

## European Update

### European Union

In adopting a report on the Green Paper on the role of civil society in drugs policy in the European Union, the European Parliament indicates that civil society has an essential role to play in promoting the emergence, definition, implementation, assessment and monitoring of drug policies. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/019-27278-112-04-17-902-20080422IPR27266-21-04-2008-2008-true/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/019-27278-112-04-17-902-20080422IPR27266-21-04-2008-2008-true/default_en.htm)

### European Union/UNGASS

The current state of drug policy debate. Trends in the last decade in the European Union and United Nations. [http://www.ungassondrugs.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=79](http://www.ungassondrugs.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=79)

### EMCDDA

Real-life solutions to drug problems come under the spotlight today as the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) launches its new Internet portal on best practice in the areas of drug-related prevention, treatment, harm reduction and social reintegration. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/themes/best-practice>

### EMCDDA

DrugNet Issue 62. Items include age related drug use; synthetic substance BZP; new services and monitoring drug facilitated sexual assault. [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att\\_51689\\_EN\\_DrugnetEurope62\\_FinaforWEB.pdf](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_51689_EN_DrugnetEurope62_FinaforWEB.pdf)

### Balkan Region

A report issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) concludes that the Balkans have become a low-crime region after the turmoil of conflict and violence that resulted from the process of post-communist transition and the break-up of Yugoslavia. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2008-05-29.html>

### Czech Republic

The Czech Republic recently installed two automatic syringe machines in the capital of Prague in an effort to curb the spread of HIV and other bloodborne diseases among injection drug users. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/110007.php>

### Ireland

HRB reports latest trends in treated drug use across Ireland. A total of 68,754 cases aged between 15 and 64 years were treated for problem drug use in Ireland between 2001 and 2006.

[http://www.ndc.hrb.ie/directory/news\\_detail.php?cat\\_id=&news\\_id=4181&pointer=0](http://www.ndc.hrb.ie/directory/news_detail.php?cat_id=&news_id=4181&pointer=0)

### The Netherlands

The Dutch city of Maastricht is fighting a sort of border war with its neighbors over a plan to push its marijuana "coffee shops" out of the city center and toward the city limits.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2008/dutch-city-seeks.html>

### The Netherlands

A project indicates that a real-world, school-based drug prevention programme occupying just a few lessons a year may retard growth in substance use in early teens. [http://www.findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=nug\\_8\\_12.pdf](http://www.findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=nug_8_12.pdf)

### Switzerland

Research chemist Albert Hofmann, dies aged 102. He synthesised lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) in 1938 and became the first person in the world to experience a full-blown "acid trip" – that was on April 19 1943. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1912485/Obituary-Albert-Hofmann%2C-LSD-inventor.html>

### United Kingdom

The Home Office have released a quarterly update on crime statistics: Recorded drug offences for October to December 2007 increased by 20 per cent compared with the same period in 2006. Recent increases in drug offences are largely associated with increased police use of powers to issue cannabis warnings <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0408.pdf>

### United Kingdom

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has updated the list Substances of Misuse. 2-page PDF. <http://www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/subsmisuseguid.pdf>

### United Kingdom

Scotland's Chief Statistician has published Drug Seizures by Scottish Police Forces, 2005-06 and 2006-07 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/06/03094347>

### United Kingdom

The illegal drug ketamine is enjoying rising popularity among young people, says research. Use of the class C drug – which is popular with clubbers and students and can be snorted like cocaine – has tripled in a decade, said the study by Lancaster and Bath universities. <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/apsocsci/activities/394/>

## World Update

### UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will launch a programme for training doctors to help rehabilitate drug addicts, aids patients and patients with mental disorders.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=109322>

### UNODC

To counter the illicit drug trafficking, UNODC recently launched the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/regional-information-centre-supports-counter-narcotic-efforts.html>

### Afghanistan

Afghan health officials estimate that two-thirds of their countrymen suffer from depression or another mental illness, and the rate of drug addiction is also rising. "Depressed people like to take drugs and they get more depressed, it's a vicious cycle, this is what we see in Afghanistan," said Faizullah Kakar, the nation's deputy health minister for technical affairs.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2008/more-afghans-afflicted.html>

### Australia

2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: first results. Comparisons with previous surveys are presented, along with population estimates of the numbers of consumers of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10579>

### Bolivia

In March 2008, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB, a United Nations agency) provoked outrage in Bolivia by calling for the elimination of traditional uses of coca, such as chewing coca leaves and drinking coca tea.

