that have direct access to survey data.

A process for developing a standard module was agreed, in order to produce the final guidelines for 2002.

Chloé Carpentier

Responses

CEEC candidate countries work together on drug demand reduction data collection

The Reitox Academy training programme within the Phare Project, 'Cooperation EMCDDA-CEECs', organised in cooperation with the Latvian State Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment was held in Riga, 10 – 11 June 2002. The 24 participants represented the 10 CEEC candidate countries.

The objective of the course was to enhance the participants' skills in collecting data relating to demand reduction, to increase awareness of the need for evaluation of interventions and to increase the quality of national reports.

Plenary information sessions on prevention, treatment, harm reduction and drug-related crime were followed by workshops in these areas. The participants discussed the information presented in their national reports (i.e. the quality, coverage, etc., of the data and the analysis) with EMCDDA staff. The meeting clarified for the participants what information the EMCDDA is seeking and how to acquire it.

The meeting came to three main conclusions. The first was that quality feedback should be provided to the CEEC national focal points on their output (in particular, national reports) in order to improve reporting. The second conclusion was that dissemination of the information within the country is essential (e.g. presenting the national report in the national language). The third conclusion was that networks and networking are the key factors to success. Focal points need to build national networks and work closely with them, including giving feedback and training. Cooperation and networking between focal points is also important.

According to course participants, the most useful aspect of the seminar was the ability to work together in groups. The workshops allowed the participants to focus on what they needed most and to form relationships with other CEEC representatives.

Margareta Nilson



Photo: Photo Disc

Innovative interventions that actively involve drug users themselves are increasingly being implemented

Prevention of heroin overdose

Between 7 000 and 8 000 acute drug deaths are reported in the European Union each year. These deaths occur mainly among young individuals, in their 20s or 30s, with a history of injecting heroin use, and most are accidental overdoses. A substantial reduction in the number of drug-related deaths is the target set for EU Member States by the European Union Action Plan on Drugs (2000–2004).

Injecting drug use is a major risk factor for fatal and non-fatal overdoses. In most cases of overdose death, opiates are present. However, polydrug use is very common. The use of heroin in combination with other central nervous system depressants significantly increases the risk of overdose. A decrease in tolerance after a period of abstinence or reduced drug-taking, and injecting of drugs when the user is alone, are factors that increase the risk of dying from overdose.

A significant proportion of fatal and non-fatal overdoses could be avoided. Mortality risk from opioid overdose is being addressed by interventions that actively involve drug users themselves in overdose prevention and that increase their competence to manage overdoses by other users that they may witness.

The EMCDDA has recently launched a project that aims at collecting, analysing and disseminating information about how heroin

overdoses can be prevented and how those that occur can be managed better. The information will be used to support local and national policy-makers as well as practitioners in their efforts to develop and implement effective strategies and interventions to reduce drug-related deaths within the broader context of the EU Drugs Strategy.

Dagmar Hedrich

EDDRA: evaluation meeting and ways ahead

Since its launch in 1996, EDDRA has been subject to many changes but not to any evaluation. In order to assure the continuation of this project and to improve various aspects of EDDRA, an evaluation session took place at the EMCDDA premises on 17 and 18 June. Representatives from six Member States plus a number of representatives from the EMCDDA discussed issues such as how the use and usefulness of EDDRA could be improved and how collaboration between EMCDDA representatives and national EDDRA managers could be strengthened. Regarding the former, the participants agreed that an analysis of EDDRA input in areas such as prevention, treatment, harm reduction and interventions in the criminal justice system should be carried out. It is hoped that a report of the findings will be published in November.

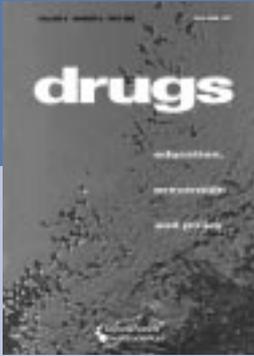
Ulrik Solberg

For more information on EDDRA, please see <http://reitox.emcdda.org:8008/eddra/>

Bookshelf

Drugs: education, prevention and policy Special focus

Roger Lewis Festschrift



This special issue of the *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy journal* ⁽¹⁾ is a festschrift ⁽²⁾ to Roger Lewis, who worked at the EMCDDA in Lisbon until his untimely death in 2000. Jim Sherval of the Department of Public Health in Lothian, Scotland, conceived the idea and has edited the contributions and written a personal tribute.

