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Drugnet Europe

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Ministerial conference explores drug routes from Asia to Europe

Foreign Ministers from 55 countries seriously affected by the traffic of opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan or originating in Central and South-West Asia, met in Paris on 21 and 22 May at the invitation of French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin. As well as exploring knowledge of drug routes, the conference looked at public health issues, the economic impact of trafficking, and international cooperation.

His Excellency, the President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac, opened the conference stating that: 'Dealing with the problem of drug routes highlights the interdependence of today's world'. He added that the issue called for 'a new and comprehensive approach', that would help eradicate production and mobilise 'consumer' countries to curb their domestic demand and fight drugs and trafficking more effectively.

Referring to the issue as 'one of the great challenges of globalisation', President Chirac declared: 'There are no longer transit countries or consumer countries; there are only victim countries. Producing countries are locked in a vicious cycle. Consumer countries are losing their lifeblood'. He called for 'action and solidarity', and hoped that the conference would lead to further initiatives and provide a basis for discussions prior to the G8 summit in Evian (1-3 June).

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, was encouraged that the Ministers of the G8 had decided to address the issue of drug routes. In his address, he called for countries to combine their wills and efforts to step up national capabilities to deal with trafficking; develop regional partnerships; and tackle all aspects of the problem through a multilateral strategy. These proposals were echoed in the final conference conclusions (see p. 7).

EMCDDA Executive Director, Georges Estievenart, recollected calls by the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) for a 'global coordinated approach' to drugs, balancing



Chirac: 'There are no longer transit countries or consumer countries; there are only victim countries'.

'Let's talk about drugs'

This year, UN International day against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking (26 June), was commemorated with the slogan: 'Let's talk about drugs'.

Marking the occasion, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, commented that the theme 'underlined the need for children, families, peers, teachers and communities to talk about drug use, admit that it is a problem, and take responsibility for doing something about it'.

Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, declared: 'Let us recognise drug abuse for what it is – a preventable phenomenon that afflicts a small but important part of our societies'. As well as a social problem, he stressed that it was also 'an individual issue, that we must address, in the first instance, by putting it firmly on our political and social agendas by talking about it openly'.

Drug abuse is an 'individual issue, that we must address, in the first instance, by putting it firmly on our political and social agendas by talking about it openly'

The EMCDDA released a study on 26 June on drugs and driving (see p. 5) and participated in a day-long programme of events organised by the Portuguese focal point, the *Instituto da Droga e da Toxicodependência*. Today, an estimated 200 million people worldwide use illicit drugs, which translates into 4.7 % of the global population aged over 14 (UN figures).

For more on UN day against drugs, see <http://www.unodc.org> and the Resources section on p. 7.

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July-August

2003

Drug situation

Treatment data: analysing client profiles

An EMCDDA working group on treatment data analysis met in Munich on 8 May. Involving four countries (D, I, NL, FIN), the group discussed how to best analyse treatment data in order to identify the characteristics of treatment clients and their drug-use patterns.

The group concluded that an analysis of treatment demand data could be made through client profiles which should be defined according to the primary drug for which the client is seeking treatment.

Since 2002, an increase has been reported in many European countries in clients demanding treatment for cannabis use. Similar characteristics have been noted

across Europe: clients are generally young people; male; and frequency of cannabis use is reported as rather intensive.

In the context of cannabis client profiles, the Dutch expert presented an example of 'guided analysis'. According to this method, a group of cannabis users is selected and divided into two age groups (<20 and >20). Information is then collected for each of the two groups on socio-demographic variables, patterns of use and treatment interventions.

This information is analysed over time, in a geographical context, and according to relevant political and social factors, in order to establish current trends and define client profiles. The group will now consider using the same methodology for clients using other substances.

Roland Simon, Anton Ouweland and Linda Montanari

A second EMCDDA working group, focusing on treatment data coverage, was also set up in 2002 and held its first meeting in March this year.



