

## European Update

### EMCDDA

The EMCDDA monitors and studies the drug strategies and action plans of EU Member States and candidate countries. For the current national strategies and action plans of EU Member States and candidate countries. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.Content&nnodeid=1360&sLanguageiso=EN>

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In 2001, the EMCDDA made a first round of extensive data collection on national drug strategies and action plans and a special report was published in 2002. New data on national drug strategies and action plans was collected in 2006.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.Content&nnodeid=1360&sLanguageiso=EN>

### EMCDDA and EUROPOL

make a joint address on 'Supporting public policy decision-making' at the closing session of the 'Conference on Evaluation of Public Policies and Programmes on Drugs' <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.AttachmentDownload&nNodeID=36360&slanguageIS>

### Czech Republic

Lawmakers are considering lower penalties for small-scale recreational drug growers under a Criminal Code change that decriminalizes recreational drug use.

If the new Criminal Code passes, marijuana growers would face six months in jail if they produce more than an amount deemed to be for their own use. Anyone who makes drugs or possesses them in certain quantities can go to jail for 1 to 5 years if caught under the current law. <http://www.praguepost.com/articles/2007/10/03/drug-use-debate-lights-up.php>

### Ireland

New magazine from Dublin NETF  
The Dublin North East Local Drugs Task Force have launched the first issue of their new magazine, *Uth*, this week. 24-page PDF [NETF, Ireland].

<http://www.dnedrugtaskforce.ie/downloads/Uthfinal1st.pdf>

### Norway

Police confiscate more cocaine and amphetamine than ever before. But the use of illegal drugs is likely even more widespread than the confiscations indicate. <http://www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1922787.ace>

### Scotland

Scottish police forces recorded a dramatic rise in drug-related deaths last year, prompting fears that substance abuse is spiralling out of control. Official figures published today reveal the number of deaths from heroin, morphine and other drugs rose to 374 in 2006, an increase of 42% on the previous year.

The statistics, compiled by police forces across Scotland, show that nearly 71% of the deaths were attributed to heroin and morphine overdoses. Nearly a quarter were linked to methadone, a heroin substitute used as the frontline treatment for addiction to the drug.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/drugs/Story/0,,2185761,00.html>

### United Kingdom

UK Sport has announced that the continued shift towards a 'more sensible and sophisticated' approach to the planning and allocation of drug tests means that the UK will now revert to operating with one laboratory accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for the analysis of urine and blood samples. [http://www.ukssport.gov.uk/news/testing\\_changes\\_see\\_uk\\_revert\\_to\\_one\\_laboratory/](http://www.ukssport.gov.uk/news/testing_changes_see_uk_revert_to_one_laboratory/)

### United Kingdom

'Prisons and Drugs - A global view of incarceration, drug use and drug services.' Report 12 from the Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme which describes the high rates of drug problems in all prison systems, summarises the current state of global knowledge and research evidence, and provides a guide for policymakers on how to develop effective policies and programmes. [http://www.idpc.info/docs/Beckley\\_RPT12\\_Prisons\\_Drugs\\_EN.pdf](http://www.idpc.info/docs/Beckley_RPT12_Prisons_Drugs_EN.pdf)

## World Update

### UNODC

UNODC's 2007 Annual Opium Survey showed the area under opium cultivation rose to 193,000 hectares from 165,000 in 2006. The total opium harvest will be 8,200 tonnes, up from 6,100 tonnes last year. The amount of Afghan land used for growing opium is now larger than the combined total under coca cultivation in Latin America - Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. No other country has produced narcotics on such a deadly scale since China in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

[http://www.unodc.org/unodc/press\\_release\\_2007\\_08\\_27.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/press_release_2007_08_27.html)

### Afghanistan

If a narco-state can be defined as a nation where the production and export of illegal drugs comprises the equivalent of about 50 percent of that country's legitimate gross domestic product, then Afghanistan is a narco-state.