Different authors address subjects in which Roger had a life-long interest. Rowdy Yates provides an up-to-date and concise history of British drug policy. He shows how the focus of concern has shifted from individual treatment to public health and infection control to the current preoccupation with the drugs-crime connection. Robert Power advocates more collaboration with the marginalised target population in order to increase understanding and relevance. Harry Shapiro shows how cocaine exemplifies the ambivalence towards drugs in Hollywood.

Letizia Paoli presents more evidence that an 'invisible hand', and not large-scale organisations, runs the drugs market. Julie Morris and her colleagues evaluate a drugs prevention programme in northern England. Dawn Leeming and her colleagues propose a tool for assessing young people's attitudes to cigarettes, alcohol and drugs before and after prevention programmes.

Tomas Gimenez and Maria Adame research a novel method for increasing self-reported use when there is pressure to hide consumption. Finally, based on the study of young cocaine users in London, Annabel Boys and colleagues show that the boundary between powder cocaine and crack may be becoming less well defined for some users.

More information on <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/09687637.html>

⁽¹⁾ *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, Vol. 9, No. 2, May 2002.

⁽²⁾ A collection of celebratory papers in honour of an academic who has influenced the work of many people.

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

Drugs expenditure – looking at figures

Data on budgets and funding arrangements related to drugs constitute an important indicator of State commitment in the field of drugs and can be a valuable support to the decision-making process.

The EMCDDA has been collecting data on drugs-related expenditure through the Reitox national focal point reports for the last few years, but the significant lack of data at national level makes analysis in this field difficult.

To fill this gap, an EMCDDA study ⁽¹⁾ on drugs expenditure was commissioned in 2000. Professors Kopp and Fenoglio, of the University of Paris I, examined and compared available drugs-related figures in the EU countries.

While attempting to estimate 'per capita' problematic drug use in the fields of health care and law enforcement, and presenting comparisons between drugs expenditure and total State expenditure or GDP (gross domestic product), the study concludes that further efforts should be made to implement a data-gathering system in each country in order to calculate public expenditure on drugs.

The EMCDDA is therefore working on establishing a methodology aimed at standardising data collection of 'direct' and 'indirect' expenditure related to drugs. Professor Peter Reuter of the University of Maryland has been commissioned to conduct research in this field between 2002 and 2003. The research will be concluded by testing the proposed methodology in two EU countries.

Finally, in 2003, the EMCDDA and the Reitox NFPs will focus on the question of drug-related expenditure in the field of demand reduction, presenting a special issue on this subject in the EMCDDA's 2003 Annual report.

Further efforts should be made to implement a data-gathering system in each country in order to calculate public expenditure on drugs

Daniilo Ballotta

⁽¹⁾ Final report downloadable at www.emcdda.org

Enlargement Present and future

Over the last months, the Phare–EMCDDA cooperation project, along with the candidate CEECs, has been developing its activities on three fronts: supporting the preparation of the National Action Plan for Drug Information Systems (NAPDIS), preparing the ‘2002 regional report on the drugs situation in candidate CEECs’ with the active involvement of CEEC experts and preparing the final project seminar and ‘Planning the Future’ conference.

While the CEECs’ Annual report will be launched together with the EU Annual report in October (see next issue of Drugnet), the key event for the new focal points this year will take place in Prague on 19 and 20 September. The final project seminar will have two major components: the presentation of the NAPDIS by each country, which signals the progressive integration of the candidate CEECs into the work programme of the EMCDDA; and the presentation of an external evaluation of the project, as well as an evaluation of each national focal point.

The ‘Planning the Future’ conference will address the implications of the improvement and enlargement of the Reitox network, and will conclude with a presentation outlining the new cooperation project, which starts later this year.

Alexis Goosdeel

**2002 regional
report on
the drug
situation in
candidate CEECs
is on the way**

Partners Memorandum of Understanding between UNDCP and EMCDDA

On 9 July 2002, Mr. Antonio Costa (Director of the UNDCP) and Mr. Georges Estievenart (Director of the EMCDDA) signed an addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between their respective agencies agreeing a work programme.

