



www.emcdda.eu.int

# Drugnet Europe

Newsletter of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

ISSN 0873-5379

## In this issue...

- 2** Reitox Academy workshop: estimating the prevalence of problem drug use
- 3** Treatment now more 'available, accessible and diverse'
- 4** Feature – *World Drug Report 2004*: An overview of the world drug situation
- 5** ELDD offers easy access to EU drug legislation
- 6** EMCDDA Management Board member carries Olympic Torch
- 7** New EMCDDA products and services
- 8** Management Board adopts resolution on EMCDDA budget

## New EMCDDA study asks 'Is cannabis getting stronger?'

'Is cannabis getting stronger?' is the key question explored in the first-ever European review of cannabis potency released by the EMCDDA on 26 June, International day against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. The potency of cannabis is defined as the amount of the primary active ingredient  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) present in the drug.

The study was launched in the light of recent concerns that cannabis may now be much stronger than in the past, and that increasing potency could be resulting in more health problems for users. Such concerns are worrying as cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug in the EU, with many countries reporting lifetime prevalence rates in excess of 20%. And the number of those both experimenting with, and using, the drug intensively has risen over the last decade.

The study reveals that when the overall potency of cannabis products available on the European market is calculated, there is no evidence of a significant increase in potency. This is because, in most EU countries, imported cannabis (herbal and resin) dominates the market and this has remained stable over many years. But in the countries where there is an overall increase in cannabis potency (e.g. the Netherlands), this is almost entirely due to the increased relative consumption of home-produced herbal cannabis, cultivated using intensive hydroponic techniques.

Indoor cultivation of herbal cannabis now occurs in most, if not all, European countries but imported products are still more commonly used. Herbal cannabis grown hydroponically in the EU is overall consistently of high potency, often two or three times greater than herbal cannabis imported from countries of North Africa, the Caribbean, and the Far East (where it is grown naturally outdoors and where storage and transit time degrade the THC). Although in many EU countries some intensive home production of cannabis now occurs, the market share of this type of the drug is thought to be small, but there are concerns that it might be growing, highlighting a need for better



*Indoor cultivation of herbal cannabis now occurs in most, if not all, European countries but imported products are still more commonly used.*

monitoring of the market. But in the Netherlands, where there are relatively high domestic levels of intensively produced cannabis (*nederwiet*), it is estimated that over half the cannabis market now consists of locally-grown products.

If intensively grown cannabis does take a larger market share in the future, what impact will this have on users' health? One major unresolved question is whether individuals who smoke high-potency cannabis may simply use less of the drug to achieve the same effect. In this case, use of high-potency cannabis may not necessarily result in increased dose exposure (higher levels of THC in the blood) or elevated health risks.

It is plausible that some health problems, and acute problems in particular (e.g. panic attacks and minor psychological problems) might be more common among users consuming high-potency cannabis. In addition, given the rising concern about a possible link between cannabis and serious long-term psychological health problems, a negative impact of the use of high-potency cannabis cannot be ruled out.

EMCDDA Director Georges Estievenart concludes: 'The message we draw from this study is that we should neither be over-alarmed nor too complacent about the potency of cannabis available today. Cannabis produced within Europe using new methods is consistently of higher potency, although this product remains relatively rare in most countries. But this could change, and we must therefore implement measures to monitor the situation carefully and extend our understanding of what impact high-potency cannabis is likely to have on the health of cannabis users'.

For more see InfoPoint at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int>

July–September

2004

## Drug situation

### Assessing the availability of illicit drugs through population surveys



Photo: Photodisc

*The availability of illicit drugs is a key factor in understanding drug use, patterns of use and related consequences.*

The availability of illicit drugs is a key factor in understanding drug use, patterns of use and related consequences. To gain an insight into how access to drugs can influence drug demand, the EMCDDA has been developing indicators of drug availability at street level in the EU since 2002.

One of the issues explored is availability of drugs at user level, particularly via questions on access to drugs included in population surveys. As part of this work, the EMCDDA expert group set up to develop a new module on drug availability in the

European Model Questionnaire (EMQ) (1), held its third meeting from 25–26 May in Lisbon. Participants attended from France, Greece and Sweden.

The session allowed participants to define core and optional variables for the new module as well as related questions and answers on the concepts of 'perceived availability of drugs' and 'exposure to drugs'. The group decided to pre-test drug-specific questions to be inserted into the EMQ.

