

## European Update

### EMCDDA

The 2011 work programme takes forward activities begun in 2010 to implement the EMCDDA's three-year strategy (2010–12). Key themes of this strategy are the consolidation of core data, investment in more complex and policy-relevant analysis, and the development of a small number of new areas of strategic importance. Progress was made in all these areas in 2010, and this document details the next steps to be taken.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index121903EN.html>

### Bulgaria

Sofia. Customs inspectors have seized 9,9 kg of cocaine at Kapitan Andreevo checkpoint on the Bulgarian-Turkish border, Customs Agency announced. The drug was found in a car with a Bulgarian license plate traveling from Turkey. The drug is worth more than BGN 2,5 million.

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n238397>

### France

A French duck farmer has been given a one-month suspended jail sentence and fined 500 euros (£428) for feeding his birds marijuana to rid them of worms. He admitted smoking some of the drug himself, but insisted most of it was given to his 150 ducks for medicinal purposes.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1331517/French-farmer-fed-ducks-cannabis-rid-worms.html>

### Ireland

Irish police seize 105kgs of 'cannabis'. More than 810,000 euro (£696,500) worth of cannabis has been seized from an NI-registered car by police in the Republic of Ireland.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-12311218>

### Spain

Spanish police dismantled the largest known cocaine laboratory in Europe near Madrid in an operation that resulted in 25 arrests. The illegal lab had been set up on a farm in the Madrid municipality where police found more than 300 kilos of cocaine and 33 tons of chemical products used in process-

ing coca paste into the refined drug.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2011/01/18/spanish-police-break-largest-cocaine-lab-europe/>

### Spain

Member-only clubs spring up as smokers exploit law allowing consumption of cannabis in private. The members spotted a gap in Spain's drugs laws which, they say, makes the activities of private clubs like these entirely legal.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/dec/28/cannabis-clubs-spanish-drug-laws>

### Spain

A major cocaine bust in Spain is highlighting the growing drug-trafficking ties between Argentina and Europe and causing headaches for the government of Argentina.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/30/world/americas/30argentina.html?\\_r=2&ref=drugabuseandtraff](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/30/world/americas/30argentina.html?_r=2&ref=drugabuseandtraff)

### The Netherlands

Dutch police working in co-operation with the Turkish and Belgian authorities have intercepted a consignment of about 130 kilos of heroin in Arnhem in the east of the Netherlands. The drugs are said to have a street value of over three million euros.

<http://www.rnw.nl/english/bulletin/130-kilos-heroin-intercepted-netherlands>

### Ukraine

Ukrainian government crackdown on NGOs, drug users and people living with HIV after orders from the Ministry of Interior's drug enforcement department. <http://www.ihra.net/contents/845>

### United Kingdom

Six pilot dedicated drug courts (DDCs) that specialised in dealing with offenders who misused drugs were introduced in magistrates' courts in England and Wales from 2004. This process evaluation of the pilot Dedicated Drug Courts (DDCs) used both qualitative and quantitative methods to map the implementation of the DDC model and the factors underpinning the DDCs potential to reduce drug use and associated offending.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/ddc-process-evaluation.htm>

## World Update

### Canada

Convicts in federal jails could get free heroin or needles if a report from a group of MPs is implemented. A report from the Commons public safety committee calls for "harm reduction" which could include an expansion of free drugs for inmates in federal prisons.

<http://www.torontosun.com/news/canada/2010/12/30/16712391.html>

### Colombia

Colombian police seized 4.6 tons of marijuana stored in a garage and hidden in a truck in Cucuta, the capital of Norte de Santander province, on the border with Venezuela.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=12393&ArticleId=3810>

### Colombia

South American drugs gangs are providing millions of pounds of funding for al-Qaeda terrorists by paying them to ensure the safe passage of cocaine across north Africa and towards Europe.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/south-america/colombia/8230134/South-American-drug-gangs-funding-al-Qaeda-terrorists.html>

### Japan

A court in Tokyo convicted Australian golfer Wayne Perske of cocaine possession and use but suspended his jail term. The 36-year-old professional was arrested in October while in Japan for the Bridgestone Open. He was found guilty of possessing 1.25 grams (0.044 ounces) of cocaine.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hMvZoUji29ZCk0yvVSmKTQU3SyVQ?docId=CNG.eff3bbc01754423cb15e2619666d230b.591>

### Libya

Libyan anti narcotics task force authorities seized 70 Kilogram of pure raw heroin and arrested a number of drug dealers people related to the case. The heroin was hidden in silicone sealant tubes.

