

European Update

EMCDDA

Drugnet Europe 57 (newsletter)

'How effective is the EMCDDA?' is one of the questions posed in the latest edition of Drugnet Europe in the context of an ongoing evaluation of the agency. Now readers of the newsletter are given the chance to 'have their say' (see p. 5). Also covered in this edition are: the new remit of the EMCDDA; a progress review of the EU drugs action plan (2005-2008); Management Board elections; and new EMCDDA work programmes (2007 and 2007-2009).

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/>

Sweden

A review, entitled Sweden's Successful Drug Policy: A Review of the Evidence was published by the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) The Executive Director of the UNODC, Antonio Maria Costa, said that Sweden's successful drug control policies were a model which other countries could learn much from, and that drug use in Sweden was just a third of the European average while spending on drug control was three times the EU average.

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Swedish_drug_control.pdf

Spain and Portugal

Recently Spanish police seized 4.4 tons of cocaine after a raid on a cargo vessel owned by a Croatian shipping company. Ten people were arrested.

In a related raid on a yacht off Madeira islands, Portuguese authorities seized 1.65 tons of cocaine. Three Greeks were arrested. Source: ECAD e. Newsletter.

Ireland

Use of crack cocaine, steroids and over-the-counter medication is emerging as a new problem across the country, according to a new report. The research — the first on emerging trends in relation to drugs — found that street-based drug dealing had spread outside Dublin and that drugs were being sourced by phone and on the Internet.

http://www.ndc.hrb.ie/directory/news_detail.php?cat_id=&news_id=3421&pointer=0

Ireland

Drug Related Death and Strategies for Prevention

A Working Group was convened by the Irish College of General Practitioners Drug Misuse Programme to examine the issue of drug related deaths in Ireland.

<http://www.icgp.ie/speck/properties/asset/asset.cfm?type=>

[Document&id=74E88AFC-FE45-26EC-BF2C422924B2B760&property=document&filename=ICGP_Drug_Related_Deaths.pdf&mimetype=application%2Fpdf&app=icgp&disposition=attachment](http://www.icgp.ie/speck/properties/asset/asset.cfm?type=Document&id=74E88AFC-FE45-26EC-BF2C422924B2B760&property=document&filename=ICGP_Drug_Related_Deaths.pdf&mimetype=application%2Fpdf&app=icgp&disposition=attachment)

Ireland

Factors affecting the Outcome of Methadone Maintenance Treatment in Opiate Dependence. This newly published study aimed to measure the rates of ongoing heroin abuse among patients on methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) and sought to identify patient and treatment characteristics associated with poorer outcome. The study was carried out at an outpatient drug treatment clinic and included all patients who were on the MMT during a three month period in 2004.

http://www.imj.ie/Issue_detail.aspx?issueid=%2B&pid=1852&type=Papers

United Kingdom

Athletes in all sports and all countries will potentially face mandatory Whereabouts Procedures based on the principles of the system already in use in the UK, following today's publication of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) draft International Standard for Testing.

WADA's draft includes, for the first time, proposed mandatory standards for the amount and type of "whereabouts" information that has to be provided by an athlete, for the process to be followed in attempting to test an athlete at such whereabouts, and for managing apparent filing failures and missed tests.

http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/news/uk_sport_welcomes_wada_athlete_friendly_whereabouts_procedures/

United Kingdom

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Drug Education in Scottish Schools

This report examines the effectiveness of drug education in Scottish Schools. The research consisted of a literature review, a survey of schools, classroom observations and qualitative research with young people and was commissioned in response to the School Drug Safety Team's recommendation for research into the outcomes and process of educating young people on drug related issues.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/14135923/0>

World Update

International Narcotics Control Board

For many generations, attempts have been made to combat the adverse effects of illicit drug trafficking and abuse, and institutions have been set up at the national and international levels to address those issues.

The annual report for 2006 as a pdf file at:

<http://www.incb.org/pdf/e/ar/2006/annual-report-2006-en.pdf>

UNODC

The UNODC Annual Report for 2007 (covering activities in 2006) provides an overview of the organization's activities worldwide. It shows the range of activities undertaken in the field and at headquarters to make the world safer from illicit drugs and international organized crime [UNODC]

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/annual_report_2007.html

UNODC/EMCDDA

The number of people seeking treatment for drug problems is a leading indicator of drug use patterns and prevalence. Data collected from this group offer a valuable 'window' onto an otherwise hidden population and a means of assessing the performance of treatment services, client needs and the effectiveness of policy.

Although data on drug treatment are available in many countries, there is still a lack of standardisation in data coverage, concepts and methods and tools.

Guidance for the measurement of drug treatment demand is a practical toolkit designed to help countries compile comparable data on the demand for treatment of drug problems. It looks at the issues to be addressed in order to reach an internationally consistent dataset on drug treatment demand.

The guidelines include a three-stage model for building the foundations of a treatment demand information system, a core set of standard data items/codes and common definitions of treatment, drug use, treatment centres, clients and units of measurement.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.Content&nnodeid=26898&sLanguageiso=EN>

Central and Eastern Europe

The Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network (CEEHRN) has developed and launched a Strategic Plan for 2007-2009. 25-page PDF [IHRN, Europe]

<http://www.ihrn.net/uploads/downloads/NewsItems/CEEHRNStrategicPlan2007to2009%28English%29.pdf>

Afghanistan

Opium production in Afghanistan, a \$3-billion-a-year trade accounting for more than 90 per cent of the world's illegal output, could rise again this year after a nearly 60 per cent increase in 2006, due to the ousted Taliban using the trade in the raw material for heroin to fund their

war. See opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey 2007. http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/2007_ORAS.pdf

Australia

Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS specifications 2007-08: data dictionary, collection guidelines and validation processes.

These guidelines have been prepared as a reference for those involved in collecting and supplying the data for the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS-NMDS). It should be particularly useful to staff directly involved in the collection and reporting of the data set.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10427>

Namibia

Public dissent over 'Combating the Abuse of Drugs' bill. Review of law passed last year recommends no change to harsh sentencing for drugs possession, consuming or dealing illegal drugs.

<http://www.namibian.com.na/2007/February/national/0776098ABC.html>

New Zealand

The National Drug Policy 2007-2012 sets out the Government's policy for tobacco, alcohol, illegal and other drugs within a single framework.

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/national-drug-policy-2007-2012>

South Africa

Following a wide-ranging two-year study, authored by the RSA Commission on Illegal Drugs, Communities and Public Policy, *Drugs - Facing Facts* has been published by the RSA. The report proposes a radical rethink in drugs policy ahead of a major government review of the National Drug Strategy in 2008.

http://www.rsa.org.uk/acrobat/drugs_executive_summary.pdf

South Africa

The South African Minister of Social Development, Dr. ZST Skweyiya, has just released the long-awaited National Drug Master Plan 2006-2011. Full plan at:

<http://www.socdev.gov.za/documents/2007/ndmp.pdf>

Tajikistan

TAJIK POLICE MAKE 200-KILOGRAM DRUG BUST. Tajikistan's Interior Ministry announced on February 12 that police stopped a car carrying nearly 200 kilograms of illegal narcotics, RFE/RL's Tajik Service reported. The car was loaded with 54 kilograms of heroin and 155 kilograms of opium. The seizure, which took place on the Dushanbe-Khujand highway on February 11, was the largest so far this year. Three people were arrested. Source: RFE/RL Newsline.

Drug Webwatch

Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The web site of Executive office of the US Presidency. The content includes issues on policy, new items, prevention, treatment and enforcement. Annual Reports are also available as are a blog and pod cast facilities.

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

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