The participants also discussed experiences and reviewed results and data obtained via the questions on drug availability included in their 2003–2004 surveys. While much has been achieved, a number of tasks remain for 2004–2005. These include: defining questions on 'access' to drugs; translating questions into other EU languages; pre-testing the module; and finalising aspects of the module such as mode implications, data manipulations and alternative questions.

*Chloé Carpentier*

(1) The EMQ is a list of common core items used to collect information in a standardised way via population surveys.

### 'Cannabis – From trends to interventions'



Photo: Atlantico Press

Portugal report using cannabis either as their primary drug or their secondary drug along with other substances.

Around 300 politicians, professionals and experts in the drug field attended the meeting, which provided an overview of cannabis use, related problems and interventions. EMCDDA experts provided a European overview on: political and legislative approaches to cannabis use; and the profile of those attending treatment services for primary cannabis use.

*Danilo Ballotta and Linda Montanari*

For further information, see <http://www.drogas.pt>

### Reitox Academy workshop: estimating the prevalence of problem drug use

Practical experience in methods of estimating problem drug use prevalence was offered at the latest Reitox Academy workshop held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from 14–16 July. The workshop, mainly targeted at drug experts from the new EU Member States, offered participants the chance to improve their knowledge of multiplier–benchmark and capture–recapture methods. The event was hosted by the Slovenian national focal point.

Expert presentations (Gordon Hay, Ludwing Kraus) on the two methods were followed by sessions devoted to scrutinising data availability, quality and suitability in the participating countries. Presentations were also given on existing problem drug use estimations in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Portugal and Slovenia. A complete capture–recapture analysis was performed by participants using an existing dataset and SPSS statistical software. The analysis involved combining separate datasets and producing prevalence estimates.

The trainees ended the course by developing and presenting country plans. These covered: defining target groups; identifying data sources and the potential for the applicability of methods; creating national expert groups and support infrastructures; and funding and costing prevalence studies.

It is hoped that the country plans will be further developed and implemented in 2004–2005, if sufficient resources can be mobilised at national level. Overall the quality and usefulness of the workshop were highly rated by the participants. The country plan presentations revealed that both data availability and expertise are rapidly increasing in many of the new EU countries, suggesting a strong potential for new and higher-quality estimates.

*Lucas Wiessing, Jennifer Hillebrand and Colin Taylor*

# Responses

## Times are changing

A recently published analysis of mobile drug users in six Central European countries <sup>(1)</sup> calls for greater efforts to improve insight into this 'hidden' group and to respond to their health, social and legal needs.

The findings were presented by the AC COMPANY network <sup>(2)</sup>, at its recent 'Times are changing' conference held in Prague (3–5 June). The study focuses on highly mobile groups of drug users and sex workers in Central Europe, who are creating a new challenge for drug services, particularly in capital cities.

The presentations drew attention to the diversity of vulnerable groups (illegal migrants, drug users, sex workers) in the various regions of Europe and the risky situations in which they find themselves (e.g. homelessness, imprisonment, experimental drug use).

Although Europe is historically a continent with high migration rates, new trends were observed after the fall of the Berlin Wall. These included: increased mobility; rising economically motivated migration; and an influx of refugees and asylum seekers.

At the conference, over 100 network members from 24 European countries, Russia and the Ukraine exchanged information on the dynamics of mobility and the complexity of associated factors (e.g. differences in cultural background, political climate, economic wealth and social institutions).

Under the auspices of the network, special intervention projects funded by the European Commission and its Phare project have been carried out in Prague and Antwerp for Russian-speaking drug users. The projects revealed an urgent need for a targeted response to new migrant groups, and the relevance of culturally specific drug-prevention and harm-reduction materials in users' mother tongues.