Since 2002, an increase has been reported in many European countries in clients demanding treatment for cannabis use

Expert meetings on incidence and prevalence

In the framework of its key epidemiological indicator 'prevalence and patterns of problem drug use', the EMCDDA held two expert meetings on 22 and 23 May.

At the first meeting, which centred on estimating the incidence of problem drug use (the rate of new cases occurring) experts from various EU countries discussed how to improve the quality and availability of incidence estimates from treatment data. At least three countries (E, I, UK), appeared to have very good datasets that promise improved estimates in the near future. An important recommendation from the meeting was to include the item 'age at first injection' in routine treatment monitoring systems ⁽¹⁾.

The second meeting was devoted to estimating prevalence using the multivariate indicator method (MIM). This method is potentially powerful at national level being able to incorporate local level estimates and national level indicator data to produce a national prevalence estimate of problem drug use. At the meeting, it was proposed that a city-level model be developed, rather than working purely at regional or provincial level, in order to improve precision. Including social and demographic data (e.g. population density and housing density) in prevalence estimation has proven useful in one country (NL) and will be investigated further. This could potentially improve MIM estimates based purely on standard drug indicators, such as data on treatment and overdose deaths.

Lucas Wiessing

⁽¹⁾ The treatment demand indicator is another EMCDDA key indicator under which a standard protocol has been developed for routine collection of treatment data.

Understanding the health impact of problem drug use

Problem drug users represent a very small proportion of the general population: estimated at 2–10 people per thousand adults aged from 15–64 years. Nevertheless they suffer from disproportionately serious health problems, in particular very high mortality. Opiate users suffer an overall mortality up to 20 times higher than the general population of the same age, due to overdoses, accidents, violence, AIDS and other infectious diseases.

The EMCDDA is currently coordinating a multi-site mortality study with the assistance of the Department of Epidemiology, Rome E Health Authority. The study began by developing a common protocol and promoting the continuation or implementation of cohort studies in several cities and countries. It provided information and analyses to help the EMCDDA produce an overview of drug use and drug problems in the European Union.

In November 2003, a workshop will be held in Cambridge (UK) examining the cohorts participating in the project, and possibly incorporating other European cohorts. The workshop is the joint initiative of the EMCDDA, the Biostatistics Unit of the Medical Research Council (Cambridge) and the Department of Epidemiology, Rome E Health Authority. The aim is to exploit further the analytical potential of the cohort studies for a better understanding of the health impact of problem drug use. The ultimate goal will be to draw policy conclusions to improve the life of drug users.

Julián Vicente

Responses

Latin harm-reduction conference

The second Latin harm-reduction conference (CLAT2) was held in Perpignan, France, from 22–24 May. Over 900 participants attended the event from harm-reduction services, drug-user organisations, public-health administrations and research and policy groups from southern Europe and South America. Participating EU countries were Spain, France, Italy and Portugal. Switzerland joined the group of CLAT core countries for the first time.

The three-day conference focused on similarities and differences in drug-use patterns and risk behaviours among drug users in southern Europe, and provided a rich opportunity for an exchange of experience in harm-reduction interventions.

In five plenary, and over 30 parallel, sessions, the conference covered: the epidemiology of drug use; the health and social consequences of drug use; harm-reduction policies in the CLAT countries and a wide range of interventions.

Technical aspects of risk prevention and reduction – including information and educational approaches and service provision in different settings (e.g. low-threshold services; outreach in open drug scenes; parties; prisons, etc.) – were addressed, as were treatment approaches. The interaction of harm-reduction services with their immediate neighbourhood and the wider community was also explored.

The EMCDDA presented data at the meeting on trends in drug-related deaths and reported on its work in the field of responses. Since a ‘substantial reduction’ in the number of drug-related deaths is a target of the EU drug strategy (2000–2004), the Centre is currently compiling information on the effectiveness of interventions, and establishing a framework for monitoring the range and availability of specific medical, educational and treatment responses in the EU Member States and Norway.