<http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=5269&archive=1>

### Nicaragua

334 kg of cocaine, which entered Nicaragua hidden in a shipment of candy and toys, was seized during the Christmas weekend. The cocaine, reportedly from Costa Rica, was seized at the Penas Blancas border crossing in southern Nicaragua.

<http://www.sify.com/news/cocaine-packed-in-toys-candy-seized-in-nicaragua-news-international-km1gOcaeijf.html>

### Nigeria

165 Kilograms Cocaine Seized in Lagos. The cocaine neatly packed in 150 square parcels inside 38 cartons of floor tiles originated from Bolivia.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201101280195.html>

### Pakistan

KARACHI: Bus stops in the city have turned into hotels and safe havens for heroin-addicts thanks to the negligence of city administration. Having no place to sit on, passengers are left standing to wait for their bus. [http://www.samaa.tv/News29324-Karachi\\_bus\\_stops\\_turn\\_into\\_commercial\\_outlets.aspx](http://www.samaa.tv/News29324-Karachi_bus_stops_turn_into_commercial_outlets.aspx)

### Panama

Panamanian authorities seized more than 3 tons of cocaine in the northern province, as well as 30 assault rifles. National Aeronaval Service agents found part of the consignment – 31 packages with 25 kilos of cocaine each – hidden on a beach.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=381889&CategoryId=14088>

### United Arab Emirates

2 nationals have been arrested for carrying 57 kg of hashish and three kg of heroin. co-ordination between the Anti-Narcotics authorities in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ajman and Al Ain led to the arrests. <http://gulftoday.ae/portal/d1685478-0bca-42ba-874e-6b80376bb684.aspx>

### USA

A Key West-based Coast Guard cutter has seized an estimated \$48 million in cocaine after stopping a speedboat off the coast of Panama. The 62 bales of cocaine seized by the cutter Thetis. The bales weighed about 3,400 pounds.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/12/30/1993624/coast-guard-seizes-48m-in-cocaine.html>

### Venezuela

Venezuelan authorities have detained a higher number of suspects in drug cases in 2010. Authorities have detained 12,376 people up from 8,741 detentions reported during 2009, the National Anti-Drug Office said. President Chavez's government released the figures saying they show Venezuela is making important efforts to fight drug trafficking.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/27/AR2010122704779.html>

## Drug Webwatch

### Reports

#### Report of the 2010 NDPB Review of the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

This is the report of the review of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs undertaken by Sir David Omand in December 2010. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/acmd1/2010-ndpb-review-acmd?view=Binary>

#### Afghanistan Opium Winter Rapid Assessment for the Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Regions 2011

In 2011, the Opium Winter Assessment has been divided into two phases. The first phase was carried out in December 2010 and January 2011 and covered the Central, Eastern, Southern and Western region, where opium is sown in fall 2010. A second phase will take place in February-March 2011 and will cover the Northern and Northeastern region, where opium poppy is in spring. This report presents the findings of the first phase, which covers the main poppy cultivation provinces in the Southern and Western region. [http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/ORAS\\_report\\_2011.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/ORAS_report_2011.pdf)

#### IDPC Briefing Paper - Drug policies and harm reduction in South East Europe

This briefing paper is the first of a series focusing on drug-related issues in SEE. It provides an overview of the current situation regarding harm reduction services and national drug policies in the region. <http://www.idpc.net/publications/idpc-paper-harm-reduction-south-east-europe>

#### Statistics on Drug Misuse, England - 2010

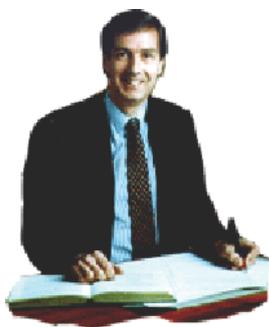
This annual statistical report presents information on drug misuse among both adults and children. It includes a focus on young adults. <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/drug-misuse/statistics-on-drug-misuse-england--2010-report>

### 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)

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