



More to support "YOUTH IN EUROPE"



Key persons in the project, Kristin Arnadottir (the City of Reykjavik) and the patron of the project, His Excellency Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland

Youth in Europe's Steering Committee had a meeting with representatives from eight ECAD member cities in Stockholm on the 10 and 11th of November to work on the final agreement.

Delegations of both researchers and decision-makers exerted themselves hard for two days to go through an array of practical questions from the form of the agreement to the contents of the questionnaire that is going to be the basis for the research.

- To compile a questionnaire that can be acknowledged in so many countries with different cultural background like it is the case in this project, is a very delicate task, explains one of the Icelandic researchers Jon Sigfusson.

The process of establishing a distinct shape for the project is in full swing. More and more ECAD member cities want to join the project even if the timing for the first questionnaire is hard to catch up with for some cities. The first stage of the project, which is the distribution of the first questionnaire in the participating cities, is estimated to March 2006.

MOB supports the project

Swedish drug policy Coordinating Unit (MOB - in Swedish) offers its support and contributes with the means for the research, research work, exchange of experience, seminars and the

work with reports.

- It is always complicated to find a reliable comparative research about alcohol- and drug abuse encompassing data from different European countries, explains Håkan Leifman from MOB.

- That is why we are following the development of this new study, which is going to be

★ ECAD PROJECT

implemented within even periods of time, based on the same questionnaire in 10 different countries at least, with great interest. The focus on risk and protection factors should be also interesting for other researchers, not only those who take part in the project.

Youth in Europe receives financial support from the City of Reykjavik, Reykjavik University and Icelandic International Company, Actavis Group. Beside the direct support to the research part to be implemented by the University of Reykjavik, Actavis Group will cover expenses for the local work with school questionnaires in Istanbul, Belgrade, Sofia, Vilnius and St. Petersburg.

Parents play key role in child drug abuse

A study has revealed that parental opinions and examples play an important role in determining whether youths will start experimenting with drugs. The message from a recent study is that parents should disapprove of drugs, shouldn't smoke, take sleeping or sedative pills and ensure they drink alcohol in moderation.

The study was conducted by the Belgian drugs health centre De Sleutel and involved 3,000 youths aged 14-18 in East and West Flanders and the Dutch province of Zeeland.

The survey examined the use of legal and illicit drugs, but also investigated the risk and protection factors to help improve prevention policies, newspaper 'De Standaard' reported on Tuesday.

"Disapproval of drug use by parents is an important protection factor, especially legal drugs. And parents play an exemplary role, especially for alcohol and sleep or sedative pills," researcher Geert Lombaert said.

The rejection of drugs by friends is also considered an important factor. "Parents and teachers must not think too easily that talks about drugs are of no use. On the contrary," the chief of the De Sleutel's prevention unit, Peer van der Kreeft, said.

On the other hand, drug use by friends forms a risk factor, but Van der Kreeft denied speculation that "bad friends" lead a youth to drugs.

Instead, the study indicated if a youth wants to belong to a crowd, he or she sometimes thinks that they should use cannabis or drink alcohol.

Another finding of the survey was the better self-image a youth has, the less chance they will start using drugs.

Van der Kreeft said education and youth organisations play an important role to seek out the right tone for morale-boosting campaigns.

/By Expatica

ECAD in Veliky Novgorod:

successful cooperation

ECAD has been cooperating with Veliky Novgorod City administration and various public organisations for a year already in order to improve local anti-drug policy strategies. Several well-attended conferences have been organised around different aspects of drug prevention. There is a lot of work going on at a number of schools and clubs for leisure activities for young people to develop the drug prevention methods in Veliky Novgorod. "Contract method" is used as a basis for prevention strategies. This method is scientifically approved and has its roots in sports in Sweden where it is practised by the SMART association. (www.smart.org)

ECAD also collaborates with the Swedish organisation KRIS in order to improve treatment in prisons for criminals who abuse drugs and to facilitate readjustment into society. KRIS is a client-based organisation, and only former criminal drug abusers can be members of the organisation. For the time being its members in Veliky Novgorod comprise a group of 20 persons, but this number is constantly growing.

