

European Update

EMCDDA

Standards and guidelines for practices

The publication contains a listing of national drug treatment guidelines in Europe. The title, the methodological basis and the types of treatment covered by each guideline are provided, along with a download link where available. The guidelines were collected in three phases in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice/standards/treatment>

EMCDDA

Cocaine: a European Union perspective in the global context. This report provides an overview of what is known about how cocaine is produced and trafficked into the European Union.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/cocaine>

EMCDDA

A record number of new drugs was officially reported in 2009 to the **EMCDDA** and **Europol** via the EU early-warning system (EWS) on new psychoactive substances. This is according to the **EMCDDA–Europol 2009 annual report** on the implementation of the three-step legal instrument through which Europe monitors and acts on new substances.

According to the report, 24 new psychoactive substances were officially notified for the first time to the two agencies in 2009. This represents the largest number of substances ever reported in a single year and almost double the number notified in 2008 (13). All of the new compounds were synthetic, including two substances with medicinal properties. A full list of the substances notified is annexed to the report.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index33227EN.html>

France

Internet-inspired drinks parties spread panic among authorities. French authorities are perplexed about how to respond to a wave of internet-inspired outdoor drinks parties which have begun drawing tens of thousands of young people to city centres across the country.

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/internet-inspired-drinks-parties-spread-panic-among-authorities-1.1028080>

Ireland

Children as young as eight years are starting to use drugs as experts warn of a dangerous trend of younger addicts showing signs of increasingly more violent behaviour.

<http://www.examiner.ie/home/eight-year-olds-starting-to-use-heroin-120011.html>

Italy

Police in Italy say they have broken up a drug ring that used a convent outside Milan to smuggle cocaine. They said the convent's South American caretaker organised religious trips in which smugglers posing as pilgrims hid cocaine in their prayer books. They have arrested 33 suspects and seized 30kg (66lb) of cocaine. They say the mafia and Colombian cartels were behind the operation.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8679172.stm>

Russia

Russia's war on drugs: tackling heroin problem means going back to Afghanistan. This Russian position is also the root of a point of tension with the United States, which considers poppy eradication harmful to the military operation in Afghanistan.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/russianow/society/7646607/Russias-war-on-drugs-tackling-heroin-problem-means-going-back-to-Afghanistan.html>

United Kingdom

Valium prescriptions soar during recession. The number of people taking tranquillisers has soared during the recession, new figures disclose. Prescriptions of Valium, the highly addictive pill for stress and anxiety disorders, have risen by more than 11 per cent in three years. Senior doctors expressed alarm that the drug diazepam, commonly known as Valium, is now being dispensed almost 5 million times a year in England.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/7662900/Valium-prescriptions-soar-during-recession.html>

United Kingdom

How Liverpool docks became a hub of Europe's deadly cocaine trade. A new generation of ruthless gangsters is emerging in the city at the heart of Britain's cocaine trade, and they are talking to the merciless Latin American paymasters of the global business.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/may/16/liverpool-cocaine-mexico-cartels>

United Kingdom

Liverpool drugs baron Curtis Warren is to take his fight against his conviction for a £1m cannabis plot in Jersey to the highest court in the UK. Warren failed in an attempt to have his conviction quashed or years taken off his sentence in the Channel Island's Court of Appeal.

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/liverpool-news/local-news/2010/05/06/curtis-warren-to-appeal-against-jersey-sentence-at-highest-court-in-the-uk-100252-26386695/>

World Update

INCB

International Narcotics Control Board Elects Professor Hamid Ghodse of Iran as President. Professor Ghodse is an international drug control expert from Iran, Professor of Psychiatry and International Drug Policy at the University of London and the Director of the International Centre for Drug Policy at St. George's Medical School <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2010/unisnar1076.html>

Afghanistan

Running on drugs, corruption and aid. It is well known that the Taliban, local criminals and international drug cartels profit enormously from the drug trade; that corruption is rife; and that huge amounts of aid money are pouring into Afghanistan. Less clear is the effect of all this on government power and the rule of law on which humanitarian aid organizations depend to carry out their mandate.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=89078>

Afghanistan

A serious disease is affecting opium poppies in Afghanistan, Antonio Maria Costa, the head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has said. Mr Costa said that this year's opium production could be reduced by a quarter, compared with last year.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/8679203.stm

Australia

Recent changing trends in heroin and other opioid use across Australian jurisdictions. The drug trends bulletin concludes by summarising the measures taken in Western Australia in response to recent trends in the event that heroin availability, use and harm increase further.

