Italian drug policy: a deep investigation

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Italy and drugs: the scenario

1. Drug use today: a picture

2. Two important players on the drug field

3. Drug policy: a political left / right issue?

4. The historical beginning

5. ECAD strategy: a chance for Italy?
Italy: average level drug use ... in official surveys
Higher numbers in real world

**Figura I.4.11:** Percentuale di minori *italiani* assuntori di sostanze stupefacenti transitati per i servizi di giustizia minorile per sostanza assunta. Anni 2002 – 2009

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**Italian Drug Policy: who is really in charge?**

giovedì 13 ottobre 11
Users in 2009 year: **2,924,500** (-25.7% from 2008 ?!)

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Heroin and cocaine problematic users. differences among regions

Figura I.2.2: Stime di prevalenza (per mille residenti di età 15-64 anni) di soggetti con bisogno di trattamento per oppiacei o cocaina (soggetti cumulati). Anno 2009

Fonte: Elaborazione su flussi informativi Ministeriali
Heroin addicted: gender differences between north and South

Figura 1.2.4: Stime di prevalenza (per mille residenti di età 15-64 anni) di soggetti con bisogno di trattamento per oppiacei secondo il genere. Anno 2009
Drugs and HIV in prison

Fonte: Ministero della Giustizia – Dipartimento dell’Amministrazione Penitenziaria
Public opinion about drugs

The Eurispes “Rapporto Italia 2004” shows the 69.5% of Italian population support the criminalization of any use of any drug, also “soft drugs”
Mafia and drugs.
Rome is the capital

In the 2009 in Rome 965 members of foreign criminal drug trafficking organizations were arrested.

Nigerians are dedicated to cocaine, people from Algeria and Marocco are behind cannabis, serbians sell services on balcanic routes, colombians provide logistic for cocaine market with ‘ndrangheta. Pushers from Albania create sinergies with their italian collegues, terrorist from Colombia have their rapresentatives for cocaine, while ‘ndranghesti are focusing on brokering and transport in Europe, all toghether meeting in some of the many “drug embassys” opened in the italian Capital.

Italian Drug Policy: who is really in charge?
Drug trafficking = big money = corruption

• Italian anti-organized crime agencies estimated in 2007 that the 'Ndrangheta has annual revenue of about € 43 billion, which amounts to approximately 3.5% of the GDP of Italy.

• This comes mostly from illegal drug trafficking.
Drug trafficking = big money = corruption

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Radical and opposite views on drugs policy

- **Silvio Berlusconi** and **Dimitri Medved**, the September 2010 in Yaroslav (Russia).
- They talked how to fight international drug trafficking: the answer is a strong criminal law against any drug use in order to reduce personal use.
- If you stop the demand you stop the production/trafficking/selling of drugs.

A billboard of a leftist party in the latest Italian political national election call for the liberalization of marijuana.

The most influential politicians and thinkers in center left area openly admit they want to use the so-called Harm Reduction Policy as a step-by-step strategy with the final goal the of legalization of production/selling/use of drugs.
National drug laws from 1923 to now

- Legge n. 396 del 18 febbraio 1923 then developed in the “Codice Rocco” 19 ottobre 1930, Art. 446: for drug use prison from 1 to 3 years.

- Legge n. 685 del 22 dicembre 1975.
  Decriminalization personal use and depenalization “soft” drugs (cannabis)

- Legge n.162 del 26 Giugno 1990. Criminalization of drug use again except the “average daily amount”.


- Legge n.350 del 24 dicembre 2003. Anti Drug National Coordinator established

- Legge n.49 del 21 febbraio 2006. Soft and hard drugs now are the same for the law, The judge decides if the amount of drug is for personal use or not (1 month-1 year)
Drug related deaths in Italy: the beginning in 1977

- **1962** Italian representative in the international conference on narcotics in Ginevra reported: “Drugs use and abuse are not a serious problem in Italy”

- **1970** government report says only 806 drug addicts in Italy.

- **Health problems, people in jail and mass use of drugs start with liberal laws in 1975**

- **Restrictive laws: the most important protective factor?**
Heroin addicted begin in the late ’70


Elaborazione su dati del Ministero della Salute e del progetto SIMI®Italia
Cocaine problematic users started in the late ’80

Grafico 4.16: Incidenza di primo uso problematico di cocaina in Italia

Elaborazione su dati del Ministero della Salute e del progetto SIMI®Italia
The 2006 law confirm: more restrictions, less people in prison

“The data from Judicial System show, after one year, the more restrictive anti drug law ‘Fini-Giovanardi’ has reduced the number of criminal offenses”.

With the new law, “all the drug related crimes are 4% less, in numbers: from 2005 to 2006, 33,000 to 20,631 cases”

“Il Sole 24ore”, 19 February 2007
The (many) laws at Region level

Every single region decide *if* and *how much* money to spend to fight drug abuse.

Every single region have its own laws regarding the “drug problem”.

The National AntiDrug Plan by Central government is accepted or refused by local governments depending which political party ruling.
The general ignorance about drugs: our survey

Indagine sul livello di conoscenza delle droghe da parte della popolazione italiana


www.formatresearch.com
www.osservatoriodroga.it
IL DIBATTITO NELLE FAMIGLIE SUI PERICOLI CONSEGUENTI ALL’USO DI DROGHE

(Solo per coloro che hanno figli). Parlate mai con i vostri figli sui pericoli conseguenti all’uso di droghe?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spiegazione</th>
<th>Percentuale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Si, spesso</td>
<td>52,2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Si, qualche volta</td>
<td>30,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Si, raramente</td>
<td>4,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mai</td>
<td>12,9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUANTO GLI ITALIANI SI RITENGONO A CONOSCENZA SULLE CONSEGUENZE DELL’USO DI DROGHE

Quanto ritiene di essere a conoscenza sulle conseguenze dell’uso di droghe?

- Molto: 60,7%
- Abbastanza: 26,7%
- Così così: 4,9%
- Poco: 5,3%
- Per nulla: 2,4%

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The first Drugs National Plan in 2010: *only* 16% of the budget in prevention/education.

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Municipality level policies and actions is the future

Why ECAD experience could be useful in Italy?

Elected officials at very local level are more concerned about drug issue as a real people problem than ideological beliefs.

Avoid the burocracy (corruption?) affecting some nation-wide policy

The Italy as a nation is a modern concept, just 150 years old. People are really involved only on policies affecting their “family” in broader meaning (i.e. local community).

Italian history is an history of “Comuni”, due to individualistic attitude and, more, for strong cultural differencies between cities.
Thank you for your attention!

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