

European Update

EMCDDA

The latest edition of Drugnet Europe No. 55 has been published by the EMCDDA. It contains interesting items regarding drug related infectious diseases; a spotlight on a new German national standard for monitoring treatment; new guidelines for an early warning network and a report on hallucinogenic mushrooms. www.emcdda.eu.int.

EMCDDA

The EMCDDA Thematic papers are scientific papers on selected, theme-based aspects of the drugs phenomenon. Designed for online dissemination via the Internet, the series includes a case study on hallucinogenic mushrooms, youth media and illicit drug use in the EU and they are available only in pdf format. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm>

Ireland

Ireland's first national longitudinal study on drug misuse treatment is showing that significant reductions in drug use and involvement in crime by participants were achieved after one year of treatment.

The research was commissioned by the NACD in fulfilment of Action 99 of the National Drugs Strategy and was carried out by the National University of Ireland. http://www.ndc.hrb.ie/directory/news_detail.php?cat_id=&news_id=3148&pointer=0

Ireland

The Research Outcome Study in Ireland Evaluating drug treatment effectiveness (ROSIE) is the first national, prospective, longitudinal, multi-site drug treatment outcome study in the country. The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) commissioned this study in 2002 as required by the National Drug Strategy Action 99. The aim of the Study is to recruit and follow opiates users entering treatment over a period of time documenting the changes observed.

http://www.nacd.ie/publications/treatment_rosie.html

United Kingdom

Drug Misuse Findings from the 2005/6 British Crime Survey

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1506.pdf>

TACIS UPDATE

Southern Caucasus Update

Phase 4 of the SCAD programme concluded on 30th

September 2006. The next phase is currently subject to consideration following an assessment of the programme to date.

Southern Caucasus Region, Belarus/Ukraine and Moldova Region, and Central Asia Region

Country situation summaries have been developed under the European Commission's TACIS programme. The main purpose of the summaries is to provide policy-makers, researchers, journalists and the general public with a brief synopsis of up-to-date data, trends and core characteristics of the state of the national drug problem and responses to it.

<http://profiles.emcdda.europa.eu>

Armenia

The 2005 Annual Drug Report for Armenia has recently been published and is now available online via:

<http://www.drugnfp.am>

WORLD UPDATE

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has published the new List of Prohibited Substances and Methods, which comes into effect on 1 January 2007. The new List contains very few changes to the one currently in use. It is developed through a consultative year-long process.

http://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/2007_prohibited_list_published_by_wada/

Australia

Australian drug trends 2005: findings from the illicit drug reporting system (IDRS)

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) is Australia's federally funded national drug monitoring system. The purpose of the IDRS is to provide a standardised, comparable approach to the monitoring of data relating to the use of opiates, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis. The IDRS is intended to act as a strategic early warning system, identifying emerging drug problems of national concern. It is not intended to describe phenomena in detail, but rather, is designed to indicate the need for more detailed data collection by providing sensitive and timely data on emerging trends in illicit drug markets. Report available in pdf format from:

<http://www.apo.org.au/>

World Update

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The 2006 Afghanistan Annual Opium Poppy Survey has recently been published. This year, opium cultivation rose to 156,000 hectares, a 59% increase over 2005. An unprecedented 6,100 tons of opium have been harvested, making Afghanistan virtually the sole supplier to the world. The summary is available at: <http://www.unodc.org/pdf/execsummaryafg.pdf>

Kenya

Until recently a backwater producer of marijuana and hashish, Kenya has become a cocaine distribution hub, according to the U.S., the UN and British diplomats. Traffickers from South America are taking advantage of Nairobi's extensive air links to Europe and Asia, and spending piles of cash to minimize government interference, they say.

"International drug trafficking rings have made inroads in Kenya and may benefit from a climate of official corruption, which allows them to operate with near impunity," says the State Department's 2006 drug control strategy report.