Dagmar Hedrich

For further information, see <http://www.clat2.com>

Drug information: party-goers reveal what reaches them best

Over 700 party-goers in three European cities ⁽¹⁾ were interviewed recently in order to explore the effectiveness of information strategies concerning drug risks in recreational settings. Drug users and non-users alike were asked to rate information sources according to perceived credibility and importance.

Both groups considered drug-using peers as a credible and important information source. In the regression analysis, drug users rated their drug-using peers as a more credible source than did the non-users.

Information flyers and counselling at parties were seen by both groups as ‘not so important’, but nevertheless ‘credible’. However, lifestyle and youth magazines, the Internet and non-drug-using peers were considered by both groups as neither ‘credible’ or ‘important’ (although the non-users found these sources slightly more credible than did the users).

Should these findings be confirmed by similar studies, then the often hefty investments in Internet information portals and in the use of lifestyle magazines for prevention purposes, will need to be closely reconsidered.

It should be stressed that the above findings do not apply to interactive Internet chat-rooms or e-mail services which were seen as a means of direct personal counselling. Experienced others, personal contacts and direct counselling can act as key channels in passing on accurate information regarding the risks of party drugs (including alcohol) to party-goers.

Gregor Burkhart

⁽¹⁾ Benschop, A. Rabes, M. and Korf, D.J. (2002) *Pill testing, ecstasy and prevention – A scientific evaluation in three European cities* (Amsterdam, Hanover and Vienna), Amsterdam 2002. This article does not constitute any formal endorsement by the EMCDDA of this report.



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EDDRA: OKANA help-centre, Athens

A recently updated entry in the EDDRA database focuses on the OKANA help-centre. The centre was established in Athens in the late 90s to meet the health needs of drug users who were not accessing mainstream services.

The centre exists to:

- improve the health status of drug users by providing primary health and dental care;
- provide information and advice on safer drug use and safe sex practice through an outreach programme and specialised seminars; and
- prevent infectious diseases via a syringe-exchange programme.

OKANA provides a vital and well-received harm-reduction service. In 2001, over 3,000 drug users accessed its health and dental services. In addition, its mobile emergency unit received calls from 786 drug users of whom 186 (24 %) received help for overdoses. The outreach programme made contact with over 1,200 drug users, while the syringe exchange programme, replaced 25,386 used syringes.

Abigail David

For further information, see http://eddra.emcdda.eu.int:8008/eddra/plsql/ShowQuest?Prog_ID=2647

Bookshelf

Evaluation der Arbeit der Drogenkonsumräume in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland



The work of drug consumption rooms in Germany was the subject of an evaluation study carried out between November 2001 and July 2002 on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health. The study (Evaluation of the work of drug consumption rooms in the Federal Republic of Germany) covered 19 such rooms in nine cities.

The study demonstrates that the consumption rooms comply with the minimum standards defined in the Federal legislation of 2000 and reach the intended target group of hard-to-reach, long-term drug users. Beyond the supervision of consumption and emergency aid, they play a vital role in increasing clients' access to medical and drug treatment services. Based on a time-series analysis of drug-related deaths, the authors conclude that the operation of supervised drug consumption rooms made a significant contribution to the reduction of drug-related deaths at city level. The study contributes to the emerging research literature about this relatively new type of harm-reduction-oriented drug service.

Authors: Poschadel, S., Höger, R., Schnitzler, J. and Schreckenberger, J.

Publisher: Nomos-Verlags-Gesellschaft

Series: Schriftenreihe des Bundesministeriums für Gesundheit, Bd. 149

Language: German

Date: 2003

ISBN: 3-8329-0073-X

Price: 38,00 € (66 SFR)

Ordering information: <http://www.nomos.de>

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

Psychonaut project – much-needed Internet scrutiny

Today there are thousands of web pages dedicated to the use of psychoactive substances but scientific monitoring and professional scrutiny of the information provided in these pages are sadly lacking. Now a project funded by the European Union, launched in October 2002, is looking a little closer. Entitled, Psychonaut, it involves nine EU Member States (<http://www.psychonaut2002.org>).

