

## European Update

### EMCDDA

A novel approach to monitoring illicit drug use in the community is showcased by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) in the latest edition (9) of its Insights series. Entitled Assessing illicit drugs in wastewater: Potential and limitations of a new monitoring approach, the report looks at how analysing communal wastewater (e.g. from treatment plants) for residues of illicit drugs can provide real-time insights into local drug consumption levels and changing trends. Multilingual summary in 23 languages. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index65649EN.html>

### EMCDDA

Drug use, impaired driving and traffic accidents *December 2008* This literature review provides a comprehensive report on the relationship between drug use, impaired driving and traffic accidents. While alcohol remains the number one substance endangering lives on European roads, more drivers are now found to be using illicit drugs and psychoactive medicines, presenting a number of challenges for policy-makers. Insight edition 8. <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/driving>

### Germany

Germany to ban cannabis-like drug 'Spice'. The production, trade and sale of the in-drug "Spice" will likely be illegalized from January under German narcotics laws. <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,3910421,00.html>

### Ireland

Garda are to consider the use of satellite or aircraft infrared detection after discovering that marijuana-growing operations are sprouting up all over the country. So far at least five of the operations have been uncovered. <http://www.drugs.ie/news/799/>

### Ireland

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland. 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cannabis Results. 48-page PDF <http://www.nacd.ie/publications/NACD%20Bulletin3.pdf>

### Ireland

Needle Exchange Provision in Ireland - The Context, Current Levels of Service Provision and Recommendations A 52-page PDF Joint Report by the [National Drugs Strategy Team and National Advisory Committee on Drugs] [http://www.nacd.ie/publications/NACD\\_NDSTNeedleExchangeReport.pdf](http://www.nacd.ie/publications/NACD_NDSTNeedleExchangeReport.pdf)

### Switzerland

The Swiss, in a national referendum, approved a prescription heroin program for addicts, but at the same time rejected a bid to decriminalize marijuana. <http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08.n1081.a02.html>

### Spain

One of Colombia's most notorious drug lords, Leonidas Vargas, was shot dead in his Madrid hospital bed. At least one person entered the room in Madrid's October 12th Hospital where Vargas was being treated for a serious illness, and shot the drugs kingpin four times. <http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v09/n024/a09.html>

### The Netherlands

The Netherlands will ban the sale and cultivation of all hallucinogenic "magic" mushrooms next week, the latest target of a country seeking to shed its "anything goes" image. <http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08.n1073.a04.html>

### United Kingdom

Lifeline Annual Review 07/08. A leading drug service NGO. Includes reports, features and video clips. <http://www.lifelinereview08.co.uk/index.php>

### United Kingdom

Police are to launch a crack down on retailers who display drug-related paraphernalia, because of fears they are glamorising abuse of illegal substances. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/4091700/Police-plan-clamp-down-on-shops-accused-of-glamorising-drug-use.html>

### Recommend DrugWorld Newsletter to a colleague.

Since the publication of the first newsletter the list of subscribers has continued to grow. Over 40 countries receive the regular postings and log into the news page. If you find the newsletter and the daily news update on <http://www.drugworld.co.uk/news.php> useful then consider recommending it to a friend or colleague. Just click on the recommendation banner at the foot of page 3 of this newsletter.

### Links to drug related web sites

One of the objectives of establishing DrugWorld was to provide a portal for practitioners to have access to relevant drug related web sites around the world without the need to constantly use search engines.. Please check at <http://www.drugworld.co.uk/links.html> to ensure that your organisation or agency is represented. If not, and you would like it included, then please e. mail the details to [paul@paul-cook.net](mailto:paul@paul-cook.net)

## World Update

### Afghanistan

In the past eight months, over 300 tonnes of cannabis, over 25 tonnes of opium and over 10 tonnes of heroin, as well as several tonnes of heroin-producing chemicals, were impounded. Twenty-five heroin-producing laboratories were also destroyed, according to the Interior Ministry. A senior official in the Interior Ministry says that "unprecedented progress" has been made in the fight against drugs, with at least 500 drug traffickers arrested.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=81896>

### Afghanistan

Lost souls of Afghanistan's heroin trade. How women are falling victim to Kabul's burgeoning heroin problem. Video

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/video/2008/dec/22/afghanistan-drug-abuse>

### Africa

Violent Mexican cartels that have killed thousands in a drug war at home this year are increasingly smuggling drugs to Europe by way of Africa.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/23/AR2008122301907.html?sub=AR>

### Australia

The Precursor Chemical Trade Environment in Oceania. A report on the manufacture and use of, and trade in, chemicals that can be used to produce illicit drugs.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/96/rpp96.pdf>

### Bolivia

The US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has been given 3 months to leave Bolivia, accused of espionage and financing the opposition. Evo Morales claimed that it will now wage its own anti-drug war without US support.

<http://www.russiatoday.com/features/news/33728>

### Canada

The number of drug deaths in British Columbia has dipped to levels not seen in years 14 months before Vancouver welcomes the world to the 2010 Olympics. In a startling turnaround, the number of deaths in Vancouver as a result of a heroin overdose or the use of other illegal drugs could drop by as much as 80 per cent from the peak 10 years ago.

