

## European Update

### European Commission

Eurobarometer Report. Young people and drugs among 15-24 year olds . Analytical report May 2008. 102-page PDF.

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/flash/fl\\_233\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_233_en.pdf)

### EMCDDA

Country overviews provide a structured synopsis of the trends and characteristics of national drug problems. They consist of a summary of the national drug situation, key statistics at a glance and a barometer showing the drug use prevalence position of each country.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews>

### EMCDDA

The EMCDDA have a new survey of young people's attitudes to drugs: Between 80% and 94% of those surveyed thought heroin, cocaine and ecstasy posed a 'high risk', compared with around 40% for cannabis. 43% felt that cannabis use represented a 'medium health risk', similar to the perceived risk of smoking tobacco.

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/flash/fl\\_233\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_233_en.pdf)

### EMCDDA

DrugNet Europe No.63 the EMCDDA newsletter.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/online/63>

### EMCDDA

Towards a better understanding of drug-related public expenditure in Europe . A confirmed political will to address the drugs problem in Europe lies not only in the development of appropriate policies, but in the amount of public funds assigned to implement such policies.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/selected-issues/public-expenditure>

### Germany

Frankfurt has long been struggling to contain its drug scene. New statistics suggest it's losing the battle, but the city's progressive policies towards fighting addiction actually serve as a model for other cities. <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,3474775,00.html>

### Hungary

Overdose Epidemic in Hungary. The police reported 9 lethal heroin overdose cases within a single week in mid August. <http://www.drogriporter.hu/en/node/1063>

### Ireland

Police urge vigilance after a large seizure in Dublin. The public are asked to be more vigilant about the prevalence of cannabis factories usually in rented properties.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08/n733/a06.html>

### Ireland

Illegal drug use - Urgent wake-up call needed. John Curran, the minister in charge of the National Drug Strategy admits that the approach has failed in its objective so far. <http://www.drugs.ie/news/673/>

### Turkey

An armed attack in front of the American Consulate in Istanbul took place at a time when high-level U.S. drug enforcement agents were in town to attend the 26th International Drug Enforcement Conference, bringing together top law enforcement officials from 91 countries. The news of the attack, which left three Turkish police officers dead, sent shock waves through the U.S. agents who organized the conference with the Directorate of the Turkish Police.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08.n674.a05.html>

### United Kingdom

Tackling Drug Markets and Distribution Networks in the UK. A review of the recent literature. Summary - Full report 90-page PDF [UKDPC]

<http://www.ukdpc.org.uk/Publications.shtml>

### United Kingdom

Statistics on drug misuse: England, 2008. This annual statistical report presents information on drug misuse among both adults and children.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/drugmisuse08>

### United Kingdom

People who take drugs to enhance their physical appearance, including those who aspire to take part in the 2012 London Olympics, are being warned against using anabolic steroids as the government has announced its intention to add a further 24 anabolic steroids and 2 growth promoters to the list of those already classed as Class C drugs. <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-events/latest-news/action-against-steroids>

### United Kingdom

UK Sport has this week issued a new position statement to athletes on the use of supplements which stresses the principle of 'strict liability' whilst recognising a 'positive step' in helping athletes assess the risk when making decisions around taking supplements. <http://www.c-f-1.com/d.aspx?e=MTA5Nzg5OTk3Mg==&c=1&linkID=793043>

## World Update

### UNODC

UNODC's Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008 shows a 19% decrease in opium cultivation to 157,000 hectares, compared to the harvest of 193,000 in 2007 <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/opium-cultivation-in-afghanistan-down-by-a-fifth.html>

### UNODC

Drug Abuse Prevention Team at Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit at the Headquarters of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, is constantly looking for interns in the area of psychology, social work, public health, and education to work on issues related to drug abuse prevention among young people. [http://www.unodc.org/youthnet/youthnet\\_whats\\_on.html](http://www.unodc.org/youthnet/youthnet_whats_on.html)

### Afghanistan

The Afghan and U.S. governments have broken ground on an agricultural centre and airport in the volatile southern province of Helmand, aimed at helping farmers grow food crops instead of opium poppies. <http://www.eariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/71CEB02D76E7EED98725749C003BB465?OpenDocument>

### Australia

At the culmination of five weeks of drug law enforcement operations, the Australian Federal Police yesterday boasted that 14.6 tonnes of drugs worth \$3 billion had been kept off the streets.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/demand-for-party-drugs-strong-as-ever/2008/08/15/1218307227866.html>

