

European Update

EMCDDA

How effective is the EMCDDA?, 'Is it achieving its tasks and goals?', 'What benefits is it providing for the EU and its Member States?' and 'Are its activities coherent with those launched by the EU institutions in the drugs field?'. These were among the questions addressed in an independent evaluation of the agency, undertaken at the initiative of the European Commission in 2007. The results of the year-long exercise, carried out by the UK-based Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services (CSES), have been presented to the EMCDDA Management Board. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/evaluation>

EMCDDA

DrugNet Europe 61. EMCDDA newsletter. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.Content&nNodeId=411&sLanguageISO=EN>

Europe

Drugs Flowing to Europe Via West Africa. A drug trafficking problem that is rapidly spreading from Nigeria to the west coast of Africa, leading to a new surge of drugs flowing into Europe.

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hMrt6wDjGhyOlbHDWkepLNcc7s8QD8UJK8100>

Finland

In Finland cannabis has been used for medicinal purposes only in isolated cases, partly because of complicated legal issues and the sensitivity of the subject.

Just over a year ago the National Agency for Medicines granted its first special permission for medical cannabis for a man suffering from chronic pain stemming from a back injury. The special permission, which was initially granted for one year, has now been extended for another year. <http://www.yle.fi/news/left/id77759.html>

Ireland and Northern Ireland

Drug Use - First results from the 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey. Key findings and comparison with previous surveys.

http://www.nacd.ie/publications/Survey_Final_25thJan.pdf

Ireland

A Process Evaluation of the National Drug Awareness Campaign 2003 – 2005. This report represents the completion of a project to track the development and delivery

process of the National Drugs Awareness Campaign. <http://www.nacd.ie/publications/NACDEvaluation.pdf>

Norway

Oslo City Council was authorized to pilot a supervised injecting centre in February, 2005. A specific group of injectors was singled out as the target group, "heavy heroin users aged 18 and over". The objectives were:

- to assess the effect of impunity for possession and use of drugs in a certain area defined elsewhere;
- to help heavy drug users build a sense of self-esteem (dignity);
- to facilitate contact between the social and health services and drug users;
- to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; and
- reduce overdose rates and overdose fatalities

Evaluation at:

<http://www.sirus.no/internett/narkotika/publication/397.html>

Sweden

Summary of objectives and measures in the Swedish action plan on narcotic drugs for 2006-2010.

<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/574/a/98853>

United Kingdom

The ten-year drug strategy (2008-2018) aims to restrict the supply of illegal drugs and reduce the demand for them. It focuses on protecting families and strengthening communities.

The four strands of work within the strategy are:

1. protecting communities through tackling drug supply, drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour
2. preventing harm to children, young people and families affected by drug misuse
3. delivering new approaches to drug treatment and social re-integration
4. public information campaigns, communications and community engagement

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-strategy/overview/>

United Kingdom

UK Sport has today announced details of a high-calibre Project Board which will play a key role in the development of a stand-alone National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) in the UK.

http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/news/uk_sport_announces_high_level_board_to_help_develop_new_anti_doping_agency/

World Update

UNODC strategy for 2008-2011

A new medium-term strategy (2008-2011) that is designed to chart the organization's response to the rising challenges of drugs, crime and terrorism. The strategy will position the organization in the context of a changing world, where combating "problems without borders" is a priority for the international community.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/unodc-strategy.html>

Afghanistan

The Afghan ministry set up to tackle the drugs trade is facing a staffing crisis after Britain, on the instructions of the Kabul government, withdrew funding for salaries. The best-educated workers at the fledgling ministry of counter-narcotics, which is intended to play a key role in reducing the country's poppy crop, have been looking for other jobs after pay for senior staff dropped from \$1,500 to \$200 a month. http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/05fea266-e345-11dc-803f-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1

Australia

DrugInfo newsletter volume 6 number 1, describes some of the issues facing rural and remote communities around Victoria in relation to alcohol-related harms and explores the ways in which these communities have responded. http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/newsletter.asp?ContainerID=prev_harm_alcohol_rural_remote

Australia

Supporting the families of young people with problematic drug use. A report investigates the support needs of families who have, as a family member, a young person who is misusing substances.

