

European Update

EMCDDA

The latest edition of Drugs in Focus, number 16, has been published. The issue is devoted to the topic of drugs and crime and covers a definition of this complex area to assess its extent and patterns.

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

EMCDDA

DrugNet Europe 59. Newsletter of the EMCDDA. Issue covers identifying and monitoring emerging drug trends; raising awareness on HPV; defining drug related crime.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=pubLic.AttachmentDownload&nNodeID=33897&slanguageISO=EN>

EMCDDA

The General report of activities is an annual publication providing a detailed progress report of the EMCDDA's activities over a 12-month period. Published every spring, it catalogues the Centre's achievements in each area of its annual work programme.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=pubLic.Content&nNodeID=426&sLanguageISO=EN>

Europe

The European Commission will ask the Council to introduce drug control measures and criminal sanctions in relation to the psychoactive substance 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP).

A specific risk assessment procedure for new psychoactive substances carried out by the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) has found that the use of BZP can lead to medical problems even if long term effects of the substance are still unknown.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1103&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Europe

The increasing cocaine trade from South America via western and central Africa to Europe is causing alarm and is forcing the EU to consider new initiatives to stop the rising tide of illegal drugs flooding the continent. Europe is now the second largest illicit market in the world after the United States.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2512689,00.html>

France

Cannabis use trebles in France. French teenagers see wine and alcohol as "old France" and are increasingly turning to cannabis to let their hair down, according to a national study on its consumption.

Jean-Michel Costes, head of the French drugs and addiction watchdog, OFDT, said that French cannabis use has soared in the past 15 years.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/07/12/wdope112.xml>

Portugal

The programme of events in the field of drugs planned for the Portuguese Presidency of the EU. July to December 2007.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?nNodeID=33863&CFID=2074215&CFTOKEN=cd3064d76cdc3e49-1F8B9CA4-0419-6EE7->

United Kingdom

The UK government's Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV have a new report on Sex, Drugs, Alcohol and Young People; A review of the impact drugs and alcohol have on young people's sexual behaviour.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcplg?ldcService=GET_FILE&dID=141996&Rendition=Web

United Kingdom

UK Sport has announced plans to establish a new independent National Anti-Doping Panel to hear doping cases. The free service will put an end to the current situation whereby governing bodies are responsible for setting up disciplinary panels themselves which has led to concerns about a lack of independence, consistency in the way cases are dealt with.

http://www.ukssport.gov.uk/news/independent_panel_to_adjudicate_on_doping_cases/

United Kingdom

The impact of enforcement on street users in England.

Concerns have mounted in recent years about the 'problematic street culture' sometimes associated with rough sleeping – especially begging and drinking in the street. There has been a significant shift towards enforcement measures aimed at street users involved in such activities. This study evaluated the impact of these measures on the welfare of street users in five different areas in England.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/2074.asp>

World Update

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.

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

UNODC

Why should we care about cannabis?

Approximately 4 per cent of the world's adults-some 162 million people-use cannabis every year, making it the world's most widely used illicit drug. In spite of this, many basic facts about cannabis remain obscure.

<http://www.unodc.org/newsletter/en/perspectives/0601/page011.html>

Cannabis

Cannabis, or marijuana, is the most commonly used illegal substance in most countries. Enough evidence now exists to warn young people that using cannabis could increase the risk of developing a psychotic illness later on in life by more than 40%, concludes an article in 'The Lancet'. <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet>

Afghanistan

Afghanistan remains the world's largest opium poppy producer. According to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, the country produced more than 13,420 pounds of opium --more than 90 percent of the world's heroin supply -- in 2006, almost 50 percent more than the year before. With prices not decreasing as much as one would have expected, growing poppy is by far more lucrative than any other agricultural product.

<http://www.eariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/515D1D6C7EBF055A872572F80059B521?OpenDocument>

Andean region

UNODC'S *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region* survey showed that the area under coca cultivation in the world's main cocaine-producing region slipped to 156,900 hectares in 2006 from 159,600 in 2005. A nine percent fall in Colombia, the world's largest cocaine grower, offset increases in Bolivia and Peru.

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/press_release_2007_06_14.html

Arab Conference on Drugs

The 21st Arab Conference of the anti- drugs Apparatuses heads has called to boost efforts to combat drugs crime, enhance the Arab cooperation in this regard and to develop capabilities of the security apparatus to help in facing drug crimes.

<http://www.sana.org/eng/22/2007/06/28/126158.htm>

India

Senior officers of the Punjab police say, more addicts are turning to rehabilitation centres as their supply lines have been cut following a 'war on drugs' campaign launched in April. According to figures provided by police, in the last two months 462 addicts have been admitted to hospitals in Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur districts.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/More_addicts_in_rehab_centres/rssarticle/show/2124335.cms

New Zealand

New Zealand's government has decided to outlaw party pills containing amphetamine-like drugs that have been on sale in the country. The pills, containing benzylpiperazine (BZP) or trifluoro-methyl-phenylpiperazine (TFMPP), have long been legal in New Zealand but in 2005 the government added restrictions to make them only available to people aged over 18.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/WORLD/Party-pills-to-be-banned-in-New-Zealand/2007/06/28/1182624053139.html>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia launches campaign to combat drug use in the conservative Islamic society whose burgeoning youth population must deal with the challenges of unemployment and strict religious rules.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2684085.htm>

South Africa

South Africa - a staging post to Europe and America - is winning the war against drugs, say the SA Police Service, the US government and independent South African security experts. And the methods used in the war on drugs are improving all the time, say police, who have sent a warning to drug dealers that their drug-seizure operations have become much more sophisticated.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/inthivalli/118218642056.htm>

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan has signed up to regional efforts to coordinate the fight against the drug trade and to set up a body to coordinate efforts to combat transnational crime, including the fight against drugs.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73260>

Ukraine

Harm reduction programmes set up shop in Ukraine pharmacies. Alliance Ukraine and the Pharmacia network have been promoting a pilot harm reduction project in state-owned pharmacies.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/inthivalli/118218642056.htm>

Drug Webwatch

Drug and Alcohol Findings is a web site that aims to respond to drug and alcohol use. Linking practice to research, research to practice. It bridges the divide between research on the effectiveness of responses to drug and alcohol problems and the practitioners who provide those interventions, with a focus on UK-relevant research. The site aims to encapsulate the studies' findings, set them in context and to explore the implications for practice. <http://findings.org.uk/>

Conference

A conference on 'Policing Drugs on the Streets of Europe' is to be held in Warsaw from 12th to 14th September 2007. The cost of attending will be £499 per person. This includes two nights accommodation but not flights. Full details are available from: <http://www.policingdrugs.com>

Publication

Risk factors in adolescent drug use: evidence from school surveys and application in policy (2007)

What are the risk factors in adolescent drug use? Can any reply be found in the school surveys and could this evidence be applied in policy? It is to these questions that the authors, Richard Muscat, coordinator of the Pompidou Group Research Platform, Thoroddur Bjarnasson, Patrick Peretti-Wattel, sociologists and Francois Beck, a statistician and sociologist, attempt to reply. They first compile the needs of political decision makers and then use the ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) survey as a vehicle to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the risk factors for substance use in Iceland, France and Malta. Finally, the use of ESPAD data in science, the media and in public policy is tackled from the French experience. (ISBN 13 978-92-871-6196-3)

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



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