

European Update

EMCDDA

Drugnet Europe 67

In this issue: Brain research throws light on addiction; European action on drugs; Associations between HIV-prevention measures and HIV infection; globalisation and harm reduction; World drug report 2009; European Commission conference on drug-related research.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/67>

EMCDDA

Methamphetamine: a European Union perspective in the global context. A joint publication with EUROPOL. This study focuses on the supply and use of methamphetamine in Europe, set in a global context.

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_82097_EN_Methamphetamine_final.pdf

EMCDDA

Strategy and work programme 2010–12

This work programme ensures that the EMCDDA remains a key resource for Europe – providing high-quality information to underpin effective drug policies and serving as a catalyst for supporting and developing national information systems.

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_82066_EN_Work%20progarmme%202010-2012.pdf

Greece

Greek Police Bust Bulgarian Trafficking Drugs from Bolivia. A container with 447 kg of cocaine was seized at the port of Piraeus near Athens. This is the largest quantity of drugs ever captured in Greece.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=106741

Ireland

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Polydrug Use Results. The focus is on the combinations of both legal and illegal drugs based on information obtained from the second prevalence survey of households to be carried out in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

<http://www.nacd.ie/publications/NACDPolydrugUseBulletin5.pdf>

Ireland

Drugnet Ireland Newsletter Summer 2009. Including article on Sedative, tranquilliser and anti-depressant use.

http://www.hrb.ie/uploads/tx_hrbpublications/Drugnet_30.pdf

Malta

In May 2008 a Somali national was arrested at Malta airport trying to import 20kgs of khat. He was found guilty at the lower court and sentenced to a 6 month imprison-

ment. The man appealed and the Appeal Court found that in line with the social and cultural habits of his country of origin, he simply intended to provide his friends in Malta with a plant to chew, even if that plant would have, as he must certainly have known that it would have, a stimulating effect on whoever consumed it. He was acquitted.

Source: Mario Mifsud, Court appointed expert.

Portugal

In 2001 Portugal became the only European country to decriminalise all drugs from cannabis to heroin. Eight years later has the policy has affected drug use.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0036wf7>

Spain

Spanish police intercepted a yacht at sea that was bound for Britain with 250 kilos of cocaine on board and had broken up an international drug-smuggling gang.

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/22/20090810/tts-uk-spain-drugs-62c696a.html>

United Kingdom

Research Report 13 - Measuring the harm from illegal drugs: a summary of the Drug Harm Index 2006. The Drug Harms Index combines robust national indicators of the harms generated by illegal drugs into a single figure time-series index.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr13.pdf>

United Kingdom

ACMD Annual Report 2008-09: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) is a statutory and non-executive Non-Departmental Public Body, which was established under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/acmd/annual-report-2008-09?view=Binary>

United Kingdom

Police hope to arrest and charge more suspects after a gang of 12 Vietnamese nationals who ran eight cannabis farms across north Wales were jailed.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/north_west/8206276.stm

World Update

UNODC

The UNODC have a number of (substance specific) podcasts on their World Drug Campaign website. The introductory file explains the concept, which is to put questions from teenagers to experts.

<http://www.unodc.org/drugs/en/campaign-tools/audio.html>

UNODC

UNODC launches eNews@UNODC - a new electronic newsletter to inform about the latest news on UNODC and international drugs and crime issues.

This is the latest addition to a growing collection of information options that UNODC is making available to its many audiences. The e-newsletter contains links to news items and other current drugs and crime information. Other links include latest publications, upcoming events and UNODC in pictures.

<http://www.unodc.org/newsletter/newsletter>

UNODC

A UNODC report issued today in New York shows that in the past few years, West Africa has become a hub not only for cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Europe but also for other trafficking flows.

http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/West_Africa_Report_2009.pdf

Afghanistan

Taliban insurgents are forcing farmers in Farah Province, southern Afghanistan, to grow opium poppies and are imposing a hefty tax on yields.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=84593>

Afghanistan

The American-led mission in Afghanistan is all but abandoning efforts to destroy the poppy crops that provide the largest source of income to the insurgency, and instead will take significant steps to wean local farmers off the drug trade — including one proposal to pay them to grow nothing.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/24/world/asia/24poppy.html?scp=4&sq=Shift%20in%20policy%20in%20afghanistan&st=cse>

Argentina

"Paco," a cheap mixture of cocaine residue mixed with industrial solvents, kerosene or even rat poison, has become a major drug of abuse in the slums of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Paco has been around since about 2003, a byproduct of the processing of cocaine coming in from Peru and Bolivia. A hit costs as little as \$1.30. It has become "the scourge of the poor," providing a quick but intense high but also leading to addiction, brain damage and rapid weight loss.