### *Eberhard Schatz and Dagmar Hedrich*

<sup>(1)</sup> Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

<sup>(2)</sup> The network offers support and advice for this target group. A wealth of practical information is available at: <http://www.ac-company.org>  
For further information contact: [info@ac-company.org](mailto:info@ac-company.org)

The project is also included in the EDDRA database at: [http://eddra.emcdda.eu.int:/eddra/plsql/ShowQuest?Prog\\_ID=3074](http://eddra.emcdda.eu.int:/eddra/plsql/ShowQuest?Prog_ID=3074)

## Treatment now more 'available, accessible and diverse'



Photo: Photodisc

**'Since we began monitoring in the mid-1990s we have mapped a constant growth in all types of drug treatment in the EU'**

EMCDDA Director Georges Estievenart

Treatment for drug dependence in the European Union is now more 'available, accessible and diverse'. Figures from the former 15 EU Member States, covering the last four years (1999–2003) show substantial increases in available services. Community-based outpatient provision rose, for example, in France (25%), Greece (around 30%) and Austria (around 60%), with more costly residential treatment also up in some countries, e.g. by around one third in Denmark in the same period.

The EMCDDA monitors the availability of treatment facilities as an indicator of the status of treatment in the EU. 'Since we began monitoring in the mid-1990s', says Director Georges Estievenart, 'we have mapped a constant growth in all types of drug treatment in the EU. And we have recently seen countries step up their treatment services in response to the target set by the EU action plan on drugs to substantially increase the number of successfully treated addicts between 2000 and 2004'.

Drug treatment is not only expanding but also diversifying, adapting to changes in demand. In the past, demand for drug treatment centred largely on opiate dependence. Nowadays, more individuals are seeking treatment for other substances, such as cannabis and cocaine. But polydrug use has become the most common pattern among problem drug users, with more than 8 in 10 now using more than one substance.

Over a quarter more opiate users are now receiving substitution treatment in the EU than four years ago, according to EMCDDA figures, with increases in the number of client slots, geographical coverage and the diversity of prescribed medications. Whereas an estimated 320,000 individuals were treated with opiate substitutes in the former 15 EU Member States in 1999, this figure had risen to over 410,000 by 2003. Some countries, like Portugal, report almost a tripling in numbers, with a leap from around 6,000 substitution clients in 1999 to almost 16,000 in 2003. An almost three-fold increase was also recorded in Finland and Sweden, but at much lower rates, with around 600 and 1,600 clients respectively receiving medication in 2003.

Measuring public expenditure on drug treatment is an important indicator of governments' commitment to the drug problem. Preliminary estimates from an EMCDDA study of drug-related public expenditure from 1990–2000 suggest that, in Member States, 70–75% of the drug budget was spent on law enforcement and around 25–30% on the health sector, including treatment for drugs and related diseases. Although data are insufficient to draw clear-cut conclusions, and more cost analyses are required for an accurate picture of spending, preliminary research shows that within the EU, the average health-related expenditure for problem drug users is around € 2,000 per person per annum.

For a news release, see InfoPoint at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int>

## Bookshelf

### World Drug Report 2004



On 26 June, International day against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released its *World Drug Report 2004*. This year the report appears for the first time in two volumes, merging the former *Global Illicit Drug Trends Report* with the *World Drug Report*.

Volume 1 covers market trends and offers in-depth trend analyses, while Volume 2 compiles statistics on the worldwide drug market. Taken together, the two volumes provide a comprehensive picture of global drug trends, presenting supply (production, trafficking) and demand statistics.

The world drug situation and international drug control methods have changed significantly over the last 100 years. By assessing the situation today, the *World Drug Report 2004* points towards new ways of resolving this evolving problem.

**Publisher:** United Nations (UNODC)

**Languages:** English (French and Russian available in October)

**Date:** 26 June 2004

**ISBN:** 9-789211-481853

**Price:** Free

**Ordering information:** [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/world\\_drug\\_report.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/world_drug_report.html)

**Downloadable:** [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/WDR\\_2004/volume\\_1.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/WDR_2004/volume_1.pdf)

[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/WDR\\_2004/volume\\_2.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/WDR_2004/volume_2.pdf)

**Press releases:** <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2004/unisnar849.html>

*The EMCDDA is responsible for the selection of materials for the Bookshelf and for the text presented. However, responsibility for the content of these materials and the opinions expressed therein lies with the authors themselves.*

## Feature

### World Drug Report 2004:

### An overview of the world drug situation

Almost a century ago, China's opium epidemic spawned the world's first efforts at international drug control with the Shanghai Conference in 1909. In the nearly 100 years since, the world drug situation has become even more complex. Drug use trends have shifted, new illicit drugs have entered the market and new methods of drug control have been developed to meet this dynamic situation.

