

European Update

EMCDDA

The Reitox network coordinated by EMCDDA has announced the launch of a discussion forum. The purpose of the discussion board is to provide a platform to exchange information, discuss issues and exchange ideas on drug related issues and especially on key epidemiological indicators. <http://www.reitoxforum.eu/forum>.

Finland

A gang of about 30 drug dealers has been apprehended by Estonian and Finnish police. The Finnish police have established the smuggling of 270 kilograms of hashish, 106 kilograms of amphetamine, 6,000 Subutex pills and 400 grams of cocaine to Finland and the turnover of the drug business amounted to nearly 6.1 million euros. <http://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/22282/>

Germany

Germany is the fourth nation to ban the substance "Spice", marketed as an herbal room-freshener, after Austria, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/21/AR2009012100543.html?sub=AR>

Hungary

The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU) is now accepting entries to the "Unintended Consequences - Global Drug War Poster & Video Contest" as part of a campaign to raise awareness on the 10 years review of global drug control efforts.

<http://www.drogriporter.hu/en/node/1164>

Iceland

Data from the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs have shown that adolescent substance use is a growing problem in western and particularly Eastern European countries. This paper describes the development, implementation and results of the Icelandic Model of Adolescent Substance Use Prevention.

<http://heapro.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/24/1/16>

Ireland

Over 150 activists and community reps to agree a campaign of action to highlight the damage that is being done by the dismantling of the partnership process in the National Drugs Strategy.

<http://www.citywide.ie/news/2009/01/12/national-meeting-endorses-campaign-strategy/>

Ireland

Alcohol and drug abuse in the family was the primary reason why children were being monitored by social workers under child protection guidelines, according to the

most recent Government report on childcare services.

<http://www.drugs.ie/news/829/>

The Netherlands

Minister Koenders' speech to the Donor Conference on Harm Reduction. Harm reduction encompasses policy, strategies and programmes designed to reduce the health risks posed by drug use. After all a world entirely free of drugs is a utopia.

<http://www.minbuza.nl/nl/actueel/speeches,2009/01/Speech-Koenders-Hamr-Reduction.html>

Portugal

A ground-breaking law enforcement unit with members from seven European countries, led by a Briton, has coordinated the seizure of almost 40 tonnes of cocaine in the first 18 months of its existence. Among the 70 operations coordinated by the Portuguese-based unit was the seizure of 1.5 tonnes of cocaine on a yacht off the south-west coast of Ireland.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/feb/09/drugs-patrol-cocaine-seizure>

Russia

Counternarcotics and Law Enforcement Program: Russia <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/fs/113061.htm>

Russia

Russian athletics is embroiled in a drugs scandal after three national biathletes tested positive for the banned blood-booster, EPO.

<http://www.russiatoday.com/sports/news/36893>

United Kingdom

UK Sport has welcomed the publication of Tanni Grey-Thompson's anti-doping review. The review, commissioned by UK Athletics has made 22 recommendations covering all aspects of anti-doping policies and education within the sport. http://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/grey-thompson_review_welcomed_by_uk_sport/

United Kingdom

Cannabis is now a Class B drug. Concerns about effects of 'skunk' and the mental health of users lead to the change. Police can now take legal action against anyone caught in possession of cannabis, as it has been reclassified from Class C to Class B.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/cannabis-class-b>

United Kingdom

Association of Chief Police Officers Guidance on possession of cannabis for personal use.

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/ACPO_Cannabis_Guidance_-_28_Jan_09.doc

World Update

UNODC

UNODC has just published the second volume of "De Narcoticis"; a series of photojournalism books depicting the lives of real people involved in - or touched by - the trade in illicit drugs.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/drug-trafficking-in-the-golden-triangle.html>

UNODC

UNODC has launched the *Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme*, which aims to reduce the world's information deficit about amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic drugs. It will help countries improve their capacity to gather, analyse and share information on ATS products, their use and trafficking routes. For information on SMART see:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/SMART_A5_4p_WEB.pdf

UNODC

100 years of drug control chronicled in graphic format.

http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr/WDR_2008/timeline_E_PRINT.pdf

UNGASS

'International Support for Harm Reduction'. An overview of multi-lateral endorsement of harm reduction policy and practice. A useful overview of UN endorsement of harm reduction measures; the legality of harm reduction services under the Drug Conventions.

<http://www.ungassdrugs.org/images/stories/HRinternational-support.pdf>

Afghanistan

President Karzai blames allies over civilian deaths and drugs. Addressing parliament, Karzai called for a re-think in the international strategy aimed at rooting out extremists and cracking down on drug farming in Afghanistan.

