

## European Update

### EMCDDA

Experts and policymakers gathering in Lisbon for an international conference, underlined the need for rapid and innovative responses to Europe's changing drugs problem. The event was dedicated to 'Identifying Europe's information needs for effective drug policy'. Some 300 policymakers, researchers and practitioners from Europe, North America and Australia, considered the major challenges arising from today's drug situation, and the type of information required to respond to it in future. They also took stock of achievements to date, including the creation of an extensive regional monitoring system (Reitox network) — which now provides comparable drugs information from some 30 countries — and a European early-warning system, which detects new and potentially threatening drugs entering the illicit market.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/press/news-releases>

### EMCDDA

'Drug use: an overview of general population surveys in Europe'. A meta-analysis of 25 population surveys on drug use in Europe was carried out, including intrinsic and methodological discussions and a description of financial sources, timetables and accessibility of the fieldwork and data documentation.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/thematic-papers/gps>

### EMCDDA

'Internet-based drug treatment interventions' Report provides a comprehensive review of the relatively new phenomenon of Internet-based drug treatment interventions.

[http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att\\_78709\\_EN EMCDDA-Insight10.pdf](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_78709_EN EMCDDA-Insight10.pdf)

### Ireland

Drug Use, Sex Work and the Risk Environment in Dublin. The NACD undertook this study to explore female and male problematic drug-using sex workers' lived experience of risk, and how the risk environment can mediate the individual's capacity to reduce the risk of harm.

[http://www.nacd.ie/publications/Druguse\\_SexWork\\_Web.pdf](http://www.nacd.ie/publications/Druguse_SexWork_Web.pdf)

### Norway

Limited access to opiate substitute prescribing in Norway paved the way for a study which suggested that if 100 people are made to wait for treatment, an extra one or two will die per year compared to treatment being made immediately available.

[http://findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=Clausen\\_T\\_1.txt](http://findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=Clausen_T_1.txt)

### Portugal

Drugs in Portugal: Did Decriminalization Work? Does the new policy work? At the time, critics said decriminalizing drug possession would open the country to "drug tourists" and exacerbate Portugal's drug problem; the country had some of the highest levels of hard-drug use in Europe. But the recently released results of a report commissioned by the Cato Institute, suggest otherwise.

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1893946,00.html?xid=rss-health>

### The Netherlands

Dutch police unveiled the "Cannachopper", the latest addition to their crime-fighting arsenal. The unmanned mini-helicopter is fitted with diagnostic and surveillance instruments allowing it to detect cannabis plants from the air.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v09/n486/a02.html>

### United Kingdom

UK Sport carried out a total of 7,545 drug tests over the course of the past year as part of the national anti-doping programme,

[http://www.ukssport.gov.uk/news/dfs\\_end\\_of\\_year\\_results/](http://www.ukssport.gov.uk/news/dfs_end_of_year_results/)

### United Kingdom

'The harmful health effects of recreational ecstasy: a systematic review of observational evidence'. This review aims to address the question: 'What are the harmful health effects of taking ecstasy (MDMA) for recreational use?' It does not examine the harmful indirect and/or social effects and the consequences of any effect MDMA may have on sexual behaviour.

<http://www.nccta.org/execsumm/summ1306.shtml>

### United Kingdom

'A Comparison of the Cost-effectiveness of the Prohibition and Regulation of Drugs'. This initial analysis demonstrates that a move to legally regulated drug supply would deliver substantial benefits to the Treasury and wider community, even in the highly unlikely event of a substantial increase in use.

<http://www.tdpf.org.uk/TransformCBApaper.pdf>

### United Kingdom

The Home Office have published figures detailing the number of drug offences committed by young people. Last year 13,621 boys under 17 were arrested, compared to 1,402 girls in the same age range. Also there were 15,990 boys and 1,782 girls between the age of 18 and 20 who were arrested.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0709.pdf>

## World Update

### UNODC

Guide to implementing family skills training programmes for drug abuse prevention. This guide is developed for anybody who is interested in developing, adapting and implementing an evidence-based family skills training programme. The guide offers background information of scientific evidence and lists 12 key principles to keep in mind when using the programme.

[http://www.unodc.org/youthnet/youthnet\\_action\\_family.html](http://www.unodc.org/youthnet/youthnet_action_family.html)

### Afghanistan

Awareness of the risks of catching HIV/AIDS and other diseases among Afghanistan's estimated 19,000 intravenous drug users is rising, but there is no reason for complacency, say experts. A recent survey of 483 injecting drug users carried out indicated that overall awareness about diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and syphilis had increased. NGOs have been helping to raise awareness and the free distribution of needles and condoms had helped.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=84128>

### Australia

'Women, drug use and crime': findings from the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia programme. Seeks to investigate the relationship between drug use and crime, illuminating gender differences among three different samples: police detainees, prisoners and the Australian population.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/99/rpp99.pdf>

### Australia

Khat: a literature review. There have been substantial increases in the volume of khat being imported into Australia, however there is little systematic evidence of a consequent rise in harms associated with khat use.