The two-volume *World Drug Report 2004*, released in June by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (see opposite), provides a thorough assessment of the current world drug situation.

The report estimates the total number of drug users worldwide at some 185 million, equivalent to 3% of the global population or 4.7% of the population aged 15–64



Photo: Atlantico Press

The spread of drug use may be losing momentum after decades of significant growth, according to the report, and drug-related deaths in Western Europe may have decreased by almost 20% between 2000 and 2002, but, despite this encouraging news, drug use remains a significant problem.

'Current levels of illicit drug use, together with the health and social consequences and associated criminal activities, are clearly unacceptable', said Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of UNODC. Additionally, while the overall spread of drug abuse is slowing, the consumption of cannabis herb (marijuana) is increasing at an accelerated pace.

The report estimates the total number of drug users worldwide at some 185 million, equivalent to 3% of the global population or 4.7% of the population aged 15–64. Cannabis is the most widely used substance (close to 150 million people), followed by amphetamine-type stimulants (about 38 million), opiates (15 million) and cocaine (13 million). In terms of health impact, as measured by the demand for treatment services, opiates remain the most serious problem drugs in the world, accounting for 67% of drug treatment in Asia, 61% in Europe and 47% in Oceania. However, the demand for treatment for opiates is falling in Europe, while it is on the rise for cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and cocaine.

On the supply side, coca production is down for the fourth year in the Andean region (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru), and opium poppy cultivation continues to decline in Myanmar and Laos. However, 2003 marked the second highest year for opium production in Afghanistan's history with the country providing over three-quarters of the world's illicit opium supply. Early reports indicate that production could dramatically increase in 2004 with global implications. Some 80–90% of the opiates found in Europe originate in Afghanistan.

**Source:** UNODC

For more on the report, see article opposite.

For an executive summary, see [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/WDR\\_2004/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/WDR_2004/Executive_Summary.pdf) (30 pages).

# South-East Europe

## Improving drug coordination and information



Photo: Photodisc

An Informal Coordination Group (ICG) comprising drug experts from South-East Europe (1), EU Member States and candidate countries met for the first time in Zagreb (Croatia), on 18 June. The aim of the meeting was to define priorities to help implement national drug action plans in South-East Europe and facilitate the

exchange and collection of drug information and expertise in the region.

The idea to set up the ICG was conceived in November 2003 at a conference organised by the Croatian and Slovenian governments in Dubrovnik (2). The purpose of the group would be to develop a structured approach to the drug problem in South-East Europe. Among its challenges would be the creation of a common system to compare drug-related information between countries which may have different capacities and standards for assessing the drug problem at national level.

At the meeting, the EMCDDA presented its experience in cooperating with the former acceding and candidate countries to the EU in the development of national drug information networks and the improvement of data-collection strategies. Also presented was the structure and role of the Reitox network that could serve as a model for the region. To date, countries in South-East Europe have benefitted from the EU's Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP), designed to encourage and support their ongoing domestic reform processes. The SAP offers these countries the prospect of full integration into EU structures such as the EMCDDA.

*Jennifer Hillebrand and Alexis Goosdeel*

(1) Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

(2) 'Creating a common system in the field of drug abuse for the South-East European countries'.

# Partners

## Irish Presidency active in drugs field

The Irish Presidency of the European Union drew to a close at the end of June with a number of achievements under its belt, not least in the field of drugs.

Desmond Corrigan, Chairman of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HWPD) and Member of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, brought a number of key dossiers before the group to their final stages of preparation. These included: the recasting of the EMCDDA founding regulation (doc. 5085/04 CORDROGUE 7 SAN 3); and the revision of the 1997 Joint action on new synthetic drugs (doc. 13821/03 CORDROGUE 90). These issues are scheduled for finalisation in the second half of the year.

The Presidency was also a key player in a number of important international events. Among these was the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs where it coordinated a resolution on behalf of all EU Member States and acceding countries requesting the UNODC 'to promote the development of integrated drug-information systems'. Finally, the Irish Presidency prepared and co-chaired a number of high-level meetings with the EU's international partners in the drugs field, including: the Andean Community; Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Western Balkans.

Last but not least it convened the high-level conference 'EU strategy on drugs: the way forward' (10-11 May, Dublin) designed to map the path for EU action on drugs post 2004. The conference prepared the ground for the December European Council which is expected to approve a new EU drug strategy from 2005 onwards.