Cooperation in the field of epidemiology will concentrate on: the collection and reporting of European data on the drug situation; harmonisation of reporting standards and development of international indicators; and activities supporting the reporting of progress made in responding to the drug situation.

In the field of drug demand reduction, special attention will be paid to sharing information on best practice strategies for prevention, treatment and reducing the health and social consequences of drugs misuse.

Regarding new drugs, cooperation will focus on raising awareness and on further development of early-warning systems.

Both agencies will also cooperate on the exchange of legal information and will explore matters of common interest in the area of supply reduction.

Ignacio Vasquez Molini

Drugs-Lex

Recent developments in the ELDD: candidate countries join

Following a successful Reitox Academy training seminar at the end of April, hosted by the Phare programme and the Belgian Ministry of Justice, the new Legal Correspondents for the candidate countries have been hard at work preparing country profiles and legal texts for inclusion in the European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD).

Each country’s information will be published on the ELDD as it is collated. Based on this, a comparative study is planned for the end of the year on the legal situation in the candidate countries.

All Country Profiles are currently being updated to include comparable

**“Information
for Czech Republic,
Estonia and Latvia
is now on
the ELDD”**

information on the different national legislations and penalties that apply to the illicit trade in precursor chemicals.

Meanwhile, the ELDD’s News Alert service continues to inform subscribers of the latest legal developments in the EU as they happen, such as the British government’s announcements on its drug policy and cannabis reclassification, with links to the documents necessary.

See the ELDD’s registration page at http://eldd.emcdda.org/databases/eldd_registration.cfm for details.

Brendan Hughes

Reitox

From 16 to 29 national focal points

The 24th meeting of the Heads of the Reitox focal points, which took place in Lisbon from 19 to 21 June 2002, will be remembered as a milestone in the history of Reitox. Meetings limited to the focal points of the EU Member States, Norway and the European Commission have become a thing of the past. Following an invitation from the 'old' focal points to the 'new' ones, which was endorsed by the Bureau of the EMCDDA's Management Board, the national focal points (NFPs) of the 13 candidate countries ⁽¹⁾ to the EU are also participating in the Reitox meetings, which take place three times a year.

The first meeting of the enlarged Reitox community was mainly organised in workshops. The first round contained topics aimed at improving the NFPs and the Reitox system such as: the role, the minimum requirements and the financing of the NFPs, and the development of a capacity-building and training programme. The second one concentrated on the quality of the 2001 national reports from the Member States and Norway, as well as on content-related scientific topics such as: drug use in prisons, the evaluation of national strategies and the 'crossing' of epidemiological indicators.

Over the last few years, the Heads of focal points have developed extremely good working relations and social networking. The Heads of the 'new' NFPs have actively contributed to the work (for instance, in the discussions and as chairpersons or rapporteurs of workshops). Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Ireland and Slovenia volunteered to participate in a working group that will refine the guidelines for the 2003 national reports.

Regarding the 10 CEEC candidate countries, the EMCDDA have submitted a proposal to the European Commission for the continuation of technical assistance in 2003 and 2004. It is hoped that this will allow further strengthening of the NFPs concerned, through active participation in training and capacity-building activities.

Wolfgang Goetz

⁽¹⁾ The final report of the external evaluation of Reitox focal points can be consulted at <http://www.emcdda.org/partners/reitox.shtml>

Spotlight

National focal points

Third feedback on national reports

The third evaluation of national reports was finalised in June 2002. The quality of the reports was analysed according to five quality criteria (completeness, insight, reliability, usefulness, internal consistency) and an updated template. Members of the Scientific Committee and EMCDDA staff contributed to the process.



The quality has improved compared to previous years, especially regarding compliance with guidelines, methodology and layout. Some problems still exist regarding conciseness, lack of scientific evidence in some fields and difficulty interpreting data and trends.

There was considerable variation among countries in the quality of reports, depending on research experience, professional skills, the existence, or not, of a national information system and the level of treatment and prevention services. In particular, quality differs a lot in the section on special topics ⁽¹⁾, where countries are requested to provide information on new areas. In these areas, routine information sources often have not yet been established.

