

European Update

Europe EMCDDA

DrugNet Europe 72. Newsletter of the EMCDDA
http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_120146_EN_DRUGNET_72_WEBoptimisedfile.pdf

EMCDDA

First European conference on drug supply indicators - key conclusions.

The main goal of the First European conference on drug supply indicators was to launch the work needed to establish a set of technically sound and sustainable indicators for monitoring drug markets, crime and supply reduction for Europe.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/supply-indicator-conference-2010/conclusions>

Germany

Concateno announces global preview for new portable drug testing system. With widespread applications across the healthcare and criminal justice sectors, the new device incorporates a number of additional features and benefits, including a new ergonomic design with full colour display screen, faster collection times, and improved sensitivity for THC, allowing lower levels to be detected.

<http://www.concateno.com/news-events-publications/press-releases/16189/>

Ireland

Drugs groups have accused the Government of "seriously undermining" the National Drugs Strategy by slashing both the drugs and community development budgets.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/drugs-strategy-seriously-undermined-138888.html>

Ireland

Problem benzodiazepine use in Ireland: treatment (2003 to 2008) and deaths (1998 to 2007). The paper describes treated problem benzodiazepine use for the years 2003–2008, and poisoning deaths where a benzodiazepine was implicated as recorded by the National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI) for the years 1998–2007.

http://www.hrb.ie/uploads/tx_hrbpublications/HRB_Trend_Series_9.pdf

Isle of Man

Police fear a heroin shortage in the UK could ultimately lead to deaths in the Isle of Man.

http://www.iomtoday.co.im/news/health/heroin_drought_may_cause_death_1_2836144

Italy

Italian police seized a ton of pure cocaine worth up to USD 340 million today in a container unloaded off a merchant

ship coming from Brazil, in a joint inquiry with British police. The cocaine, with an estimated value of between 200 million and 250 million euros, was found hidden inside four tractors unloaded from the Italian ship in the port of Gioia Tauro in southern Italy.
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Ton-of-cocaine-seized--from-Brazil-ship/Article1-627856.aspx>

Russia

Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan agreed with Russia to step up efforts in fighting the Afghan heroin trade which kills at least 30,000 Russians a year. The quartet of heroin-inflicted countries signed an agreement to destroy opium crops and drug-making labs, as well as exchange information on drug trafficking and dealers.

<http://www.dawn.com/2010/12/08/russia-pakistan-tajikistan-agree-to-afghan-drugs-cooperation.html>

Spain

Police have arrested three Dutch citizens and seized at least 20 tonnes of cannabis from a boat off the southern coast of Spain. Police officers found the drug, in compressed resin form, aboard the Nancy II fishing vessel about 120 miles off the south east coast after it had picked up the load in Morocco.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5hIqLIDn-GfJBQ1h0a-wO1GmhMPEQ?docId=N0038531289575198133A>

The Netherlands

Dutch scratch and sniff marijuana cards. In a government effort to curb what is perhaps their nation's best-known vice, Dutch households will soon receive marijuana-scented scratch-and-sniff cards to help them detect illegal urban cannabis plantations in their vicinity.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/09/scratchandsniff-marijuana_n_780964.html

United Kingdom

You don't know what you're getting with cocaine - that's the key message at the heart of the Scottish Government's biggest ever initiative to raise awareness among 18 to 24 year olds of the health risks around cocaine use.

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/39332>

United Kingdom Drug strategy 2010

A major change to government policy, the 2010 strategy sets out a fundamentally different approach to preventing drug use in our communities, and in supporting recovery from drug and alcohol dependence.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010?view=Binary>

World Update

UNODC

New initiative to improve airport intelligence sharing on drug trafficking in West Africa. The project, called Aircop, aims to establish secure, effective communications and exchange of intelligence between Brazil, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo during its first phase, while Guinea Conakry and Morocco have been invited to join.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/November/new-initiative-to-improve-airport-intelligence-sharing-on-drug-traffic-in-west-africa.html?ref=fs1>

Trans-Atlantic flights

Drug smugglers are buying disused airliners to fly massive amounts of cocaine across the Atlantic. US government investigators said South American gangs had struck deals to fly drugs to West Africa and from there to Europe. One trafficker claimed he already had six aircraft flying. Another said he was managing five jets.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2010/11/16/1224283410950.html>

Afghanistan

Around 2500 farmers, in eight provinces, are working on saffron farms for export mostly to India and some European countries. The trade in saffron is estimated to be of an annual value in excess of 200 million USD to Afghanistan. The challenge is to be able to convince farmers of the long term benefits of replacing the growing of poppies with the purple crocus plants whose highly prized stigmas produce the spice used as a seasoning and a coloring agent in cooking.