Vice Mayor of the city supports ECAD and its work politically to a great extent, the same does Senior City Administration Officer and the project leader Olga Vasiljeva. This project is also financially supported from SIDA – Swedish organisation for international cooperation and development.

ECAD's vice director, Åke Setréus is responsible for the project and his work is a great deal supported by ECAD local office in St. Petersburg.

Turkey's commitment to combating illicit drugs

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC) met with Turkey's Minister of Interior Abdulkadir Aksu on the 10th of November, to discuss cooperation on drugs, crime and terrorism issues in the region, including Afghanistan.

Mr. Costa cited UNODC's new initiative to analyze the linkage between crime and instability in the Pan-Balkan region. This study will shed more light on the problems in the region which UNODC is planning to address with its Pan-Balkan Programme. The Programme is designed to counter drug trafficking and abuse, and to strengthen the rule of law, and anti-crime and anti-corruption cooperation. Turkey would contribute to this initiative.

"Turkey is a strong ally in the fight against illicit drugs," said Mr. Costa. "The creation of the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC), its enormous value as a platform for anti-trafficking efforts in South Eastern Europe and the Balkans, and Turkey's involvement in the Paris Pact all speak to a genuine, ongoing commitment."

Turkey is a transit country for Afghan opiates travelling east to west, and for synthetic drugs (Amphetamine-type Stimulants or ATS) moving in the opposite direction. The Turkish National Police, the Gendarmerie (rural police), Customs and the Coast Guard routinely seize large amounts of drugs, and over the last 12

months, as in previous years, heroin seizures (8.9 tons) in Turkey were among the largest in the region.

Turkey has been a target of terrorism since the 1970s, which resulted in the elaboration of an effective policy based on an integrated approach to counter terrorism and organized crime, and raised it at every possible international platform. Such an approach is in full cohesion with UNODC's global advocacy for focusing on linkages of drugs, crime and terrorism to maximize overall impact.

"Turkey continues to work aggressively -- now in the wider context of European Union partnership -- to bring its legislation, judicial system, and policies into alignment with the principles articulated in both the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" said Mr. Aksu.

He continued, "We know the world is watching, and we are proud of what Turkey has been able to demonstrate. Together, UNODC and Turkey will contribute to transforming, not just one country, but an entire sub-region in need of leadership, resources, and hands-on assistance."

Mr. Costa saluted Turkey's demonstrated commitment in the fight against drugs, crime and terrorism and expressed hopes for further collaboration.

By www.unodc.org

New survey results in the USA: More treated for drug abuse

The proportion of patients in treatment for both drug and alcohol abuse is decreasing, but more clients come to treatment solely for drug abuse. The *National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS): 2004*, released today by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) showed that the proportion of people in treatment for both drug and alcohol abuse decreased from 49 percent in 1998 to 46 percent in 2004.

The survey showed that on March 31, 2004, 1,072,251 people were enrolled in substance abuse treatment. Of them, 34 percent were in treatment for drug abuse alone, up from 27

percent in 1998. In contrast, clients enrolled in treatment only for alcohol abuse declined from 24 percent in 1998 to 20 percent in 2004.

"These data will assist SAMHSA and state and local governments assess the nature and extent of services provided in state-supported and other treatment facilities, and forecast treatment resource requirements.

N-SSATS also gives us tools to analyze treatment services trends and conduct comparative analyses for the nation, regions and state," said SAMHSA Administrator Charles Curie.

N-SSATS: 2004 contains data on the location, characteristics, and use of alcohol-

ism and drug abuse treatment facilities and services throughout the United States and its territories.

The 2004 national survey reported that the number and proportion of clients receiving methadone increased from 145,610 (14 percent of all clients) in 1998 to 240,961 in 2004, 22 percent of all clients.

It also indicated that opioid treatment programs, which focus on treating addiction to heroin and prescription narcotic pain medications, were available in 8 percent of all substance abuse treatment programs.