A list of recommendations has been included at the end of each evaluation report, in order to improve the comparability and scientific quality of the information, which is the basis for the EMCDDA's work.

A working group on national reports guidelines has been established and will meet on 7 October in Lisbon.

Linda Montanari

⁽¹⁾ Special topics in the 2001 national reports were: 'Polidrug use: drug set and setting', 'Successful treatment: the effectiveness of interventions', 'Drug users in prison'.

Products and services

New release:

Drugs in focus: Issue No5

'Drug prevention in EU schools' is the title of the forthcoming edition of the EMCDDA's policy briefing series *Drugs in focus*. Issue No 5 (September–October), to be launched in mid-September, addresses the fact that prevention programmes in schools are very heterogeneous across the EU.

This briefing summarises the state of drug prevention in EU schools and focuses on what makes a prevention programme successful and on the importance of systematic evaluation.

Those interested in subscribing to the briefings free of charge are invited to do so by e-mail (info@emcdda.org), stating the language and quantity required.

Joëlle Vanderauwera

Products and services

Coming soon

Risk-assessment reports: PMMA

The Report on the risk assessment of PMMA will shortly be available. This risk-assessment exercise was carried out in 2001 in the framework of the Joint Action on Synthetic Drugs.

As a result of the evidence and conclusions presented in the report, in December 2001 the European Commission presented an initiative to the Council to make PMMA (para-methoxymethylamphetamine) subject to measures of control in all Member States.

On 28 February 2002, the Council of the European Union adopted a unanimous decision defining the new synthetic drug PMMA as a substance to be placed under control measures and criminal penalties in the EU Member States (see news release <http://www.emcdda.org/data/docs/30en.pdf>).

The new publication records the findings and conclusions of the above exercise, drawing together the various elements used to assess the substance, including: the final risk-assessment report; contributions from Europol; a review of the pharmacotoxicological data; epidemiological evidence on the associated public-health risks and sociological and criminological evidence. The publication will be available on request – free of charge – from the EMCDDA. It will also be downloadable from the Internet (http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/publications/risk_assessments.shtml).

Rosemary de Sousa

EMCDDA 2002 Annual report

The EMCDDA will launch its 2002 Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union and Norway on 3 October in Brussels. The report will be published in the 11 official EU languages and in Norwegian.

The three main chapters of the report cover: the drug situation; responses to drug use; and other selected issues (polydrug use, successful treatment and drug use in prisons).

A dedicated website, 2002 Annual report online – available this year in 12 languages – will be accessible at <http://annualreport.eu.int> from the day of the launch. The site will contain the report, statistical tables, data sources, additional explanatory material and graphics, news releases and much more. It will offer users improved possibilities to explore the Annual report's contents, enabling them to retrieve information efficiently, according to their needs.

The printed version of the report will be available – free of charge – on request from the EMCDDA.

2002 Report on the drug situation in the candidate CEECs

The Phare project 'Cooperation EMCDDA-CEECs' has initiated the production of this report in order to provide a more complete picture of the drug phenomenon in the candidate countries to the EU. It will be launched on 3 October in Brussels. The report is written mainly by experts from the CEECs and primarily covers the central and eastern European countries which are actively involved in technical cooperation with the EMCDDA.

The report describes the situation of and responses to: experimental and recreational drug use; problem drug use; drug-related infectious diseases; and the drug market and drug-related criminality. It also examines the availability of information and the limitations and quality of available data.

The report will be published in English only. It is free of charge and available on request from the EMCDDA. An interactive online version of the report has also been developed (<http://candidates.emcdda.eu.int>).

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

Rosemary de Sousa

Resources

Useful products on the drugs issue

"Alcool, tabac, cannabis et autres drogues illicites parmi les élèves de collège et de lycée"

The *ESPAD survey* (European Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs) was conducted in 30 European countries in 1999. In France, 12 000 pupils between 14 and 20 years of age attending either private or public schools were questioned. The French survey was conceived, realised and analysed under the scientific administration of Mrs. Choquet and Ledoux of INSERM, with the collaboration of project managers from the French focal point. Its goal is to describe and analyse the use of psychoactive substances among the young.