http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2010/11/09/5434845-saffron-replacing-heroin

Argentina

Thousands of bags of cocaine worth £142.8million have been seized in one of the biggest drug busts ever. Half the Class A drug was bound for the UK. Police seized 3,400kg of cocaine - divided into 1kg packets and decorated with Donald Duck logos - in Argentina and Brazil. Each pack was worth £42,000 and was ready to be shipped to Europe hidden in apple containers. Officers arrested 55 people in Spain and 10 in Argentina as part of Operation Scythe. Most of the people arrested in both countries were Colombian or Mexican.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/11/15/half-of-142-8million-coke-haul-was-heading-to-the-uk-115875-22718282/#ixzz15Tpu7g5B>

Australia

The Australian Drug Foundation has just launched its new professional development portal—a one-stop-shop for people currently working or looking for work in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) and mental health sectors.

http://www.adin.com.au/content.asp?Document_ID=267

Belize

Police in Belize say authorities have seized 2 tons of

cocaine flown into the country aboard a small plane that made a bold midnight landing on a highway. Authorities have also detained five officers thought to have cordoned off a section of the road so the twin-engine Beechcraft could land.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/16/AR2010111603566.html>

Bolivia

Bolivian Special Forces against Drug Trafficking seized 25.5 tons of cocaine in 1,200 operations since January. In total 3,200 persons were arrested.

http://www.BERNAMA - Bolivia Seizes 25_5 Tons Of Cocaine Since Jan.mht

Colombia

Colombia, the world's biggest supplier of cocaine, saw production of the illegal narcotic decline last year amid a government spraying campaign and declining U.S. consumption, according to a new report.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-09/colombia-s-cocaine-output-fell-last-year-as-peru-s-grew-u-s-agency-says.html>

Ghana

Four hundred and sixteen (416) kilogrammes of cocaine seized by the Police, near Cape Coast two years ago and valued at 29 million dollars, was burnt into ashes in Accra following a court order.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=197666>

India

In the biggest heroin haul in recent times, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested an Afghan national along with 52 kg of the high-grade contraband worth Rs 80 crore. They intercepted a car being driven by a 34-year-old Afghan national on the Singu-Haryana border and recovered 54 packets of one kg each.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/afghan-held-with-52-kg-of-heroin/712388/>

Indonesia

Indonesian customs officers in Bali have arrested a 35-year-old Japanese man they claim was trying to smuggle almost six kilograms of hashish from India to Australia. They say his bags were searched after an X-ray scan of his bag detected 13 suspicious packages and an ion scan tested positive for cannabis.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/11/15/3066881.htm?section=justin>

Venezuela

One of the world's top drug dealers may soon be telling U.S. prosecutors everything he knows about Venezuelan officials who have aided his cocaine smuggling operations.

<http://www.american.com/archive/2010/november/chez-the-cocaine-capo>

Drug Update

Reports

EMCDDA - Annual Report 2010

The report, the agency's flagship publication, offering an overview of the drug situation across the 27 EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey and Norway. Individual chapters dedicated to specific drugs are complemented by updates on: new drugs and emerging trends; drug-related infectious diseases and deaths; and current legal, political, social and health responses to Europe's drugs problem. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/events/2010/annual-report>

EMCDDA - Problem amphetamine and methamphetamine use in Europe

Focusing on European countries where amphetamine or methamphetamine is an important part of the drug problem, this Selected issue looks at the current situation in the light of the historical development of amphetamines use since the introduction of these substances as medicines in the 1930s

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_120112_EN EMCDDA_SI10_Amphetamines.pdf

Australia

The Australian Drug Foundation's (ADF) new summer 2010-11 *Resource catalogue* is now available online. The catalogue contains new pamphlets, a kit and a magazine as well as many other resources.

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

New Zealand

Interventions and Treatment for Problematic Use of Methamphetamine and other Amphetamine-Type Stimulants.

These guidelines have been developed for use across a wide range of settings for those working with people adversely affected by methamphetamine use. [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/10475/\\$File/meth-interventions-treatment-nov2010.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/10475/$File/meth-interventions-treatment-nov2010.pdf)

United Kingdom

Drug Misusing Offenders: Results from the 2009 cohort for England and Wales

This report presents the latest annual statistics on the proven offending of individuals (aged 18 and over) identified as Class A drug-misusing offenders. <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/misc0410.pdf>

WHO

ATLAS 2010: First global report on substance use disorders. The Atlas on substance abuse: Resources for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders has collected information from 147 countries, representing 88% of the world's population. http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/Media/en/

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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Paul Cook

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