By www.SAMHSA.gov

ECAD conference i Minsk, Byelorussia

More than 80 participants gathered together to take part in the international anti-drug policy conference in Minsk on the 28-th of November. There were many policemen, representatives from drug addiction treatment centres and many other interested professionals among the participants.

The conference was arranged in cooperation with Minsk City Administration, ECAD and Republic Without Drugs, which is a local NGO.

The conference was carried through under the management of Minsk vice mayor and ECAD vice director Åke Setreus. Swedish and Byelorussian lecturers were invited to the conference and two representatives from the national Swedish Department for Social Welfare took part in the event.

The conference gave a vivid picture of drug situation in Byelorussia. The level of drug abuse among young people in the



country is rising discernibly, even though some statistical grounds for this statement are conspicuous by their absence. The efforts made in this respect (control policy, prevention measures and treatment) are obviously not enough. Certain problems with police, juridical system, extensive drug abuse and crime inside prison walls are very big, just like in many other countries in the Baltic Sea region.

The bureaucracy that rules in the country does not promote any development in the offensive restrictive drug policy.

The process of making Byelorussian civil society participant in the political life of the country goes hand in hand with fight against drugs and crime.

ECAD has been engaged in the project work with Minsk for 2 years, striving for some tangible results in combating drugs and criminal activities in connection with it. Despite all financial and human investments the process seems to be slow.

Nevertheless the conference in Minsk was a great step forward towards anti-drug policy development, many interested people expressed the wish to cooperate.

ECAD has also received acknowledged membership applications from Minsk and another city in Byelorussia to seek ECAD membership in 2006.

No Methadone needed for the effective treatment

There is a perceptible difference in death cases between a group of heroin addicts that received a drug-free treatment and some other groups that were treated with a substitute drug like Methadone at the end of 1960ies. The difference comes from the results of a follow up of 86 patients who were registered as heroin addicts between 1966 and 1967 in a town in England with approximately 54 000 inhabitants. All mentioned patients were treated in connection with their local psychiatric departments. In comparison with the majority of British health departments these local departments did not use substitute treatment (with Methadone) for addicts up to 1989.

The study that was concluded 33 years later was reviewed in an article in British Journal of Psychiatry. The major treatment at the local psychiatric departments consisted of instant help in crisis situations, individual counselling, regular surveillance and a particular group working with relapse prevention and other treatment possibilities with the exception of opiates.

As the study was followed up after the period of 33 years, the result was a missing information on seven people and some flawed information about other 15 persons. Nineteen people of the rest (64 persons) of the group died. The survived 45 people consisted of 36 individuals free from their addiction to opiates, nine participants were using Methadone. Of those who died many did so because of the overdose. Eight of them died from the overdose of opiates and all of them received Methadone right before their death time from a hospital outside of the research area.

The researchers conclude that Methadone treatment has certain benefits when providing for a more stable social situation and a reduced number of crimes. However, the great number of death cases among those who used Methadone and the negative life concept that those who are taking Methadone have today, is overthrowing the positive effects of this substitute drug. *"Our study suggests that it is possible to reach the same beneficial results without misappropriating a long-time prescription of opiates."**

*The study is available at the British Journal of Psychiatry (2005), 187, 421-425 under the name of "Heroin dependence in an English town: 33-year follow up". /Source: Drugnews.nu

Cocaine: *usage causes heart problems*

New research links increasing cocaine consumption in the UK to heart problems in young people. Britain might be heading to a "healthcare disaster", according to a leading specialist.

A study on cocaine use among patients complaining of chest pains, conducted at the Accident and Emergency unit of St Mary's hospital in London during three years, shows that between 7% and 10% of the patients tested positive for cocaine. Among the under-40s, figures are higher: during weekdays, a third of this group were found to have traces of cocaine in their urine, while over the weekend around a half had taken the drug. Tests on a control group admitted without chest pains show results as low as 3%.