*Alain Wallon*

# Drugs-Lex

## ELDD offers easy access to EU drug legislation

In 1990, the European Community took its first legislative action in the field of drugs by ratifying Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Since then, the EU has adopted a battery of over 60 directives, regulations, recommendations and framework decisions addressing the drug phenomenon, primarily in line with the Treaties of Maastricht and Amsterdam.

The EMCDDA has now made these texts available in one easily accessible archive in its European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD). The new 'European Union' section located under 'Legal Texts', holds the full English and French versions of all drug-

related legislative texts adopted by the EU to date. User-friendly summaries of the texts are also available in the two languages.

A descriptive overview of drug legislation at EU level – the 'European Union profile' – has also been published. This is divided into the following sub-sections: development of legislation; controlled substances; drug use and possession; trafficking and drug-related crime; prevention, care and treatment; precursors; money laundering and confiscation. The main purpose of the feature is to provide policy-makers, researchers, journalists and the general public with an accessible, up-to-date and comprehensive reference collection of EU drug legislation.

In line with the EMCDDA's policy of working with national drug law experts in the updating of texts in the 25 European Union Member States and Norway, a new 'Legal Correspondent' has been appointed within the 'Coordination of anti-drugs policy unit' of the European Commission to validate and correct data at EU level.

The annual meeting of the EMCDDA's Legal Correspondents will take place on 18 October in Lisbon. It is planned that by this time, a number of technical upgrades will make the ELDD even simpler and more efficient to use.

*Cécile Martel*

## Spotlight

### Policing Dublin's drug markets

Policing local drug markets is a Europe-wide problem and one reason why Ireland's national drugs strategy underlines the importance of community-oriented responses.

Currently before the Irish Parliament is the 2004 *Garda Síochána Bill*, which provides a statutory framework for consultation between the police, the public housing authority and local communities on policing matters, including patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs. The Bill coincides with the recent emergence of community policing fora throughout Dublin city. A report, written by Johnny Connolly of the Irish national focal point, outlining the creation and evaluation of a 'Community policing forum' in Dublin's north inner city, was launched by Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in October 2002.

The primary purpose of the forum is to coordinate a common strategy between the local community, the police force (*An Garda Síochána*) and the housing authority in response to local drug dealing and related crime and nuisance.

Approximately 50 local residents from the surrounding area meet every three months with senior representatives of the police and the housing authority to discuss drug-related problems and to agree solutions. A survey of the residents participating in the forum found that 70% believed the police service had improved as a result of the forum. Meanwhile 72% stated that they would be more willing to cooperate with the police in relation to drug-related crime as a result of it. All of those surveyed wished to see the forum continued in the future.

Community policing fora have now been developed in two other areas of the city. The national drugs strategy envisages their establishment in 14 priority locations throughout the country.

Copies of the report 'Community Policing and Drugs in Dublin' by Johnny Connolly can be obtained from the Irish focal point at <http://www.hrb.ie/ndc> or from the author at [jconnolly@hrb.ie](mailto:jconnolly@hrb.ie)

## Reitox

### Quality-assessment exercise points to improved data reporting

There is a general improvement in the way in which countries report national information on drugs, according to a recent quality-assessment exercise carried out by the EMCDDA on data reported in 2003.

More countries are now making efforts to adhere to European guidelines, and there is a greater harmonisation in the format and layout of data reported by country. However, there is still room for improvement in some areas, such as the interpretation of trends. And greater punctuality in reporting is needed, as delays can affect the process of analysis at EU level.

Every year the EU Member States and candidate countries provide the EMCDDA with national reports covering: the drug situation; quantitative data on drug consumption and related problems; and best practice in the field of demand reduction.

All countries now provide the EMCDDA with quantitative data, but not all of the requested data fields are necessarily covered. Efforts are therefore being made by focal points to develop data sources where they are lacking and to bring national reporting systems fully in line with European standards. In this context, collaboration between the national networks and the EMCDDA is essential to achieve reliable and comparable information.

A working group session will be held in Lisbon from 7–8 October where interested focal points will assess the application of a new reporting system set up for 2004 reporting. Participants will discuss, among others, data-collection guidelines; quality-assessment criteria; guidelines for 2005 national reports; and selected issues.

