

European Update

EMCDDA

28 Country Situation Reports, from the EU, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, have been published and can be downloaded from:

<http://profiles.emcdda.europa.eu/?nNodId=1966&CFID=2074215&CFTOKEN=cd3064d76cdc3e49-1F8B9CA4-0419-6EE7-BB96089485872067&jsessionId=2e30df7d8efb5f143fd5>

Democracy, Cities and Drugs

This project which is an alliance of seven EU countries is offering training sessions and study trips on a number of issues. They include the social and health care fields, the various social justice agencies, the police force, the non-statutory and non-profit sector, i.e. NGOs, other community members and users.

http://www.democitydrug.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=26

Ireland

The winter issue of Drugnet Ireland includes an analysis of the recently published survey of substance use in Cork and Kerry, and an analysis of the EMCDDA annual report 2006 on the state of the drugs problem in Europe.

<http://www.hrb.ie/storage/publications/hrbpublications/drugmisuse/Drugnet20.pdf>

Estonia

An Irish court sentenced an Estonian drug smuggler to six years in prison after he was caught trying to smuggle 600 grams of cocaine in his stomach at the Dublin airport with 60 polyethylene packages. Approximate street value 42000 euros worth of cocaine. Baltic Times.

Spain

"The head of the Catalan government's Interior Department, Joan Saura, has proposed legalising all forms of drugs as a way of fighting drug trafficking and its associated illnesses. <http://transform-drugs.blogspot.com/2007/02/catalan-politician-proposes-legalising.html>

Sweden

Sweden is hosting a Conference and Fair on Drugs 'Sweden Against Drugs' on March 28-29 2007. For information about the event, please call the ECAD office in Stockholm, +46 8 508 29 362

United Kingdom

Three people are seriously ill in hospital after apparently taking a new and relatively unknown drug, DOI, bought at an illegal rave.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/beds/bucks/herts/6308895.stm> see scientific report on DOI at

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6SYR-4007DDS-26&_user=10&_coverDate=11%2F06%2F1995&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&_view=c&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=57787ae01be47e525fbff6bb9a77f3ff

United Kingdom

Preparing for the ice age. Drink and Drug News hears two different perspectives on whether we should be worried about the threat of a crystal meth invasion.

http://www.drinkanddrugs.net/features/jan2907/preparing_for_ice_age.pdf

United Kingdom

Recently published a Home Office Report titled Evaluation of Drug Interventions Programme pilots for children and young people. Arrest referral, drug testing and Drug Treatment and Testing Requirements. 94-page PDF.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr0707.pdf>

United Kingdom

Hidden Harm Three Years On: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities - a report by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. This report, in keeping with the original Hidden Harm report, focuses on the lives and experience of a large, diverse and vulnerable group of children. 123-page PDF.

http://www.drugs.gov.uk/Hidden_Harm_3_Years_On_Fina1.pdf

United Kingdom

Contaminated Cannabis - Successful police operations against UK based cannabis farms caused a shortage. In order to try and boost depleted profits, it has been reported, cannabis dealers have been spraying plants with tiny glass beads to physically boost weight and to give low grade cannabis the appearance of higher grade. Source: DrugScope UK

World Update

UNESCO

On 1 February 2007 the International Convention against Doping in Sport entered into force.

http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=9682&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Australia

The Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs National Drug Strategic Framework 2004-05

This is the sixth annual report on Australian, state and territory governments' progress under the [National Drug Strategy, Australia]

[http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/2A301D32A3142681CA25724B001C366A/\\$File/igcd-annrep2005.pdf](http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/2A301D32A3142681CA25724B001C366A/$File/igcd-annrep2005.pdf)

Australia

Promoting community awareness of the link between illicit drugs and mental disorders. In the 2006-07 budget, the Australian Government announced expenditure of \$21.6 million.

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186_01_010107/jor10617_fm.html

Australia

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia has recently published its Strategic Plan for 2006-2008.

http://www.adca.org.au/publications/strategic_plan_2006-2008_final.pdf

Canada

Young injection drug users (IDUs) may be at increased risk of premature mortality due to the health risks associated with injection drug use including overdoses and infections.

<http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/4/1/1>

Canada

The Drug Situation Report — 2005 provides a strategic overview of the illicit drug trade in Canada.

http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/crimint/reports/drug_situation_2005_e.pdf

China

Police in southwest China's seized 9.6 tons of drugs in the first 11 months of 2006, more than double the four tons seized in the whole of 2005.

"The amount of drugs seized accounts for 80 percent of the national total during this period,"

Police seized 3.87 tons of heroin, 3.71 tons of methamphetamine, or "ice", 1.38 tons of opium and 0.64 ton of other drugs, said Sun.

They arrested 11,976 drug-related suspects, including 35 listed key drug dealers, in the 9,959 drug trafficking cases.

http://english.people.com.cn/200612/31/eng20061231_337306.html

Georgia

Georgia's former president Eduard Shevardnadze will be founder of a non-governmental organization, which will be aimed to struggle against drug addiction.

<http://www.geotimes.ge/index.php?m=home&newsid=2785>

Guinea-Bissau

The country has become a key transit point for cocaine moving between Latin America and Europe as drug traffickers take advantage of scant surveillance, government instability and poverty to ply their trade.

http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=57292&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=Guinea-Bissau

South Africa

Police say desperate syndicates are resorting to smuggling drugs into the country in their underwear or in cocaine-filled condoms and are even using pensioners as smugglers.

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20070108001109522C441672

Turkmenistan

A consignment of narcotic substances seized during several special operations was recently destroyed. 562 kilos of narcotic substances (of which 513 kilos is opium and 49 kilos is heroin) and 89 kilos of hashish were burnt in special furnaces. Source Watan News

USA

New Law Expands Access to Buprenorphine. President Bush recently signed into law a measure that could dramatically expand access to buprenorphine treatment for opiate addicts.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/features/2007/new-law-expands-access-to.html>

USA

A Key to Methamphetamine-Related Literature. This document is a comprehensive, thematic index of methamphetamine-related journal articles.

http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/harm_reduction/crystalmeth/docs/meth_literature_index.pdf

USA

The President's National Drug Control Strategy. Six years into the President's first National Drug Control Strategy, a review of trends in drug use provides important insights into what works in drug control.

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/policy/ndcs07/index.html>

Drug Webwatch

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

is a global network of 24 national and international NGOs that specialise in issues related to illegal drug use. The Consortium aims to promote objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harm.

<http://www.idpc.info/index.html>

Links on www.drugworld.co.uk/links.html

The link page is currently being updated. Please check to see if your organisation or agency is listed. If not and you or your organisation wish to be included under any of the following sections of the link page:

International Organisations

Drug Networks

International Consultants

Or links by Country

Please send details, including web address, to paul@paul.cook.net

News items

The news page is updated on a regular basis with items from all around the world. You can access it at 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

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.

Paul Cook



www.drugworld.co.uk