The main aims of the project are to:

- map and analyse the contents of web pages related to a range of psychoactive substances (contents include information on the use, manufacture, synthesis, sale and purchase of these substances);
- implement early responses, using data collected from the Internet's 'virtual market', to help assess the public-health threat posed by drugs (especially new synthetic drugs) at European, national and regional level;
- evaluate scientifically the drug-related contents of web pages and make the evaluations accessible to professionals from the participating (and non-participating) countries.

Of the thousands of web pages being sampled, many advocate the use of drugs in one way or another. For example, visitors can access advice on enhancing drug experiences. Via e-commerce, and by simply supplying a valid credit card number, they can also buy a wide range of substances such as cannabis seeds, prescription medicines, performance-enhancing hormones, ecstasy and opioids.

Given the high level of computer literacy of children and adolescents today, monitoring web pages for drug-related contents is an important first step in assessing the risks and developing appropriate responses



It is also possible to find detailed online 'recipes' for synthesising illicit products such as ecstasy (MDMA) or liquid ecstasy (GHB). Moreover, the Internet serves as a channel for disseminating information on a new class of drug – so-called 'ecological drugs' – which are herbs and plant derivatives sold, as stimulants, sedatives and psychedelics.

Given the high level of computer literacy of children and adolescents today, monitoring web pages for drug-related contents is an important first step in assessing the risks and developing appropriate responses.

Psychonaut is the first project designed to map European and international websites which promote the use of psychoactive substances. Mapping national websites will also be carried out under the project through collaboration of the participating EU Member States in various European languages. This will help provide professionals with scientifically monitored and updated information in their own language and help identify emerging drug trends at regional, national and European level.

Dr Fabrizio Schifano, St George's Hospital Medical School, London

Psychonaut is coordinated by St George's Hospital Medical School, London, Department of Addictive Behaviour and Psychological Medicine.

This article does not imply any endorsement by the EMCDDA of this project.

Enlargement

EMCDDA gets set for enlargement

A new step in the EMCDDA's preparations for enlargement will be the participation of the 10 acceding countries ⁽¹⁾ in the July meeting of the agency's Management Board.

At the meeting, the Board is expected to give its opinion on the draft EMCDDA three-year work programme (2004–2006). This will have a direct impact on the activities of the national focal points in the new Member States, making their attendance all the more important.

Although the EMCDDA will admit 10 new members in May 2004, enlargement will not stop there. The three remaining candidate countries ⁽²⁾ are expected to become members of the agency before the end of the accession process (i.e. once official negotiations between the Commission and the three countries are concluded). In the meantime, they are already involved as far as possible in Reitox meetings and activities.

As of May 2004, each acceding country will appoint two representatives (one member and one deputy) to the Management Board, with full participation and voting rights.

Alexis Goosdeel

⁽¹⁾ Acceding countries: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

⁽²⁾ Candidate countries: Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.

Partners

EU–Latin American dialogue on drugs

The 'Mechanism for coordination and cooperation on drug-related matters between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean' held its 5th high-level meeting in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 29–30 May. It was preceded, on 28 May, by the 6th meeting of the 'Specialised dialogue between the EU and the Andean Community'. Both meetings were prepared and chaired by the current co-presidencies of the mechanism, Colombia and Greece.

Europol and the EMCDDA, both attending as observers, delivered a number of presentations, largely on synthetic drugs. The synthetic drugs increasingly consumed in Latin America are mainly produced in, and exported, from the European continent. Meanwhile, an estimated 20–25 % of the cocaine potential extracted from illegal coca crops in the Andean region is destined for the EU market.

Recalling the principles of shared responsibility and a balanced approach between demand and supply reduction, the main meeting concluded with the adoption of the 'Declaration of Cartagena de Indias'. Among others, this underlined the need to pay special attention to the exchange of information and experience 'on new illicit drugs trends, in particular synthetic drugs'.