*Linda Montanari*

See Partners/Reitox network at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int>



### EMCDDA Management Board member carries Olympic Torch

EMCDDA Management Board member for Cyprus, Dr Kyriakos Veresies, was among the luminaries and athletes to bear the 2004 Olympic Torch during its stopover in Cyprus on 8 July.

Cyprus was the final stop on the Olympic flame's itinerary before it entered Greece on 9 July after a long journey across five continents, 26 countries and 34 cities. It then continued its travels through Greece to arrive at the Athens Olympic Stadium for the Olympic Games opening ceremony on 13 August.

The Olympic flame was carried torch-to-torch by more than 10,000 bearers, across nations, cultures and communities. Dr Veresies' participation in this ritual is a proclamation of the values and ideals of a civil European society; ideals and values that also aid in the struggle against substance abuse and dependence. The flame symbolises the inextinguishable ideals of noble contest, friendship, peace, culture and education, which are so essential to contemporary worldwide humanity.

*Neoklis Georgiades*

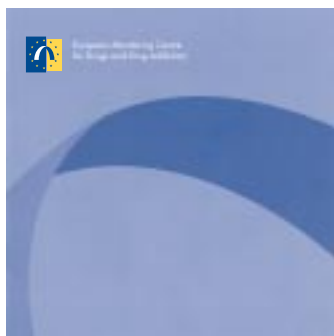
*Head of the Cyprus Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction*

*Dr Veresies, psychiatrist, is head of KENTHEA, a Cypriot NGO involved in drug prevention and treatment.*

# Products and services

## New publications

### *EMCDDA presentation brochure (new languages)*



The EMCDDA presentation brochure published in 11 EU languages plus Norwegian at the end of 2003 will be available in the nine new European Union languages in October (CS, ET, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SK, SL).

The brochure, also to be available on the EMCDDA website, outlines the agency's main areas of activity in the context of its ongoing three-year work programme (2004–2006), as well as its founding mandate and objectives.

Organisations wishing to order stocks in any of the 21 languages for conferences and other events can do so by e-mail: [info@emcdda.eu.int](mailto:info@emcdda.eu.int)

See Publications/Brochures and catalogues at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int>

## Coming soon

### *EMCDDA online – promotional brochure*

Every year the EMCDDA produces a variety of publications, both online and offline, through which it conveys its research and key findings. To complement its publications catalogue of titles in print, the EMCDDA will be publishing this autumn a brochure publicising its latest online products.

See Publications/Brochures and catalogues at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int>

Further information on all EMCDDA publications and details of how to order titles are available on the EMCDDA website at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int>

## Partners (continued from page 5)

### **Drug control at European airports**

The Pempidou Group's Co-operation group of drug control services at European airports held its annual meeting in Brussels from 17–18 June. Over 80 participants from 32 countries attended the event, as well as delegates from the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the EMCDDA.

The WCO's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Western Europe delivered a presentation on drug seizures at European airports in general in 2003. This was followed by a number of national presentations including: drug seizures at Brussels airport (Judicial service, Brussels airport); the rapid exchange of information on drug detection and airport crime figures at Heathrow airport (British HM Customs and Excise); information on the 'Passenger Control Handbook' (Spanish *Guardia Civil*); the 'Airport Crime Risk Register' (Dutch Customs Intelligence Centre); and ecstasy export control measures (French Division for Analysis and Surveillance).

Finally, the Portuguese delegate spoke on controlled deliveries and drug control at large-scale events, following the country's recently acquired experience during the football championship *Euro 2004*. The information presented at the meeting will contribute to a better understanding of the drug situation and responses to it at European level.

*Ignácio Vázquez Molini*

# Resources

## Useful materials and events on the drugs issue



### **Mental health congress**

A congress on drug dependence, mental health and the media, organised by the Portuguese organisation *Associação VITAE*, will take place in Lisbon from 28–29 October. Sessions will include: addiction and marginalisation, dependence and public health; drug use and the law; and drugs and the media. The congress aims to facilitate channels of communication between scientific research, the media and society.

Further information on the event is available at: <http://www.assoc-vitae.org/actividad.html>

### **Alcohol, drugs and risk behaviour**

This is the title of a colloquium organised by the Jacques Cartier Centre (Lyons) and the University of Montreal, from 7–8 October in Montreal. The colloquium will offer three plenary sessions and five workshops on concepts, research and practice in the field of drug addiction. Innovative interventions in a number of areas will be examined including: drugs and driving; low-threshold services; and violence and drug use among young people.