### Cambodia

According to an annual narcotics report released by the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD), use of "ice" is on the rise even though illicit drug use in Cambodia is stabilising, and drug related arrests in 2007 were over 50 percent down on what they were in 2006.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=79917>

### Central Asia

Drug trafficking and its negative effects of skyrocketing drug abuse and associated HIV among injecting drug users occupy most of the time and resources of the UNODC Regional Office in Central Asia.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/observing-border-control-in-tajikistan.html>

### Colombia

Cocaine War Pushes on Unabated in Rural Colombia. Although guerrilla activity has largely disappeared from Colombia's biggest cities, violence fueled by the cocaine trade continues in the nation's rural areas and appears immune to U.S.-financed moves to block it. <http://members.jointogether.org/ct/g72QYYM1TYgS/>

### Mexico

Drug backlash. The problem is not just along the border, experts say. In the Mexico City area, cocaine and crack

are beginning to displace marijuana and inhalants.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08.n733.a07.html>

### Middle East and North Africa

International Harm Reduction Association in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) regional harm reduction network for the Middle East and North Africa, called 'MENAHRRA' reviews its last 12 month activities.

<http://www.ihra.net/News#NetworkUpdatefromtheMiddleEastandNorthAfrica>

### New Zealand

A potent hallucinogenic drug, banned in Australia and being progressively outlawed in the United States, will remain legal in New Zealand. Salvia divinorum, a herb from the sage family, bought in powder form and often chewed or smoked through a water pipe, has similar hallucinogenic qualities to magic mushrooms and LSD.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/4638686a6479.html>

### South East Asia

The report, Withdrawal Symptoms: changes in the South-east Asian Drugs Market, draws on hundreds of interviews with farmers, users and traders. It finds that harm reduction and alternative livelihood policies must be in place before any opium reduction if negative health and development impacts are to be avoided.

<http://www.tni.org/reports/drugs/debate16.pdf>

### USA

2008 Marijuana Sourcebook contains important data on marijuana in the United States including the latest use patterns and trends, health effects, criminal justice aspects, supply sources, and information regarding so-called "medical marijuana."

[http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/news/press08/Marijuana\\_2008.pdf](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/news/press08/Marijuana_2008.pdf)

### United Arab Emirates

Police in the United Arab Emirates seize 202 kg of heroin and arrest 19 Afghan suspects in what is the biggest-ever heroin seizure in the Arab world.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/record-heroin-seizure-in-the-gulf-.html>

### Vietnam

Agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) are in Vietnam this month to train Vietnamese anti-drug officers on how to conduct American-style drug raids. Despite escalating rates of drug use within Vietnam in recent decades, the main thrust of the new initiative is to crack-down on the use of the country as a transit point in the international drug trade.

[http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/546/DEA\\_trains\\_vietnamese\\_for\\_drug\\_war\\_american\\_style](http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/546/DEA_trains_vietnamese_for_drug_war_american_style)

## Drug Webwatch

### New sexual health website for young people

Safer Sex ( <http://www.safersex.com.au>) is a collaboration between the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) and the Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS). Through the website and using Short Messaging Services (SMS) or text messaging, Safer Sex aims to empower young people to attain and maintain the highest possible standard of sexual health.

Safer Sex offers young people:

- Information about contraception, sexually transmitted infections and sexual health.
- An anonymous and professional Q&A service that provides clear, unbiased, non-judgemental answers to any questions they may have about sexual health. The answers are provided by a panel of health professionals.
- A safe space to share their stories and experiences.
- A searchable database of Australian youth-friendly health services and organisations.
- The ability to sign-up for free sexual health SMSs.

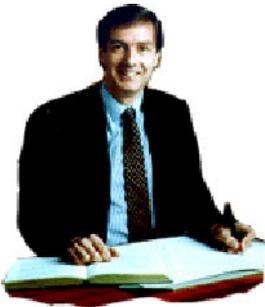
### News items

The news page *DrugWorld* is updated on a regular basis with items from all around the world. You can access it at [www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php](http://www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php) Add it to your Favourites or Bookmarks for ease of access.

### 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](mailto: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.



Send this newsletter to a colleague - click below  
<http://www.drugworld.co.uk/recommend>



[www.drugworld.co.uk](http://www.drugworld.co.uk)