[http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resource/IDRS%2BBulletin%2BApril09.pdf/\\$file/IDRS%2BApril%2B2010.pdf](http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resource/IDRS%2BBulletin%2BApril09.pdf/$file/IDRS%2BApril%2B2010.pdf)

Azerbaijan

A man was detained in Azerbaijan for trying to smuggle drugs to one of the prison colonies. According to the reports, on the 1st of May, the police found nearly 10 grams of heroin in a pack, concealed inside raw potatoes.

<http://www.today.az/news/society/67172.html>

Colombia

Colombian cocaine production fell to an 11-year low in 2009, the Interior Ministry said, citing preliminary findings by a study conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The country produced 390 metric tons of the drug last year, down 9 percent from 430 tons in 2008, the Interior Ministry said. Land dedicated to production of coca, the base ingredient of the drug, fell to 68,025 hectares last year, an 11-year low, according to the study based on satellite monitoring of fields of coca.

[http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-12/colombian-cocaine-production-fell-to-11-year-low-last-year.html)

[12/colombian-cocaine-production-fell-to-11-year-low-last-year.html](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-12/colombian-cocaine-production-fell-to-11-year-low-last-year.html)

Egypt

Hashish smokers in Egypt suffer hashish shortage after a crackdown. Millions of Egyptians - some of the world's most enthusiastic consumers of hashish - are suffering withdrawal pangs after an unprecedented shortage of their favourite narcotic.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article7116342.ece

Ghana

The European Police have warned Ghana to be on the alert for the influx of drug moguls from Latin American States under the guise of bringing investments into the country. They said the drug barons were exploiting the conducive business climate and political stability to establish bases in Ghana and other West African countries to conduct their illicit business in drugs.

<http://news.peacefmonline.com/social/201005/43209.php>

Israel

Israel's weed shortage is a blessing. The lack of supplies means less people are taking drugs - not resorting to harder substances, as is often thought.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/may/15/israel-weed-trade-drugs>

Nigeria

Chairman of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Ahmadu Giade has expressed satisfaction over the planned arraignment of a suspected drug baron, Chief Odugwe Azubuike at the Federal High Court Ikoyi, Lagos. The NDLEA boss described the arrest as phenomenal and yet another milestone in the country's determination to expose drug barons that use traffickers as shield to avoid arrest.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201005110283.html>

Singapore

Singapore's decision to maintain mandatory death penalty for drugs criticised by the International Harm Reduction Association. The unfortunate decision places Singapore on the extreme fringe of the international community by keeping the country as one of the few that impose a mandatory death sentence for drugs.

<http://www.ihrablog.net/2010/05/singapores-decision-to-maintain.html>

USA

2010 National Drug Control Strategy. It provides a collaborative and balanced approach that emphasizes community-based prevention, integration of evidence-based treatment into the healthcare system, innovations in the criminal justice system, and international partnerships to disrupt trafficking organizations.

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/policy/ndcs10/ndcs2010.pdf>

Drug Update

Resource catalogue winter 2010

The Australian Drug Foundation and Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre's series of three 'Your Guide to...' pamphlets are easy to understand and informative, and are featured in the new winter catalogue.

<http://adf.org.au/store/browse.asp?ContainerID=catalogues>

Naloxone Leaflets

These leaflets are for both service users and professionals in order to explain naloxone and assist in setting up take home Naloxone projects [Welsh Assembly Government, UK]

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/substancemisuse/publications/naloleaf/:jsessionid=nJNTLn2CXGH75TzFh2WcQ25RcJWWcgJPJm8xp6Vb1wHJjXzR2hZL!-897520699?lang=en>

Mentor International Prevention Awards

Provide the opportunity for recognition and celebration of the activity and achievements of the non-government organizations working in the field of drug abuse prevention [Mentor International]

<http://awards.mentorfoundation.org/about-the-awards>

World Forum Against Drugs

Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy speaks at the World Forum Against Drugs in Stockholm, Sweden May 24-25, 2010. Both Antonio Maria Costa, the Executive Director from UNODC and Maria Larsson, the Swedish Minister for Public Health have previously accepted the invitation. Among other important speakers are Bertha Madras, Professor at Harvard University, USA, and Craig Nakken, author and lecturer, USA. The head of the narcotics police in Senegal, Adama Diedhiou and Professor Solomon Rataemane from South Africa will speak about the situation in Africa. <http://www.wfad.se/>

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**

Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to paul@paul-cook.net

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