Reports show that cocaine use has increased in the UK during recent years and its price has decreased. Cocaine tightens up the blood vessels, making the heart work harder and rising blood pressure, which can lead to chest pains, heart attacks and strokes. Prof John Henry, who led the study, foresees an increase in heart problems. The report is expected to be published later this year. /By Drugscope

Opium cultivation, not poverty diminishes in Myanmar



Picture comes from <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

from human rights abuses to enforce the opium bans, to internal displacement or human trafficking to survive the bans."

"The world will not condone counter-narcotic measures that result in humanitarian disasters," the UNODC Executive Director added. The 2005 Myanmar Opium Survey, conducted jointly by the Government of Myanmar

VIENNA. Opium cultivation in Myanmar, the world's second largest producer, fell by more than a quarter in 2005, compared with 2004, and is now 80 per cent lower than in the peak year of 1996, the United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC) reports.

UNODC's 2005 Myanmar Opium Survey shows that the area under opium cultivation was 32,800 hectares in 2005, down from 44,200 hectares in 2004, while the number of families involved in growing opium declined by 26 per cent to 193,000.

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa welcomed the decline in cultivation but warned that the rapid progress in eradication seen in the past decade could be undone if the growing problem of poverty and undernourishment among farmers was not addressed.

"Some of the poorest people are being affected by the loss of income from drugs as cultivation declines," said Mr. Costa. "With the loss of opium income, poor farmers and their families not only lose their coping mechanism to deal with endemic poverty and a chronic food shortage, they also lose access to health services and to schools. They end up very vulnerable to exploitation and misery --

and UNODC, within the framework of the UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme, was based on a combination of the use of satellite images and ground verification. It focused on Shan State, part of the notorious Golden Triangle, where 94 per cent of the country's opium poppy cultivation takes place.

Myanmar remains the second largest opium grower in the world after Afghanistan but its share of world opium poppy cultivation fell to 21 per cent in 2005 from 23 per cent in 2004. The average farm gate price of opium at harvest time was estimated at US\$187 per kg in 2005, a 22 per cent increase on the US\$153 reported in 2004.

Myanmar's total potential opium production in 2005 was estimated at 312 metric tons, down from 370 in 2004 and compared with the 1996 peak of 1,760 tons. The farm-gate value of opium production this year was estimated at US\$58 million, equivalent to about 0.7 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

The full report can be viewed at http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Myanmar_opium-survey-2005.pdf

By: <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/>

UK: drug abusers to Accident and Emergency

English researchers claim in the *Emergency Medicine Journal* that around 1 million visits paid to A & E departments are made by illegal drug users. University of the West of England made 800 anonymous interviews at a city casualty unit in one week.

The study suggests that some 400 000-hospital admissions per year can be linked to drug abuse. 36% interviewed admitted using some illegal drug at their lifetime, while 16% confessed using drugs during the last month.


President of the British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine marked the importance of impact that illegal drug abuse made on A & E departments, according to BBC News. - *A lot of the problems are related to overdoses from illegal drugs, infections – and even tetanus, which is being seen in heroin and crack cocaine users being cut with mud*, said Martin Shalley.

His colleague, Professor John Henry, a consultant at A&E St. Mary's Hospital considers that A&E personnel needs additional training to tackle illegal drug users more than improving their professional qualifications.

The team of researchers of Dr. Jonathan Benger writes for *Emergency Medicine Journal*: "...With annual emergency department attendances currently exceeding 14 million in England alone, it is possible that illegal drugs contribute directly or indirectly to one million ED attendances and 400, 000 acute hospital admissions in England each year".

Source: bbc.co.uk

★ **NEW MEMBER**



**Welcome,
Stavropol,
Russia!**

*Our European societies have experimented and evaluated both tolerance and intolerance to illicit drug use and drug abuse. It is our reflection upon this which guides us towards non-use. This is in regard to our **wellbeing**.*



ECAD is Europe's leading organisation promoting a drug free Europe and representing millions of European citizens. Drug dealing and drug abuse cause enormous problems in Europe. Nations and their citizens are affected by the consequences of drug abuse. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives and efforts against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions which oppose legalisation and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide. Has your city joined ECAD?

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