[http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/Page/document/v5/content/subscribe?user\\_URL=http://www.theglobeandmail.com%2Fservlet%2Fstory%2FLAC.20081209.BCD.RUG09%2FTPStory%2FTPNational%2FBritishColumbia%2F&ord=86707416&brand=theglobeandmail&force\\_login=true](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/Page/document/v5/content/subscribe?user_URL=http://www.theglobeandmail.com%2Fservlet%2Fstory%2FLAC.20081209.BCD.RUG09%2FTPStory%2FTPNational%2FBritishColumbia%2F&ord=86707416&brand=theglobeandmail&force_login=true)

### China

The Ministry of Public Security said on its Web site that anti drug organizations across China made "obvious achievements" last year in stopping drug sources and improving rehabilitation methods.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-01/04/content\\_10601741.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-01/04/content_10601741.htm)

### Colombia

Crops for illicit use and ecocide *Drug Policy Briefing*

This briefing analyses the Colombian government campaign which hopes to persuade cocaine consumers to kick the habit by highlighting the ecological disaster caused by production of the alkaloid. Whilst cocaine production has undoubtedly contributed to ecological damage, the main culprit is the anti-drugs policy and the broader economic policies of the government itself.

[http://www.tni.org/detail\\_page.phtml?&act\\_id=18989](http://www.tni.org/detail_page.phtml?&act_id=18989)

### India

Concateno team with Merck to bring road-side drug testing to India. First to be licensed for on-site drug testing in Indian market.

<http://www.dailydose.net/archives/Merck-Concateno.doc>

### Israel

Israeli drug lords are increasingly targeting Australia for ecstasy smuggling, according to confidential Israel Police intelligence that shows crime syndicates view it as a booming market for the party drug.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/israeli-drug-smugglers-hit-australia/2008/12/12/1228585118884.html>

### Mexico

The U.S. government has given \$200 million to Mexico to enhance anti drug law-enforcement agencies, develop addiction-treatment programs, and otherwise support the nation's bloody battle against drug cartels.

[http://members.jointogether.org/ct/qp2QYYM1\\_Ykt/](http://members.jointogether.org/ct/qp2QYYM1_Ykt/)

### Nigeria

Worried by the high rate of cannabis cultivation in the country the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency have strongly advocated for youth empowerment as the only option to end cannabis cultivation and narcotics problem in the state.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v08.n1126.a03.html>

### Tajikistan

The UNODC-trained and supported Mobile Deployment Team of the Tajik interior ministry recently seized some 560 kilos of drugs.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/major-drug-seizure-in-tajikistan.html>

### USA

Drug Training Centre Opens at Quantico. The \$16.4 million building, unveiled this month after two years of construction, will train federal, state and local law enforcement officers from across the country in how to safely eliminate secret drug labs, which, in the United States, primarily produce methamphetamine.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/19/AR2008121903284.html>

## Drug Webwatch

This edition of DrugWorld features web sites that address the issue of misuse of licit substances.

### Prevention of pharmaceutical drug misuse

The misuse of pharmaceutical drugs is gaining increasing attention worldwide. The Australian Drug Foundation has produced a suite of resources outlines some prevention and early intervention strategies that may be used to address pharmaceutical drug misuse.

<http://druginfo.adf.org.au/newsletter.asp?ContainerID=pharmaceuticals>

### OxyContin

OxyContin® is a prescription painkiller used for moderate to high pain relief associated with injuries, bursitis, dislocations, fractures, neuralgia, arthritis, lower back pain, and pain associated with cancer. OxyContin® contains oxycodone, the medication's active ingredient, in a timed-release tablet. Oxycodone products have been illicitly abused for the past 30 years. <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/oxycodone.html>

### Subutex

Subutex (buprenorphine hydrochloride) and Suboxone tablets (buprenorphine hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride) is approved for the treatment of opiate dependence. Subutex and Suboxone treat opiate addiction by preventing symptoms of withdrawal from heroin and other opiates.

[http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/subutex\\_suboxone/subutex-ga.htm](http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/subutex_suboxone/subutex-ga.htm)

### Publication

#### Withdrawal Symptoms in the Golden Triangle: A Drugs Market in Disarray

Drug control agencies have called the significant decline in opium production in Southeast Asia over the past decade a 'success story'. The latest report of the Transnational Institute (TNI), based on in-depth research in the region, casts serious doubts on this claim noting that Southeast Asia suffers from a variety of 'withdrawal symptoms' that leave little reason for optimism.

Transnational Institute, January 2009

ISBN/EAN: 978-90-71007-22-4, 100 pp. full colour

Download the report: <http://www.tni.org/reports/drugs/withdrawal.pdf>

### 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.

**Don't forget to click on the link below and recommend DrugWorld to a friend or colleague.**

**Paul Cook**

Send this newsletter to a colleague - click below

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



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