<http://www.e-ariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/78FBA908EE73E7F08725754400557DF3?OpenDocument>

Afghanistan

Opium Winter Assessment. 48-page PDF [UNODC]

http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/ORA_report_2009.pdf

Palestine - Gaza

Some doctors and pharmacists in Gaza believe drug abuse has increased dramatically in the enclave since June 2007 when Hamas took over. Tramadol, an addictive opiate painkiller is one of the most popular drugs. Some supplies of the drug are smuggled into Gaza from Egypt through tunnels.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=82407>

Philippines

President Gloria Arroyo appointed herself as the "czar" that would lead the government's fight against illegal drugs to show her administration's seriousness to eradicate the drug menace.

cate the drug menace.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v09.n048.a09.html>

South East Asia

Poppy cultivation in southeast Asia has shown signs of increasing amid fears that the region's worsening economic crisis will fuel an even greater spurt in growth, the UN has warned.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=82711>

South Asia and China

The main raw material for ecstasy, safrole, is extracted from various plants and trees in the form of safrole-rich oils—also known as sassafras oil. See rep:

http://www.ungassdrugs.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=239&Itemid=65

Thailand

The Royal Thai Government announced a new six-month drug control strategy. The strategy focused on reducing the number of traffickers, drug users and vulnerable people, as well as on increasing drug control efforts. It also sought to increase the role of civil society in response to drugs. The strategy was to be supported by an action plan that was never produced. Pascal Tanguay presents an overview of recent developments and opportunities in harm reduction in Thailand.

<http://www.ihrablog.net/2008/12/following-paper-trail-by-pascal-tanguay.html>

USA

The U.S. government and experts from academia are looking for new ways to treat the growing number of American troops with addiction problems and post-traumatic stress disorders. Substance-abuse disorders are much more prevalent among individuals that have been exposed to war environments the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2009/new-treatment-methods-for.html>

USA

The U.S. government and experts from academia are looking for new ways to treat the growing number of American troops with addiction problems and post-traumatic stress disorders.

<http://members.jointogether.org/ct/Ad2QYYM1HSnQ/>

USA

National Drug Control Strategy. Annual Report 2009. Chapters on stopping initiation; reducing drug abuse and addiction; and disrupting the market for illegal drugs.

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/policy/ndcs09/2009ndcs.pdf>

USA

Edward H. Jurith, the longtime lead lawyer for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), has been named the interim director of the agency by President Barack Obama.

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/>

Drug Webwatch

This edition of DrugWorld features the web site of the European Foundation of Drug Helplines (FESAT).

It is a network which currently joins together about 50 European drug helpline services

It has a charter setting out the ethical principles to which all members of the Foundation adhere

It has representatives from the Member States of the European Union on its Board

It aims to improve the quality of the information, help and prevention service offered to the public on drug questions. <http://www.fesat.org/>

Publication

Withdrawal Symptoms in the Golden Triangle: A Drugs Market in Disarray

Tom Kramer, Martin Jelsma, Tom Blickman

This new 96-page glossy report is the result of pioneering research undertaken by local researchers in China, Burma, Thailand and Laos. It highlights how the fall in opium production has led users to shift to injecting heroin and methamphetamine, contributing to the HIV epidemic in the region. The report calls attention to the urgent need to harmonise drug and HIV policies, for long term harm reduction and health care programmes, and for legislation and sanctions that support rather than hamper efforts to contain the problem. Download report:

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

Seminar

DrugScope are holding a series of five one-day regional workshops for those who work with young people around drugs and alcohol. Using DrugScope's recently published 'Essential guide to working with young people about drugs and alcohol' as a resource, each workshop will have a particular theme with presentations on key issues from invited speakers, group discussions and an opportunity to showcase local practice. The themes are: Alcohol and young people; working with families; effective interventions and complex needs; mental health and sexual health, and criminal justice. See: <http://www.drugscope.org.uk/ourwork/educationandprevention/young-people-workshops.htm>

Seminar

The DrugInfo Clearinghouse will be hosting a free interactive seminar and forum that will explore some of the issues raised in the latest DrugInfo Issues Paper "Prevention of pharmaceutical drug misuse". On Wednesday 25 February 2009 at Angliss Conference Centre, William Angliss Institute of TAFE, Melbourne. Places are strictly limited, so you are advised to book early. Bookings close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 17 February 2009. For more information:

druginfo@adf.org.au

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 found this newsletter useful then click on the link below and recommend DrugWorld to a friend or colleague.

Paul Cook



Send this newsletter to a colleague - click below

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



www.drugworld.co.uk