<http://www.wola.org/media/AIN-WOLA%20Coca%20Debate%205-23-08.pdf>

### Canada

The results of a surprise drug test show six per cent of Maritime Forces Pacific members are using illegal drugs.

<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=9d8b717d-dba6-480b-b781-29db2cc7d0e2&k=19725>

### Central Asia, Russia, former CIS countries and Asia

The percentage of cases attributed to injecting drug use is over 70 percent in some countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the region where HIV is growing fastest. In many of these countries, harm reduction has made important inroads—all countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union except Turkmenistan had needle exchange programs in 2007. Reports that new HIV cases among drug users have stabilized often reflect trends in testing rather than the impact of prevention. In Asia, home to more than half the world's population, even low prevalence translates into huge numbers of people

infected, with profound economic and social implications. China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam all have injection driven HIV epidemics. Open Society study. Pdf file [http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/ihrd/articles\\_publications/publications/developments\\_20080304/developments\\_20080304.pdf](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/ihrd/articles_publications/publications/developments_20080304/developments_20080304.pdf)

### Georgia

The Republic of Georgia has experienced rapid economic, political and social change after the gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Drug-related affairs are no exception.

<http://www.idpc.info/php-bin/documents.pl?ID=1000146>

### Iceland

The prevalence of substance use among Icelandic 10th graders declined substantially from 1995 to 2006

<http://www.substanceabusepolicy.com/content/3/1/12>

### India

UNODC and the Delhi Public School Society are working together to improve the drug awareness education in some 200 Indian schools.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/indian-students-say-i-decide.html>

### Mexico

Under threat of murder by drug cartels, some Mexican police officials are seeking political asylum in the U.S. Just one example of the rising toll that Mexico's war on drugs is taking on both sides of the border.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2008/mexican-police-flee-to-us-to.html>

### New Zealand

.In just five years, the drug P has made big inroads into New Zealand society. The use of P, or methamphetamine, took off in 2002. By 2005 it had crossed all sections of society. Now it has become a fixture of the New Zealand landscape.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/4475888a10.html>

### Russia

New drug users less likely to share needles, have HIV, in Russian study. Given the nature of IDU-related health services in this region, the authors stress "the need for increasing access to voluntary and confidential HIV testing in combination with increasing the accessibility of sterile injecting equipment through pharmacies"

<http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/AA1E32BC-20EF-4B93-B811-83CF26FEF1F9.asp>

### Ukraine

Following the success of Alliance Ukraine's campaigning to introduce methadone substitution maintenance therapy for injecting drug users, the rollout of methadone to patients in Kyiv, Odesa and Zaporizhzhya

<http://synkronweb.aidsalliance.org/sw54545.asp?trackingid=6291&newsletterid=186>

## Drug Webwatch

The Australian Drug Foundation's Australian Drug Information Network provides a central point of access to over 1800 quality internet-based alcohol and other drug information sites from Australia and around the world. ADIN topic centres provide a collection of links to information and resources on a specific topic, such as alcohol and drug services, comorbidity, Indigenous communities and multicultural communities. <http://www.adin.com.au>

### Conferences

The first **World Forum Against Drugs** will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, September 8-10 2008. Main theme for the conference is *One hundred years of drug prevention*.

Speakers will include prominent people in the world in the field of anti-drug work, people working practically with local projects and people with personal experiences of great interest.

World Forum welcomes individuals and organisations campaigning to achieve a society free from the abuse of illicit drugs.

World Forum creates an opportunity for people from all around the world working against illicit drugs, particularly at grass root level, to exchange ideas and share experiences on how we all can develop methods and move forward to the visionary goal of a world free from drug abuse.

W: [www.wfad08.org](http://www.wfad08.org)

**DrugWorld** wishes every success to all who are engaged in any programme or project on 26th June, International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. See <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/26-June.html> for further details.

### News items

The news page *DrugWorld* 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.



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