



## UNGASS 2008: Support project SUNDIAL

### The 2003 Vienna Declaration passes on the baton to the project Sundial

Project SUNDIAL is an international collaboration whose goal is to garner support for the United Nations (UN) Conventions on Illicit Drug Abuse from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals around the world. Project SUNDIAL promotes a balanced drug policy rooted in prevention, treatment, research, and law enforcement. Project SUNDIAL realizes that drug problems can find relief when societies aim to alleviate the human suffering related to poverty, hunger, poor economic opportunities, health care disparities, and infectious diseases.

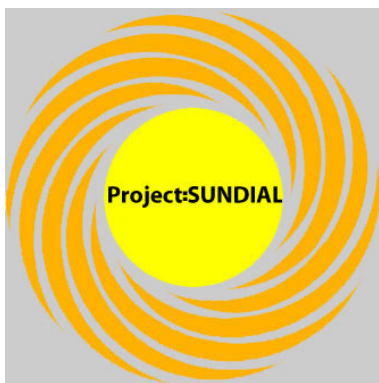
In 2007, delegates from around the world are gathering in Vienna at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) conference. Project SUNDIAL wants to demonstrate that there are people and organizations in the world that

support the work of the UN to curb illicit drug use and trafficking through a balanced policy. The 2007 meeting is a prelude to a much larger meeting in New York City taking place in 2008, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS). In time

for UNGASS, Project SUNDIAL wants to present delegates with more than a million signatures to show our support for international goals against drug abuse. By contrast, a minority of well-funded NGOs are organizing to dismantle and rewrite the Conventions so as to open the door for countries to implement legalization and drug liberalization measures under interna-

tional law.

UN Conventions on drugs need your support. Read more and sign the Petition on [www.ungassdrugs.org](http://www.ungassdrugs.org)



*Sundial: Supporting United Nations Drug Initiatives and Legislation*

### Sweden Against Drugs

WHY NOT VISIT SWEDEN FOR THE LARGEST SCANDINAVIAN CONFERENCE AND FAIR ON DRUGS - SWEDEN AGAINST DRUGS March 28-29, 2007?!

Even if you don't speak Swedish (most people in Sweden speak English) it would certainly be worthwhile to visit Scandinavia's largest conference and fair on drug related issues - *Sweden against Drugs* - to be held in the city of Örebro March 28-29, 2007.

The event provides excellent opportunities to meet with key 'players' in the field as well as government representatives and other representatives, law enforcement agencies, NGOs and a large number of exhibitors representing various aspects of prevention, care and treatment.

### ★ ECAD NEWS

For further information about the event, please call the ECAD office in Stockholm, +46 8 508 29 362 or e-mail [ecad@ecad.net](mailto:ecad@ecad.net)

### It is again time for a campaign for the existing UN Conventions on Drugs

Now the collection of signatures worldwide is co-ordinated from the USA through the project Sundial.

ECAD member cities have actively participated in the campaign "The 2003 Vienna Declaration" initiated by the Swedish NGO Hassela Nordic Network that resulted in 1.3 million signatures representative of 63 countries all voicing their support for a restrictive and humane policy on drugs.

The signatures were presented on April 14, 2003 in the plenary room during the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in 2003. The central message

was clear and strong: "No to drugs - Yes to the UN Conventions on Drugs" and specifically addressed support for the UN Conventions on Drugs and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially Article 33, which protects the world's children from illicit substances.

To name some examples of the efforts made by the ECAD members: city of Izhevsk, situated in the Western part of the Urals, Russian Federation, has collected 50,000 signatures, which represent 10 per cent of the total number of the inhabitants in the city. More than 30,000 came from Italy. About 10 per cent of

the total population of Iceland signed The 2003 Vienna Declaration. A Resolution adopted by the Parliament of Lithuania on March 18, 2003 states that "the Parliament of Lithuania consents to the basic provisions of The 2003 Vienna Declaration and has called on non-governmental organisations and the public of Lithuania to support this Declaration".

The UN Conventions need our support.

Visit [www.ungassdrugs.org](http://www.ungassdrugs.org) and express your support for the existing UN Conventions on Drugs.

