

## European Update

### EMCDDA Annual Report

The report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe presents the EMCDDA's yearly overview of the drug phenomenon. An essential reference book for policymakers, specialists and practitioners in the drugs field or indeed anyone seeking the latest findings on drugs in Europe. Published every autumn, the report contains non-confidential data supported by an extensive range of figures. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/annual-report/2008>

### EMCDDA

Monitoring the supply of cocaine to Europe. This data sheet provides a review of key issues relating to how cocaine is manufactured in Latin America and transported to European consumers via the Atlantic, Caribbean and west Africa. It also looks at the destabilising effect of the cocaine trade on producer and transshipment countries. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index64214EN.html>

### EMCDDA

National drug-related research in Europe. Research is crucial to understanding Europe's drug problems. Research enables Europe to learn lessons from the past, by identifying historical patterns of drug use, and studying the cycles and variations in the use of substances. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index63281EN.html>

### Germany

Researchers have discovered that cocaine addicts are 25 percent more likely to have a particular gene variant than non-addicts -- a fact that could be useful in screening individuals for possible addiction risk. <http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/gene-may-be-predictor-of.html>

### Ireland

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland. 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results. 36-page PDF [http://www.nacd.ie/publications/Bulletin4\\_Cocaine2006-2007.pdf](http://www.nacd.ie/publications/Bulletin4_Cocaine2006-2007.pdf)

### Ireland

Crack cocaine in the Dublin region. An evidence base for a crack cocaine strategy. [http://www.hrb.ie/uploads/tx\\_hrbpublications/HRB\\_Research\\_Series\\_6.pdf](http://www.hrb.ie/uploads/tx_hrbpublications/HRB_Research_Series_6.pdf)

### Portugal

Europe's drug monitoring capacities are among the most developed in the world. As the EU prepares to embark on a new EU drugs action plan (2009–12), an even better

understanding of the challenges ahead is needed. <http://www.the-news.net/cgi-bin/google.pl?id=985-10>

### Spain

Researchers in Spain, which has the highest rate of cocaine use in the European Union, will test a vaccine next year that they hope will help addicts break free of their addiction. <http://news.theage.com.au/world/spain-to-test-cocaine-addiction-vaccine-20081121-6cz6.html>

### Switzerland

A pioneering Swiss programme to give addicts government authorised heroin was overwhelmingly approved by voters who simultaneously rejected the decriminalisation of marijuana. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/dec/01/switzerland-drugs-heroin>

### The Netherlands

Clandestine cannabis growers in the Netherlands net two billion euros (2.7 billion US dollars) a year -- worth almost half the country's horticultural sector. <http://news.smh.com.au/world/cannabis-nets-dutch-growers-2bln-euros-a-year-report-20081019-53qn.html>

### The Netherlands

Local authorities in southwestern Roosendaal and Bergen-op-Zoom announced they could no longer cope with the "drug tourists" whose presence they blamed for traffic congestion, crime and unlicensed dealing. <http://www.theage.com.au/news/travel/news/dutch-towns-close-cannabis-coffee-shops-to-ward-off-drug-tourists/2008/10/24/1224351500636.html>

### United Kingdom

'Drug Education; An Entitlement for All'. A report by the Advisory Group on Drug and Alcohol Education. <http://www.drugeducationforum.com/uploads/Drug%20Education%20an%20entitlement%20for%20all.pdf>

### United Kingdom

Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales, 2006/07. These statistics cover seizures made during the year by police, together with information from HM Revenue and Customs. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1208.pdf>

### United Kingdom

UK Sport is producing a series of articles looking at the changes that the revised World Anti-Doping Code will bring when it comes into effect on 1 January 2009. [http://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/feature\\_anti-doping\\_categorisation\\_explained/](http://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/feature_anti-doping_categorisation_explained/)

## World Update

### UNODC

Drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa. According to a new 54-page PDF report, a declining US cocaine market and a rising European one appear to have prompted South American cocaine traffickers to make use of low-governance areas in West Africa as transit zones [UNODC]

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2008-10-28.html>

### UNODC

Ketamine sweeps the rave scene. A drug used to tranquilize horses has taken the world's dance scene by storm.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/ketamine-sweeps-the-rave-scene.html>

### Afghanistan

Opium production in Afghanistan will contribute \$US500 million (\$770 million) to drug lords and the Taliban this year and has increased in the south despite a drop across the rest of the country.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/taliban-drug-lords-await-770m-opium-bonanza/2008/11/26/1227491636659.html>

### Australia

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2006-07. Findings from the National Minimum Data Set.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10591>

### Australia

A compendium of alcohol and other drug-related resources for law enforcement in Australia. It is intended to serve as an information resource for police and other law enforcement officers working in a variety of settings, student law enforcement officers, policy makers, researchers and others with an interest in this area.

[http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/documents/NDLERF\\_Compndium.pdf](http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/documents/NDLERF_Compndium.pdf)

### Australia

'Amphetamines: good practice in prevention'. The use of amphetamine in Australia is of increasing concern. This has resulted in a corresponding need for relevant information, support, treatment and management strategies that address the needs of people who use amphetamine.