Contact: OFDT - fax + 33 1 53 20 16 00
e-mail ofdt@ofdt.fr

"Phénomènes émergents liés aux drogues en 2001". Rapport Trend. June 2002.

In June 2002, the third annual report on emerging trends in France was published by the OFDT (Observatoire français des drogues et des toxicomanies). The *Trend* project is a set of research instruments aimed at identifying in the short term the emerging trends in drug consumption, patterns of use and related problems. They include qualitative research (interviews with drug users and youth), analysis of youth media, data collection in the treatment setting and surveys.

The publication reports information from two main data sources: the urban environment and the recreational setting (techno scene), describing drug consumption and patterns of use among the young. For each substance, user characteristics, patterns of use and the product itself (accessibility, price, purity) are described.

see <http://www.drogues.gouv.fr>



Calendar 2002

EMCDDA meetings

- 12–14 September:** Expert meeting on Prevention Indicators, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 19–20 September:** EMCDDA final project meeting and planning the future conference, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 23–24 September:** Consumption rooms meeting, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 2 October:** Meeting between International Organisations on Treatment Demand Information Systems, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 3–4 October:** European expert meeting on Treatment Demand Indicators, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 3 October:** EMCDDA Bureau meeting, Brussels.
- 3 October:** Launch of the EMCDDA 2002 Annual reports, Brussels.
- 21–22 October:** 2nd Expert Meeting on treatment related to illegal drugs in the EU plus Norway, EMCDDA, Lisbon.
- 14–15 October:** Expert meeting 'Overdose prevention and management', EMCDDA, Lisbon.

External meetings

- 2–5 September:** Expert Group Meeting on school-based drug abuse prevention, UNDCP, Vienna, Austria.
- 2–6 September:** *Curso la Seguridad interior en un mundo global, organised by Universidad Complutense, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain.*
- 26–27 September:** 2nd European Conference on drug Trafficking and Law Enforcement, Drugscope – IHESI, Paris.
- 21–23 October:** Professional Seminar on Secondary Prevention organized by ARGE, Salzburg, Austria.

EU meetings

- 6 September:** Horizontal Working Party on Drugs, Brussels

Statutory bodies

EMCDDA Management Board meeting: latest news

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Management Board took place on 3 and 5 July 2002 in Lisbon. The main item on the agenda was the report drawn up by the Reitox working group.

Following discussion of this, it was decided to prepare a paper for the next Management Board meeting on the relationship between the Member States and the EMCDDA, the role of the focal points, minimum standards, the grant system, the tasking process and the procedures applied for countries entering the system.

The Board also decided to opt for a grant-based system allocating up to 110 000 EUR per Member State and to call for the executive and the European Commission to present this system to the budgetary authorities so that the reserve on the 2003 budget can be lifted.

Furthermore, the Board decided to modify the guidelines for national reports to enable data needed for the UNDCP's ARQ to be directly extracted and reported by the Member States.

The Board called upon the EMCDDA to amend the data set in the guidelines for the national reports so that it is as far as possible, identical to the ARQ.

The Board endorsed the draft addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between the EMCDDA and UNDCP.

Among other issues, the Board also: appointed Mr. B. De Ruyver and Mr. Y. Bisiou as additional members to the Scientific Committee; noted the paper on the implementation of and perspectives on the five key indicators; noted the state of play of the 2002 Annual report and decided on the structure of the 2003 Annual report; mandated the Bureau to discuss the paper considering the role of the EMCDDA/European Commission and the Management Board; approved the proposed procedure regarding the building and decided to launch the new corporate identity image at the next Board meeting.

The Danish delegation presented the elements of their Presidency Programme that are relevant for the EMCDDA.

The next meeting of the Board will take place in Lisbon on 15–17 January 2003.

Kathleen Hernalsteen



is published by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Lisbon. The EMCDDA is an autonomous agency of the European Union established in 1993 to provide the Community and its Member States with 'objective, reliable and comparable information' on drugs and drug addiction. *Drugnet Europe* is published six times a year in English, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese. Original language: English. Any item may be reproduced provided the source is acknowledged. For free subscriptions, please specify your requirements via e-mail (info@emcdda.org).