<http://www.eariana.com/ariana/eariana.nsf/allDocs/347963AC1522EED587257331003EC325?OpenDocument>

### Afghanistan

The legitimate grievances of the Afghan people are successfully maximised by the Taliban in their propaganda campaign. Critically, this could allow the Taliban to progressively become a legitimate political movement in the southern part of the country. The United Kingdom and the international community risk losing what has been achieved so far in Afghanistan.

[http://www.senliscouncil.net/modules/publications/publications/023\\_publication](http://www.senliscouncil.net/modules/publications/publications/023_publication)

### Australia

Illicit Drug Use in Australia: Epidemiology, Use Patterns and Associated Harm.

2nd edition of a report providing an overview of illicit drug use in Australia.[National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Australia].

[http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/17B917608C1969ABCA257317001A72D4/\\$File/mono-63.pdf](http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/17B917608C1969ABCA257317001A72D4/$File/mono-63.pdf)

### Australia

People are always searching for resources and information they can distribute to their clients, students and their community. Whether you are a teacher or community worker looking for pamphlets for your health awareness day, a health service looking for posters or booklets for your waiting room, or a worker seeking printed material for your client to take away, you will find this site useful.

<http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/>

### Australia

Naltrexone or methadone'? Debates about drug treatments for heroin dependence in the context of drugs policy. This Research Paper examines the latest research on the treatments, identifies gaps in this research and distinguishes the various treatments' respective costs and benefits. <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/RP/2007-08/08RP07.pdf>

### Canada

Poppies, Opium, Morphine, Codeine and Heroin: A Short Technical Primer . Why the poppy crop suits a developing economy like Afghanistan's.

[http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=/2007/september/26/poppyprimer/](http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=/2007/september/26/poppyprimer/)

### Egypt

At least 8.5 percent of Egypt's population, amounting to six million people, are addicted to drugs, according to an official survey. Bango, a type of marijuana found in the Middle East, is the drug of choice, but cocaine, heroin and chemical drugs like ecstasy and methamphetamine are also widely available on the local market, the study found.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALEqM5jzfJENPjPahpCoQhtRUCaK2O2YpQ>

### USA

Drug trafficking funds 18 of the 42 groups considered terrorist organizations by the U.S. government, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) says.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2007/dea-says-many-terrorist.html>

### USA

2006 National Survey on Drug Use & Health: National Results. This report presents the first information from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), an annual survey of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States aged 12 years old or older.

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k6nsduh/2k6Results.cfm#TOC>

### USA

Substance use in the workplace negatively affects U.S. industry through lost productivity, workplace accidents and injuries, employee absenteeism, low morale, and increased illness.

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/industry/worker.pdf>

## Drug Webwatch

### Institute for Drug Free Workplace

A website from the USA dedicated to issues concerning drugs and the workplace. News items, policy issues, publications and information sources are available. Weekly questions and answers are also available as are regular national and local updates. <http://www.drugfreeworkplace.org/>

### Europe

#### A European centre to tackle cocaine smuggling.

Portugal, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands will join the UK in operating the new centre, which will use warships and narcotics officers from each member state to intercept shipments before they reach EU soil.

The Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N), based in Lisbon, is designed to tackle smugglers bringing drugs into Europe from Latin America and West Africa by deploying troops and police in the right place at the right time.

MAOC-N will be staffed by professional law enforcement and military personnel posted to Lisbon from the participating countries, and also employs officers from Europol and the US Joint Inter Agency Task Force as observers and to exchange expertise. It will be open to the other 20 EU member states on a similar basis. <http://www.euractiv.com/en/justice/european-centre-tackle-cocaine-smuggling/article-167241>

### News items

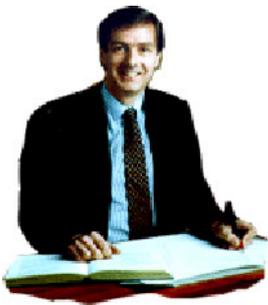
The news page is updated on a regular basis with items from all around the world. You can access it at [www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php](http://www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php) Add it to your Favourites or Bookmarks for ease of access.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.drugworld.co.uk)