The EU and its Latin American and Caribbean partners agreed at the meetings to give priority and adequate funding to concrete cooperation initiatives in the field of drugs. They also agreed to mandate Colombia and Greece to implement the decision of the previous high-level meeting (Madrid 2002) to regularly analyse and assess the results achieved in the framework of the Panama Action Plan against Drugs adopted in 1999.

Alain Wallon

For more on the Mechanism and the Panama Action Plan, see http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/lac/conc_es/inftev.htm

Drugs-Lex

EMCDDA releases new study on drugs and driving

Public concerns about driving under the influence of drugs are addressed in a study released by the EMCDDA on 26 June: entitled 'Drugs and driving'. The study gives an overview of various legal measures used to tackle the problem in the EU Member States and Norway.

The study focuses on specific concerns about driving under the influence of psychoactive substances. It states that, although driving under the influence of *alcohol* is already established as an offence in all European Union countries, 'drug abuse has not always been addressed'. But throughout the 90s, national and international bodies carried out increasing research into the topic 'to assess prevalence, effects, and various legal methods of control'.

The study adds: 'The public are equally concerned – the Eurobarometer survey of young people across Europe in spring 2002 found that 79.4 % of respondents agreed that police should test for drugs at the same time as alcohol.'

Under the EU action plan on drugs (2000–2004), the European Commission and Member States are investigating the effects of various psychotropic substances and/or narcotics on performance behind the wheel. This supports a 1991 Council Directive which refers to psychotropic substances affecting fitness to drive.

The issue of drugs and driving is a complicated one, due to the wide range of psychoactive substances that may affect motorists performance, including both illicit

drugs and pharmaceutical medicines. There is no clear consensus at present as to which of these should be included in the legislative framework.

This EMCDDA comparative analysis of road safety laws across the EU reveals a strong consensus among Member States that endangering the safety of other road users by driving under the influence of drugs is serious enough to be a criminal offence. However, the criteria by which countries come to this conclusion, and the level of the penalty available to the authorities, remain remarkably diverse across the EU.

Brendan Hughes

http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/news_media/newsrelease.cfm

Spotlight

Reitox three-way partnership on infectious diseases



The national focal points of Belgium, Greece and Slovenia joined forces at the end of 2002 to develop common activities in the field of drugs (see *Drugnet Europe* No 38).

This 'horizontal cooperation' kicked off in the form of a joint project on drug-related infectious diseases. The aim of the project is to develop three modules to estimate the prevalence and incidence of infectious diseases among drug users. The focal points will achieve this by pooling information and sharing tasks.

While the project does not aim to establish European guidelines for data-collection on infectious diseases, the national focal points have undertaken to review:

- international protocols and instruments used in surveys of HIV and hepatitis infection among drug users;
- biomarkers used to test infectious-disease status from biological samples; and
- ethical aspects linked to biological testing.

Once the three modules are complete, they will form part of a larger protocol to be implemented in national surveys in the three countries.

The project group held its latest meeting on 20 May.

Those wishing to share their experience in the field of surveys of infectious diseases are invited to contact the project leaders listed below:

Belgium (Denise Walckiers) Birn@iph.fgov.be
Greece (Manina Terzidou) ektepn@ektepn.gr
Slovenia (Mercedes Lovrecic) Mercedes.Lovrecic@ivzrs.si

Reitox

Reitox focal points meet in Athens

The latest meeting of the Heads of the Reitox focal points took place from 21–23 May in Athens, hosted by the Greek national focal point. It opened with a warm welcome from Manina Terzidou, Head of the focal point, from Anna Kokkevi, Greek representative on the EMCDDA Management Board, and from Katarina Matza, Greek representative on the EMCDDA Scientific Committee.