[http://druginfo.adf.org.au/toolkits/seminar\\_notes/amphetamines\\_seminar.html](http://druginfo.adf.org.au/toolkits/seminar_notes/amphetamines_seminar.html)

### Bolivia

President Evo Morales has announced he is suspending "indefinitely" the operations of the US Drug Enforcement Administration in Bolivia.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7704528.stm>

### Cambodia

Injection Drug Use Threatens To Increase HIV/AIDS Rates in Cambodia. An increase in injection drug use,

which is being driven by an influx of low-cost methamphetamines, is contributing to rising HIV/AIDS rates. <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/gsa/ga.cfm?quickquery=Injection+Drug+Use+Threatens+To+Increase+HIV%2FAIDS+Rates+in+Cambodia&Submit=Search>

### Canada

Methadone, a drug used for many years to treat heroin addiction, appears to work well in cocaine addiction, too, a new Canadian study suggests <http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/story.html?id=2063ce74-878e-40fd-a238-4e6a601200a1>

### Colombia

The billions of dollars worth of illegal drugs produced here and abroad take a horrific toll on some of the most fragile and diverse eco-systems on the planet. [http://pushingback.com/blogs/pushing\\_back/archive/2008/11/20/45460.aspx](http://pushingback.com/blogs/pushing_back/archive/2008/11/20/45460.aspx)

### Gulf States

There are more than half a million heroin addicts in the Arab world and millions of Arab youths who are either users or addicts of various kinds of drugs in addition to heroin, such as hashish, cocaine and captagen. [http://www.zawya.com/Story.cfm/sidGN\\_22112008\\_10261516/Heroin%20addiction%20gains%20ground%20in%20Arab%20world](http://www.zawya.com/Story.cfm/sidGN_22112008_10261516/Heroin%20addiction%20gains%20ground%20in%20Arab%20world)

### Mexico

A corruption probe in Mexico has snared the country's former drug czar, accused of taking a \$450,000 bribe from one of Mexico's violent drug cartels in exchange for information.

<http://members.jointogether.org/ct/Kd2QYYM10EEu/>

### New Zealand

New survey to probe NZ drug driving. It wants as many Kiwis as possible to complete a new online survey, whether they've ever taken drugs or not.

<http://www.nzdf.org.nz/media-drugdrivingsurvey-nov08>

### Pakistan

In Karachi some 2million youth and children are the risk of drug addiction, as prevalence of drug addiction in very high in this mega city, said a Karachi-based NGO working on the issues of street children and youth.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Karachi/26-Oct-2008/Two-million-youth-in-Karachi-drug-addicts>

### USA

New research finds that a national campaign's anti-drug TV ads failed to convince young children and teenagers to stay away from marijuana and actually might have encouraged some to try smoking pot.

<http://www.hbns.org/getDocument.cfm?documentID=1796>

## Drug Webwatch

This edition of DrugWorld features web sites that specialise in specific substances.

### Rohipnol

The Roofie Foundation deals with issues surrounding drug rape and sexual abuse. Site has a mixture of opinions, practical guidance and legal advice. Useful for practitioners or members of the public concerned with these issues. Statistics also available on drug rape. <http://www.roofie.com/>

### GHB

Project GHB is a source of communication about the dangerous drug gamma hydroxy butyrate (GHB). Information is available about GHB overdose; GHB-related deaths; drug-facilitated sexual assault involving GHB or other drugs; GHB addiction and withdrawal; GHB in DUI cases, and GHB as a medication (Xyrem). This site also includes information about other drug abuse issues, such as Ecstasy (MDMA) & Ketamine (Special K), and a special section on Prescription and Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. <http://www.projectghb.org/>

### Benzodiazepine

This web site is dedicated to sufferers of iatrogenic benzodiazepine tranquilliser addiction everywhere. Launched on July 6, 2000 with around a dozen pages this site now has more than 650 pages of articles and information, expert medical documents, news stories and personal accounts. <http://www.benzo.org.uk/>

Below is an interesting new website from the UNODC.

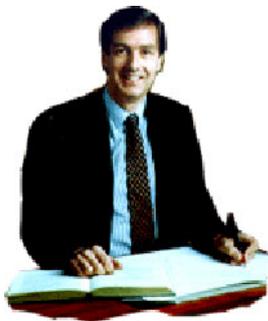
### Campaign Against Corruption

UNODC has recently launched the website to support the 2008 international campaign against corruption. The international campaign sets out to increase awareness of corruption and its negative impact on individuals and society, as well as to promote the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Visitors to the website can learn more about the campaign and order promotional material. UNODC has produced web banners, brochures, logos and posters in different languages. [www.unodc.org/yournocounts](http://www.unodc.org/yournocounts)

### 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.



Send this newsletter to a colleague - click below

<http://www.drugworld.co.uk/recommend>



[www.drugworld.co.uk](http://www.drugworld.co.uk)