# Positive trends from Sweden: The 2006 Annual Report from the Swedish Drug Policy Coordinator

In February 2002 Mr Björn Fries was appointed National Drug Policy Coordinator by the Swedish Government. The Coordinator is responsible for implementation and follow-up of the National Plan on Narcotic Drugs, as well as for coordinating national drug policy in general.



Photo: Mobilisera.nu

The 2006 Annual Report was released on January 24, 2007 and the following contains some of the key points made in the report.

According to the National Plan, the overarching goal of Swedish drug policy is a drug free society, and measures to achieve that goal will target supply and demand for drugs in order to

- Decrease recruitment of new drug abusers,
- Get individual drug abusers to give up their abuse of drugs, and
- Decrease supply of drugs.

The Coordinator's office, *Mobilisering mot narkotika* (Mobilization against drugs), is headed by Mr Fries. Other staff includes the deputy coordinator, press officer, administrative staff as well as staff responsible for prevention, information, moulding of public opinion, care and treatment, supply reduction, legal issues and treatment of offenders.

Surveys carried out in Sweden in 2004 and 2005 indicate that drug related issues are important to people in Sweden. Three out of four people regard it as *very important* that Sweden deals with the drug problem in order to create a better society. If we add those who regard it as a *rather important* task, it all adds up to over 90 per cent regarding work against drugs as an *important* task. Furthermore, surveys show that 84 per cent of Swedish citizens regard the goal as well as the direction of Swedish drug policy as correct *on the whole*, and many wish for further investment in various types of preventive work.

As shown in surveys, *Hälsa på lika villkor* (Health for all) carried out in 2004 and 2005 by the Swedish National Institute of Public Health, use of drugs remains pretty unusual in Sweden. 12 per cent of men and 9 per cent of women in age groups 16-84 state lifetime prevalence of cannabis resin or marijuana. Only 2 per cent of men and 1 per cent of women state that they have used these drugs during the past year. When asked about use during the past month, the figures are even lower – 1 per cent for men and 0.4 per cent for women.

According to a UNODC report, *Sweden's Successful Drug Policy: A Review of the Evidence* (United Nations office on Drugs and Crime, September 2006 (available on the Internet at [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Swedish\\_drug\\_control.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Swedish_drug_control.pdf)), occasional as well as regular drug use is considerably lower in Sweden than in the rest of Europe. Whilst lifetime prevalence of drugs was about 22 per cent among 15-16-year-olds in Europe in 2003, it was 8 per cent in Sweden, now down to 6 per cent. The prices of drugs in Sweden are among the highest in Europe.

Furthermore, UN states that Sweden belongs to the countries in Europe that have the lowest levels of drug related HIV infections. As for so-called 'heavy use of drugs', Sweden reports 0.45 per cent of the population in age groups 15-64 compared to an average of 0.5 per cent in Europe.

Cannabis, followed by ecstasy, amphetamines and illegal use of sleeping pills and sedatives are the most common drugs tried by people in

Sweden. There are also several reports from various parts of the country that use of a combination of drugs has become more common.

In comparison with other European countries, relatively few young people in Sweden use drugs. However, the number of young people aged 16-24, who have ever tried drugs, has increased during the last ten years. According to a 2003 survey carried out among 16-24-year-olds, 17 per cent stated that they had used drugs at any time. This equals some 160,000 individuals (Sweden has some 9 million inhabitants). Experimental use of drugs is more common in the three metropolitan areas (Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö) than in other parts of the country. 23 per cent of young people in the metropolitan areas said they had tried drugs, compared to 9 per cent in rural areas.

When it comes to experience of drug use among **school children** there is a clear trend showing a *decrease* in experience of drug use among school children in grade 9 (15-16-year-olds). Lifetime prevalence among boys has gone down from 10 per cent in 2001 to 7 per cent in 2006, and among girls from 9 per cent in 2001 to 5 per cent in 2006. However, a warning is issued for the fact that 4 per cent and 3 per cent of boys and girls respectively stated that they had used drugs during the past month.

As for students in senior high schools 17 per cent of boys and 13 per cent of girls stated (2005) that they had used drugs at any time. As for past month use, the percentage was 6 and 3 per cent respectively. These figures are about the same as those of 2004. It is most common that cannabis is the only drug that has been used.

Between 1992 and 2002 experiences of drug use among conscripts tripled, from some 6 per cent in 1992 to 18 per cent in 2002. Since then surveys show a downward trend, to 13 per cent in 2005.