The meeting offered focal points the chance to analyse the main elements of the next EMCDDA three-year work programme (2004–2006) and discuss their future involvement in it. The Reitox national reporting working group, set up in November 2002 to analyse the network's data-reporting procedures, presented its conclusions following its final meeting from 19–20 May. This led to a proposal, endorsed by the majority of the network's representatives, for a new Reitox reporting structure, offering increased use of standardised tools for national data reporting.

The EMCDDA presented the results of its 'quality feedback' exercise launched in 1999 to assess the quality of the EU focal points' national reports. On the whole, these were seen to have greatly improved over the last four years.

It was the first time since the birth of the Reitox network in 1995, that a regular meeting of the Heads of the Reitox focal points has been held outside Lisbon. The next focal point meeting will be hosted by the Italian focal point in Cagliari, Sardinia, in November.

Frédéric Denecker

Canada's new cannabis reform bill

Legislative reforms proposed by the Canadian government on 27 May could alter the way the country enforces its 'drug' law, by providing for alternative penalties against the possession of small amounts of cannabis, and tougher new penalties against large marijuana-growing operations.

Under the proposals included in the Bill presented to the House of Commons, cannabis possession and production will remain illegal in Canada under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. What will change is the general approach to enforcement.

The Cannabis Reform Bill proposes to:

- replace the current criminal court process and resulting criminal penalties with alternative penalties for possession of 15 g or less of marijuana or 1 g or less of cannabis resin (hashish);
- provide law-enforcement officers the discretion to give a ticket or issue a summons to appear in criminal court for possession of more than 15 g and up to 30 g of marijuana;
- provide for greater alternative penalties when aggravating factors are present, (e.g. possession while operating a motor vehicle or while near school grounds);
- create new offences such as doubling penalties for illegal growers and subjecting them to up to 14 years in prison for illegal cultivation of more than 50 marijuana plants.

The proposed reforms are part of Canada's Renewed Drug Strategy announced by the government on 27 May and to which it has pledged \$245 million over five years to further its aims.

Daniilo Ballotta

For more, see http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2003/2003_34bk2.htm

Products and services

New publications



Drugs in focus No 9

Coordination in the field of drugs is a 'cornerstone of a balanced and comprehensive drug policy', says the EMCDDA, in its latest policy briefing *Drugs in focus* (May–June).

Entitled 'Coordination: a key element of national and European drug policy', the briefing describes the strong international consensus that has grown in the last 15 years on the need for 'coordinated action to tackle drug abuse and the supply of illegal drugs'.

But despite this consensus, and despite increased cooperation between EU Member States (thanks to new powers conferred by the Maastricht and Amsterdam Treaties), there is still scope for 'improved coordination within and between States', says the briefing, and for 'greater alignment of national drug strategies'.

Georges Estievenart, EMCDDA Executive Director affirms: 'We know that robust coordination systems at local, national and at international level are an essential tool in bringing together the disparate elements of drugs policy — treatment and social interventions and law enforcement. We need to examine our present mechanisms closely, and ask ourselves whether there is room for improvement'.

This briefing is downloadable in 12 languages from <http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/publications/focus.shtml>

A news release is available in English, French and Portuguese at: http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/news_media/newsrelease.cfm

Ministerial conference explores drug routes from Asia to Europe

Continued from page 1

supply and demand reduction and based on the principle of 'shared responsibility'. Despite this commitment, he said, countries were still far from reaching these goals, and there was now a real need to bridge the gaps.

Mr Estievenart explained that the EU currently addresses the drugs issue in a number of geographical spheres or contexts, including: the current 15 Member States; the 10 acceding countries; the three candidate countries; and the traditional producing and transit countries.

He commented that a decisive and qualitative step for the EU to be effective in all these spheres could be taken in the context of the Convention on the Future of Europe and its resulting Constitutional Treaty, which could provide a legal basis for the enlarged Union to act in the drugs field. He said that this would help clarify the shared competences of the EU and its Member States and would define coordination procedures between up to 28 countries (in aspects such as public health, demand reduction, supply and trafficking, and external cooperation with EU partner countries).