[http://www.ceh.org.au/downloads/Khat\\_report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ceh.org.au/downloads/Khat_report_FINAL.pdf)

### Australia

Australian Drug Trends 2008: Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)

[http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/resources/DRUG\\_TRENDS\\_1\\_NAT/\\$file/DT2008.pdf](http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/resources/DRUG_TRENDS_1_NAT/$file/DT2008.pdf)

### Canada

A lawyer for the Conservative government says it is not the government's job to provide safe injection sites and there is no constitutional right for addicts to inject illegal drugs.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/todays-paper/story.html?id=1539898>

### Central and South America

The European Union has agreed to expand its effort in combating drug trafficking in Central and South America. The region is a major center for drug transit and needs help combating selling and consumption.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/05/14/eu-to-combat-latin-america\\_n\\_203611.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/05/14/eu-to-combat-latin-america_n_203611.html)

### Columbia

Colombian police seized two tons of cocaine, whose black market value was estimated at 50 million dollars, buried in a rural area of the northwestern province of Antioquia. The owner of the estate was arrested.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/268721.two-tons-of-cocaine-worth-50-million-dollars-seized-in>

### Mexico

Mexican authorities have arrested more than 60,000 people in connection with drug trafficking over the past two years, according to government statistics from a nationwide crackdown that has also led to an increase in violence and allegations of human rights abuse.

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v09/n479/a04.html>

### Mexico

Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is calling for a change in drug policy for Latin American countries that includes decriminalizing and possibly legalizing marijuana.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/americas/05/13/mexico.fox.marijuana/index.html>

### Peru

They are called "mochileros," or backpackers, many of them mere children, but in the dense jungles of south-east Peru they play a vital role, ferrying drugs on their backs to the outside world. Traveling the most remote trails at night, this virtually invisible army is recruited from youths with no other way out of the poverty and neglect of the the country's coca producing lowlands, experts say.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090514/lf\\_afp/peruviolencedrugs\\_20090514064607](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090514/lf_afp/peruviolencedrugs_20090514064607)

### Thailand

Drug Use and HIV/AIDS in Thailand. A series of six info sheets on legal and ethical issues related to drug use and HIV/AIDS in Thailand by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

<http://www.aidslaw.ca/publications/interfaces/download/File.php?ref=1441>

### USA

'Methadone-Associated Overdose Deaths'. Factors Contributing to Increased Deaths and Efforts to Prevent Them. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09341.pdf>

### USA

Report Disputes DEA on Cocaine Price Rise. Cocaine prices have steadily declined over the long-term, according to a report from the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) that disputes recent assertions from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) about the impact of a reported rise in the cost of cocaine.

[http://wola.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=900&Itemid=8](http://wola.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=900&Itemid=8)

## Drug Webwatch

### The Film Exchange on Alcohol and Drugs (FEAD)

FEAD is an online resource that brings short video presentations from leading figures in the alcohol and drugs field direct to your screen. The contributors cover a range of topics honestly and directly - including: achievements, problem areas, and reflections on the field's history. <http://www.fead.org.uk>

### Conferences

Mentor UK are holding a conference on alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour in rural areas. The event will take place in Nottingham on 11 June. The flyer points out: Rural areas, coastal towns, ex-mining areas and market towns continue to experience significant problems from drug and alcohol abuse, and from associated anti-social behaviour. Recent Home Office funding, which was recently announced for 50 priority areas with the highest levels of alcohol-related disorder, included places such as North East Lincolnshire, Weymouth and Mansfield. <http://drugeducationforum.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/booking-form-rural-substance-misuse.doc>

Mentor UK are holding a conference on Alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour in rural areas. The event will take place in Nottingham on 11 June. Booking form : <http://drugeducationforum.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/booking-form-rural-substance-misuse.doc>

### National Tackling Drugs Week - 8-12 June 2009. United Kingdom

National Tackling Drugs Week is designed to provide local agencies and police forces with a platform to publicise the work to tackle drugs and reduce drug-related crime. It aims to increase public confidence in, and awareness of the work being done locally to respond to people's concerns about drugs locally. This week will build upon the success and momentum generated by last year's National Tackling Drugs Days. It's also a reflection of commitment to respond to community concerns about drugs, which is a key element of the drug strategy.

Purpose of the week

- Raise awareness of work undertaken by agencies and police forces to tackle drugs and reduce drug-related crime and harm
- Use communications to address local communities' perceptions of drug use in their area and to build confidence in the work of local agencies
- Demonstrate to the public that tangible improvements are being made in communities across the country
- Launch the Tackling Drugs Changing Lives Awards 2009  
<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/communications-and-campaigns/tackling-drugs/NationalTacklingDrugsWeek/>

### 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** a dedicated drug and alcohol news researcher, UK. [www.fead.org.uk](http://www.fead.org.uk)

Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to [paul@paul-cook.net](mailto:paul@paul-cook.net)

If you found this newsletter useful then **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)