## HIV and AIDS

Since the first cases of HIV among drug addicts were discovered in Sweden in the mid 1980s, a total of 964 people (266 women and 698 men) have been reported as infected through intravenous drug use or sexual activities between addicts. 222 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed during the same period. In 2005, 22 cases of HIV infection among injecting drug users were reported. Median age among those diagnosed during the last years is about 40, which is higher than at the beginning of the 1990s when the median age was 31.

## Drug related deaths

There seems to be a downward trend in drug related deaths following a dramatic increase in the 1990s.

In 1995, there were 296 registered cases of drug related deaths. In 2003 that number increased to 403. Since then there is a downward trend. The latest available statistics are from 2003 when 385 drug related deaths were reported. Drug related deaths have decreased even more if the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, EMCDDA definition is used. (Available at their web site at [www.emcdda.eu.int](http://www.emcdda.eu.int). In short, the EMCDDA definition of drug-related deaths refers to those deaths that are caused directly by the consumption of drugs of abuse. Those deaths occur generally shortly after the consumption of the substance(s)).

## Positive trends from USA: Teen drug use declines 23 percent in five years

*Drug use by teens in the United States has fallen 23 percent from 2001 to 2006, according to the new Monitoring the Future Survey released by the University of Michigan on December 21, 2006.*

Teen drug use has declined by 23 percent since 2001 for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders combined, with reductions in the use of nearly every drug in every drug prevalence category, according to the University of Michigan's 2006 *Monitoring the Future* (MTF) study, released on December 21, 2006. These reductions represent a nearly exact achievement of President Bush's goal of reducing youth drug use by 25 percent by 2006. Reductions in illicit drug use among 8th and 10th graders exceeded the President's goal, falling 30 and 26 percent since 2001, respectively.

The study also shows that while marijuana continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug among teens, current use of marijuana has dropped by 25 percent over the past five years. And for the single year from 2005 to 2006, current marijuana use dropped by seven percent among all three grades combined. Teen use of amphetamines, particularly methamphetamine, dropped significantly. The prevalence rates for meth use in all categories, for all three grades, is either the lowest or among the lowest recorded since the question was first included in the MTF survey. Past-month use of methamphetamine among youth plummeted by 50 percent since 2001, with less than one percent (0.7%) of students using meth at least once in the last 30 days before the interview.

An area of growing concern is the use of prescription drugs among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. Indeed, this year's survey shows that the use of OxyContin is the only drug that has seen an increase among all three grades combined: past year use increased 30 percent, from three percent in 2002 to four percent in 2006. In addition, lifetime use of sedatives among seniors increased 18 percent since 2001 (from 9% to 10%), and past year use of Vicodin remained stable for all three grades, with three percent, seven percent, and 10 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reporting use, respectively.

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In 2000, Sweden reported 191 drug related deaths according to that definition. In 2003, there was a further decrease to 152 drug related deaths, a decrease by 20 per cent.

### **Supply of drugs**

Apart from limited problems with production of GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyric acid), home cultivation of cannabis and leakage from the legal supply of medicines, almost all drugs used in Sweden come from abroad with cannabis being the most popular illicit drug.

Amphetamine continues to be one of the most popular drugs. Most of the amphetamines on the Swedish market originate in the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland and Estonia.

Between 2002 and 2006 prices have not changed very much but remained rather low and stable.

"The Monitoring the Future study certainly reveals great news today for America's youth and for the Media Campaign, but we must not consider the job done," said Robert W. Denniston, Director of the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. "Teens report that their parents seldom stay current with the threats posed by pro-drug sources of misinformation, such as Internet content that normalizes and trivializes drug use. Parents need to keep talking to their kids about the dangers of drug use and stay on top of current technologies that could pose additional risks to their teens' health and safety."

The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, working closely with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, has made great strides in its efforts to alert teens and parents about the dangers and harms of drug use, including marijuana. However, budget cuts in recent years have forced the Media Campaign to substantially scale back on its advertising and public education budgets. Due to the limited funds, the most recent parent television advertising campaign that was launched in early February 2006 was the only one that targeted parents this year. There is concern that ongoing budget restrictions are starting to produce a flattening out in the "perception of harm" indicator among teens, which is widely understood as the best predictor of future drug use.