The conference conclusions underlined that: 'Each country has a role to play in fighting traffic within and outside its borders', and that 'in this era of global interdependence' the international community must be able to 'mobilise and engage in constructive dialogue between regions with different cultures, religions and preoccupations, with a common goal'.

For more, see conference site at:

<http://www.diplomatie.fr/routesdeladrogue/index.html>

The Paris Statement/conclusions of the conference can be found at:

<http://www.france.diplomatie.fr/routesdeladrogue/textes/declparisang.pdf>

Resources

Useful materials and events on the drugs issue



'Let's talk about drugs'

The UN published three fact sheets to celebrate 26 June, International day against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking (see p. 1). These highlight the importance of talking about drugs in school, in the family and among peers.

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/26june03/school_english.pdf

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/26june03/parents_english.pdf

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/26june03/peers_english.pdf

Also available is a poster and a leaflet entitled *10 questions kids have about drugs*.

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/poster_26june2003.pdf

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/26june03/brochure26june_english.pdf

Some 30 radio spots in seven languages, aimed at encouraging parents, children, teachers and peers to talk about drugs were produced for dissemination to radio networks worldwide.

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/event_2003-06-26_1_radiospots.html

Therapeutic communities

The 22nd Congress of the International Federation of Therapeutic Communities will take place from 13–17 April in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

For subscription details, see contacts below.

Tel: ++ 34 971 72 49 34. Fax: ++ 34 971 71 35 45.
E-mail: WFTC@cicspain.com

Organisations wishing to publicise their newsletters, magazines, websites, CD-ROMs or any other resources or events are invited to contact Kathryn.Robertson@emcdda.eu.int

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Calendar 2003

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

EMCDDA meetings

- 1 July: EMCDDA budgetary committee meeting, Lisbon.
- 2–4 July: EMCDDA Management Board meeting, Lisbon.
- 14–17 July: Reitox Academy Foundation Course on 'National focal points and national drug information network-building', for experts from the South Caucasian Anti-Drug (SCAD) project, in cooperation with DG EuropeAid Co-operation Office, Lisbon.

External meetings

- 27–30 August: 3rd Conference of the European Society of Criminology, Helsinki.

EU meetings

- 10 July: Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.
- 9 September: Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.



Photo: PhotoBanco

One of the highlights of the July Management Board meeting will be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Statutory bodies

EMCDDA Scientific Committee

The EMCDDA Scientific Committee met in Lisbon on 12 May and gave its preliminary feedback on the agency's draft three-year work programme (2004–2006). The basic principles and objectives of the programme were positively received, with the Committee welcoming, in particular, intentions to strengthen the agency's scientific capacity.

The Committee also warmly welcomed the revision and re-conceptualisation of data-reporting guidelines for the national focal points, following deliberations in the Reitox working group on this topic (see p. 6). Furthermore, the Committee emphasised the importance of the Centre publishing in scientific journals, for which the EMCDDA proposed a common-practice approach.

Discussions held in four sub-committees, organised around each EMCDDA operational programme, proved to be of great value and focused on: current activities of each programme; the preliminary three-year programme; the new Reitox reporting guidelines; and other programme-specific topics.

The Scientific Committee reaffirmed the importance of reinforcing scientific capacities for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs, stressing that precaution should prevail when limited data on the risks of new substances are available.

The 20th meeting of the Scientific Committee will take place from 24–25 November 2003 in Lisbon.

Monika Blum and Roumen Sedefov

EMCDDA Management Board

The next EMCDDA Management Board meeting will take place in Lisbon from 2–4 July under the chairmanship of Marcel Reimen (Luxembourg). For the first time, the 10 acceding countries to the EU will participate as observers (see also p. 5).

The highlights of the July meeting will be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board (mandate 2004–2006); discussions on the draft three-year work programme (2004–2006); and other topical issues such as the: five key indicators; new Reitox reporting structure; role of the Scientific Committee; EMCDDA database; and cooperation with the European trans-national network on drugs.

Kathleen Hernalsteen