Australia

Illicit Drug Data Report 2007–2008. Draws on the combined resources, experience and expertise of Australia's law enforcement community and forensic laboratories to

provide a statistical overview of illicit drug arrests, seizures and border detections.

http://www.crimecommission.gov.au/publications/iddr/files/2007_08/IDDR%202007-08%20FINAL%20030609.pdf

Canada

Border officers in recently seized 140 kilograms of cocaine, making it the largest land border seizures ever made in western Canada. Officers discovered 144 bricks of cocaine while searching a commercial truck and trailer. During the examination of the trailer, officers found numerous cellophane-wrapped packages hidden inside the modified refrigeration unit.

<http://www2.canada.com/abbotsfordtimes/news/story.html?id=aca0b8ad-4884-4d9a-83cf-0844a1c026ca>

Morocco

Moroccan police and customs officials have seized 2.5 tonnes of cannabis resin found in two vehicles headed to Spain.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090813/wl_africa_afp/moroccocrimedrugsspain_20090813185900

Moldova

Harm Reduction in Prison: The Moldova Model: This report focuses on the introduction of harm reduction programs in Moldovan prisons and describes successes achieved as well as remaining challenges.

<http://www.idpc.net/sites/default/files/library/Harm%20reduction%20in%20Prison%20Moldova.pdf>

Tajikistan

Tajikistan's State Drug Control Agency celebrated its 10th anniversary, drawing praise from President Imomali Rahmon for its success in combating narcotics trafficking. Even so, foreign officials continue to complain that large quantities of drugs continue to move across the Tajik-Afghan border and on to European markets.

<http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insightb/articles/eav060209.shtml>

USA

Drug legalization "is not a part of the president's vocabulary under any circumstances and it's not a part of mine," said Obama administration drug czar Gil Kerlikowske in a recent interview.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN05287225>

USA

The U.S. Defense Department's Southern Command (Southcom) has begun to test an unmanned air vehicle (UAV), or drone, for use in detecting and intercepting boats used to smuggle narcotics into the U.S., Called the Heron, the UAV can fly undetected for more than 20 hours and stream high-quality, real-time video from as high as 15,000 ft.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2009/adding-drones-to-the-drug-war.html>

Drug Update

Conferences

CALL FOR PAPERS: Fourth Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy

March 15-16, 2010 - Santa Monica, California USA The fourth annual conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) will be held at RAND's Headquarters in Santa Monica, CA USA, March 15-16, 2009. The event is being co-hosted by the RAND Drug Policy Research Center and UCLA's Integrated Substance Abuse Program. The theme of the conference this year is "The Future of Drug Policy: Trends in Policy, Research to Practice and Practices that Should be Researched." The conference should be of interest to policy makers, practitioners and academics from a wide array of disciplines who are engaged in drug policy analyses pertaining to drug markets, the harms caused by both the supply of and demand for drugs, and the intended and unintended consequences of policy. <http://www.rand.org/multi/dprc/issdp2010/>

European Cities Against Drugs

14-15 September 2009, Tallinn, Estonia

CONFERENCE ON PRIMARY PREVENTION:

Methods, results and effects for successful primary prevention programmes for young persons: Experts in the field from Sweden, Estonia and Finland will invite to a constructive dialogue and experience exchange. Practical examples on what works will be presented by Latvian, Polish and Russian colleagues.

https://www.frens.info/site/tmpl/reg9_509.php

Publication

'The Candy Machine' by Tom Feiling (Allen Lane)

The writer gives a global account of the cocaine trade and looks at its fluctuating fortunes from the early days of the War on Drugs under the Nixon administration, through the Reagan years and the support for the Nicaraguan Contras' trafficking, to the present day, where he concludes that prohibition is unworkable because no one is addressing the problems that lead to drug abuse.

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 Add it to your Favourites or Bookmarks for ease of access.

Future Issues

Items for inclusion in future issues should be forwarded to paul@paul-cook.net

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