The MTF study is the largest and most significant survey of youth drug use and measures drug, alcohol, and cigarette use and related attitudes among 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students nationwide. Study participants report their drug use behaviours across three time periods: lifetime, past year, and past month. This year, 48,460 students from 410 public and private schools participated in the survey. The survey is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a component of HHS's National Institutes of Health, and conducted since its inception by the University of Michigan.

*The complete MTF study results can be viewed at <http://monitoringthefuture.org>. For more information on the ONDCP National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, visit [www.MediaCampaign.org](http://www.MediaCampaign.org) /The Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice*

## Clear opposition to the legalisation of cannabis throughout Europe

According to the latest Eurobarometer, the fact that there is a clear opposition to the legalisation of cannabis throughout Europe provides further evidence that Europeans feel that there is too much tolerance nowadays. Only around a quarter of European Union citizens (26%) agree with the statement that personal consumption of cannabis should be legalised throughout Europe, while two thirds (68%) disagree with it.

Moreover, even young Europeans tend to be opposed to the legalisation of cannabis (57% of respondents aged 15 to 24 disagreed with the statement). Opinions vary from country to country. In Finland (8%) and Sweden (9%) the idea is rejected outright, whereas in the Netherlands just under half of the respondents feel that cannabis should be legalised throughout Europe.

*Eurobarometer available at [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb/eb66/eb66\\_highlights\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/eb66/eb66_highlights_en.pdf)*

## Get Interested in Life



Three Lithuanian municipalities report on their activities within the framework of the programme "Youth in Europe"

The municipalities of Kaunas, Vilnius and Klaipeda joined their efforts in order to develop and implement the International Programme "Youth in Europe - A Drug Prevention Programme" in 2006-2010, in their cities.

One of the events within the framework of the programme was a conference "Initial Anti-Drug Prevention - To get interested in life" that took place in Kaunas Pilenai Secondary School on December 14, 2006.

This school has been organising a local conference in the field of drug prevention annually since 5 years back. This time the confer-

ence received international recognition and attracted more than two hundred participants, representatives of public organizations, specialists in drug prevention, teachers, state officials and other interested.

The objective focus of the conference was pointed at the question how to teach children to create an interesting life for themselves. Participants agreed that an active interest in life, possibilities to self-fulfilment and communication are necessary conditions for the success of any prevention programme. Initial prevention that was discussed at the conference included various substances of abuse - alcohol, tobacco as well as narcotic drugs.

Interest to the conference shown from the government of Lithuania and participation of a number of international experts lifted up the issue of drug prevention and gave it a new status. The organisers find great satisfaction in the fact that their efforts have contributed to our common work for the future without drugs for our children.

## Link between cannabis and violent crime proven by UK study

The British government was surprised by a report revealing that half of all recent arrestees for serious offences such as assault or burglary admitted using cannabis recently. Heroin and crack cocaine were assumed to have a causal role in crime, but only 18 percent of offenders had abused heroin, and just 10 percent were cocaine users. Even more astonishing, criminals aged 17-24 smoked marijuana at a rate of 57 percent, compared to 46 percent of older arrestees. Charities in Great Britain commented that the government's downgrading

of cannabis to a warning rather than a punishable offence has communicated the message to a generation of youth that smoking cannabis is acceptable behaviour.

### ★ RESEARCH

From Bloomberg.com Shadow Home Secretary David Davis said: "These alarming statistics raise serious questions about the consequences of the Government's chaotic and confused

*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 in regard to our **citizens'** well being.*



★ ECAD is Europe's leading organization 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 legalization and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide. Has your city joined ECAD?

## News from Norway



The municipality of Bergen hands over the Chairmanship in the ECAD Network Norwegian Cities Against Drugs to the municipality of Trondheim. Trondheim will coordinate the Norwegian network's activities during 2007-2009.

### ★ ECAD NEWS

policy on drugs. 'We have long said that drugs fuel all sorts of crime. This is because they both undermine a person's sense of responsibility but also because takers and addicts need money to feed their habit. 'People on drugs are far more likely to commit crime, especially violent crime. Until the Government get a grip on the drugs problem they will never make an impact on the causes of crime.'

*/The The Drugfree America report*

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