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2006/>

Colombia/USA

Two brothers who led Colombia's infamous Cali drug cartel have each been sentenced to 30 years in US jails. Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela pleaded guilty in a federal court in Miami to conspiring to import 200,000kg (441,000lb) of cocaine into the US.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/5383164.stm>

India

Police in the Indian capital, Delhi, say they have made one of the largest drugs hauls in the city's history. More than 4,000kg of the drug methaqualone, commonly known as mandrax, were seized in a raid on a warehouse in the south of the city. Police say the drugs are worth \$42m on the international market.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/5292816.stm

New Zealand

Hepatitis C is the new global epidemic liver disease, affecting 200 million people. It is the cause for half of the 10,000 adult liver transplants performed every year and 30% of deaths from liver cancer. An estimated 40,000 New Zealanders have a life-long hepatitis C infection, with an additional 25 infected every week.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/GE0609/S00099.htm>

Australia

Bus, truck and taxi drivers are among the biggest users in the workforce of amphetamines, including "ice", a party drug known to cause psychotic episodes. More than a third of amphetamine users report turning up to work under their influence in the past three months. Use of the drug is prevalent in the hospitality, transport, agriculture and construction industries.

The findings come from the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction at Adelaide's Flinders University.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/workers-hooked-on-party-drug/2006/09/27/1159337221235.html>

Australia

The *Estimates and Projections of the Hepatitis C Virus Epidemic in Australia (2006)* produced by the Hepatitis C Projections Working Group is now available online. <http://www.hepcawareness.net.au/estimates.htm>

USA

A structured approach for treating adults who abuse or are dependent on methamphetamine or cocaine is available in a new publication 'Matrix Intensive Outpatient Treatment for People with Stimulant Use Disorder. The Matrix IOP Model is a comprehensive package that provides substance abuse treatment professionals with a year long intensive outpatient model for clients and their families. Available free of charge at: <http://www.ncadi.samhsa.gov>

USA

The county attorney in El Paso, Texas, is seeking a prison term for a 16-year-old girl caught smuggling cocaine into the U.S. from Mexico. County Attorney Jose Rodriguez asked for and received grand-jury clearance for the girl, whose name was withheld, to be prosecuted under Texas' Determinate Sentencing Statute, which allows minors to be punished beyond their 21st birthday and would expose the girl to up to 40 years in juvenile detention. The girl was caught allegedly trying to smuggle about 50 pounds of cocaine into the U.S.

Australia

A new way of breaking the cycle of drug-related crime is to be trailed in Tasmania. The Court Mandated Diversion Program will start next year and run for 18 months.

Magistrates will be able to send people who have committed crimes to support their drug or alcohol habit for detoxification and counselling. If the offender does not attend, the alternative is jail.

Drug Webwatch

Publications

Substance Use Among Young People in Urban Environments

This book is an outcome of the WHO project on "Urbanization, Substance Abuse and Young People", which was initiated in 1999 with the main goal of increasing knowledge on the role of urbanization in the use of psychoactive substances by youth. The book analyses the influence of urbanization on substance use in twelve countries, most of which non-western (South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, India, Indonesia and Thailand), and also suggests intervention strategies to reduce the impact on health and society caused by this phenomenon. The analysis reveals that adolescents who become involved in substance use have been raised in family and community situations which have put them at risk for substance use disorders and other dangerous behaviours and experiences.
http://www.unicri.it/wvk/documentation/lmsdb_abstracts.php?id_=17593

A history of drug prohibition and a prediction for its abolition and replacement

This timeline contains a selection of events that were felt to be of significance in the history of prohibition and the campaign for drug law reform. It is not intended to be a historically comprehensive document, but to give a sense of narrative and progress; to shed some light on why we are where we are with regard to the drug laws, and more importantly, how we can use this experience to move forward.

The final section 2007-2026 looks into the future and contains Transform's predictions for how absolute prohibition will be replaced by regulated drug markets over the coming years.

http://www.tdpf.org.uk/Policy_Timeline.htm

Buprenorphine - Critical Questions Examined

Available in both English and German and examines opioid dependence, substitution treatment and buprenorphine. Also included are sections on clinical issues, non-clinical issues and consumer perspective.

<http://www.q4q.nl/methwork/BPN/bpn.htm>

Also highlighted in this edition is a web site for **European Foundation of Drug Helplines** a network of over 50 European drug helpline services who aim to promote co-operation between drug helplines.

<http://www.fesat.org/>

See the links page of DrugWorld for additions to the International Organisations section plus a new drug related section linking you to sites on specific substances. <http://www.drugworld.co.uk/links.html>



Future Issues

I would like to express thanks to those persons around the world who have contributed to this issue in particular to Jim Young at Substance Misuse. Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to paul@paul-cook.net

If you feel the information in this newsletter is of interest to members of your national drug information network then please feel free to translate and circulate copies to them.

Paul Cook



www.drugworld.co.uk