http://www.ancd.org.au/publications/pdf/rp15_supporting_families.pdf

Canada

A scientific research project has been conducted, with the goal of assessing whether an injection site will reduce the harm associated with injection drug use to individuals and the community. Over the course of the initial three year study period, researchers examined a Vancouver based centre's impact on overdoses, the health of injection drug users, their appropriate use of health and social services, and the health, social, legal and incarceration costs associated with injection drug use. Research results: <http://www.vch.ca/sis/research.htm>

China

Border police in south China's Guangdong province said that their largest case in 2007 involved the seizure of 238 kg of drugs and arrest of five suspected drug traffickers. The drugs included ketamine, cocaine, heroin, ice, marijuana, methamphetamine and ecstasy.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/6360443.html>

Costa Rica

A total of 21,233 people were arrested for involvement in drug trafficking in 2007, according to a report by the drug control authorities in the country. An average of 63 people were arrested daily from Jan. 1 to Dec.5 in 2007.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/6331039.html>

Jamaica

Jamaica is considering the legalization of marijuana, a drug revered by members of the island's large Rastafarian population.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/03/01/international/i095155S86.DTL&hw=drugs&sn=004&sc=386>

New Zealand

New booze buses can also catch drugged drivers. Police say they will now be able to test drivers for drugs as well as alcohol with two state-of-the-art "booze buses". The new vehicles cost about \$236,000 each.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/4420754a11.html>

South Africa

FAVOR - latest newsletter. <http://www.favor.org.za/>

Thailand

Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej promised on Friday to launch another war on drugs despite protests from human rights groups which denounced the deaths of at least 2,500 people in an earlier campaign.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSBKK14639420080222?rpc=401&>

Russia

Russia's neglected drug crisis. Heroin has replaced vodka as the recreational killer of choice ... nor is the government doing enough to tackle drug addiction. <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/foreign/adrianblomfield/november07/russias-drug-crisis.htm>

USA

2008 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report Volume I: Drug and Chemical Control

The International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) is an annual report by the Department of State to Congress prepared in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act. It describes the efforts of key countries to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in Calendar Year 2007. <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2008/vol1/>

USA

National Drug Control Policy - Annual Report 2008.

By addressing the epidemiology of drug use and the economics of drug markets, the National Drug Control Strategy has produced measurable results for the American people.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/03/national_drug_control_strategy_2008.pdf

Drug Webwatch

SAMHSA Accepting Grant Applications for Expanding the Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity of "Treatment Drug Courts" Across the USA.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is accepting applications to expand and/or enhance substance abuse treatment services to "problem-solving" courts that use the treatment drug court model in order to provide alcohol and drug treatment, recovery support services supporting substance abuse treatment, screening, assessment, case management, and program coordination to defendants/offenders.

More than 1800 drug courts have been established throughout the nation and are designed to deal more effectively with the substance abuse problems of those in the criminal justice system and provide them with opportunities to fully recover from their disorders and become productive members of the community. These programs are also geared toward lessening the tremendous burden substance abuse-related problems place on the traditional court case process.

It is expected that \$5.4 million will be available to fund up to 18 grants. The average annual award amount is expected to be up to \$300,000 per year for up to three years. <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0802052230.aspx>

1st global conference on methamphetamine:

To be held in Prague, Czech Republic on 15th and 16th September 2008. It will feature a range of plenary presentations, symposium sessions, panel discussions and social events. Topics include: Pharmacology / Research / Trafficking / Treatment / Policy / Mental Health / Global Markets / HIV / Hepatitis / Community Education / Women / Production / Epidemiology / Law Enforcement / Demand Reduction / Harm Reduction / Public Health / MSM / Sexual Risk / Environmental Issues / Commerce / Rapid Assessment / Youth / Replacement Therapy / Injection Drug Use / Prescribed Usage / Eastern Europe / Central Asia / Asia / Caribbean / Latin America / Oceania / North America / Western & Central Europe / Sub-Saharan Africa.

For full details of the conference, registration and the submission of abstracts see:

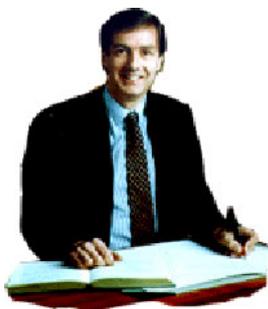
<http://www.globalmethconference.com/>

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



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<http://www.drugworld.co.uk/recommend>



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