Further information on the event is available at: <http://www.risq-cirasst.umontreal.ca> or <http://cjc.univ-lyon2.fr>

*Organisations wishing to publicise their newsletters, magazines, websites, CD-ROMs or any other resources or events are invited to contact [Kathryn.Robertson@emcdda.eu.int](mailto:Kathryn.Robertson@emcdda.eu.int)*

**Drugnet Europe** is a newsletter published by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Lisbon. The newsletter is published four times a year in Spanish, German, English, French and Portuguese. Original language: English. Any item may be reproduced provided the source is acknowledged.

For free subscriptions, please specify your requirements via e-mail: [info@emcdda.eu.int](mailto:info@emcdda.eu.int)

Rua da Cruz de Santa Apolónia 23-25, 1149-045 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel. (351) 218 11 30 00 • Fax (351) 218 13 1711  
[info@emcdda.eu.int](mailto:info@emcdda.eu.int) • <http://www.emcdda.eu.int>

## Calendar 2004

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

### EMCDDA meetings

- 7–9 July: EMCDDA Management Board meeting, Lisbon.  
12–14 July: EMCDDA expert meeting on European youth epidemiology data, Lisbon.  
14–16 July: Reitox Academy workshop on prevalence estimation of problem drug use, Ljubljana, Slovenia.  
6 September: EMCDDA budget committee, Brussels.  
8 September: Meeting on prevention-related structured questionnaire, Lisbon.  
9–10 September: 9<sup>th</sup> EDDRA coordination meeting, Lisbon.  
16–17 September: Seminar on alternatives to prison for drug using offenders, Lisbon.  
22–23 September: EMCDDA annual expert meeting on the treatment demand indicator, Lisbon.  
23 September: EMCDDA meeting with international organisations on gender analysis using treatment demand data.  
24 September: EMCDDA–UNODC editorial group meeting on the definition of a toolkit on the treatment demand indicator, Lisbon.  
27–28 September: Meeting with focal points on treatment and social structured questionnaires, Lisbon.  
7–8 October: Working group meeting on the assessment of a new reporting system and guidelines for 2004 national reports, Lisbon.  
13–15 October: EU meeting on crime and supply drug-related data/Reitox Academy, Lisbon.  
18 October: EMCDDA legal correspondents meeting, Lisbon.

### External meetings

- 7–10 September: 16<sup>th</sup> International conference on addiction ethnicity and addiction, Vienna.  
13–14 September: Swedish national conference on outreach work, Uppsala.  
20–21 September: Pre-conference on mental health of children and adolescents in the WHO/European Region, Luxembourg.

### EU meetings

- 7–8 September; 30 September–1 October; 24 November: Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.

## Statutory bodies

### Management Board adopts resolution on EMCDDA budget

The EMCDDA Management Board met in Lisbon on 7–8 July and adopted a resolution requesting the budgetary authorities (Parliament, Council, Commission) to consider the Board's January proposal of € 12.9 million for the EMCDDA 2005 budget. The resolution was drawn up in the light of ongoing discussions by the authorities of a budget of € 12 million. The resolution expresses concern that, in the context of EU enlargement, this reduction of € 900,000 would have negative repercussions on the work of the Centre, particularly that of the now 25 Reitox focal points which receive 50% of their funding from the EMCDDA. Chairman of the Board Marcel Reimen will present the resolution to the European Parliament for consideration.

The Board also discussed the EMCDDA's cooperation with civil society, particularly with European transnational networks on drugs and non-governmental organisations. A document will be prepared for the next meeting on the nature and budgetary and personnel implications of this collaboration.

In the area of external relations, and particularly relations with the neighbouring countries of the new enlarged EU, the Board stressed the importance of making best use of the EMCDDA's capacity in the field of drug information systems and related methodologies. It also decided to extend the mandate of the current members of the Scientific Committee and to ask new Member States to nominate representatives.

*Kathleen Hernalsteen*

### National drug coordinators' meeting

National drug coordinators from the EU Member States gathered in Dublin on 15 June for an informal meeting under the Irish Presidency. EMCDDA Director Georges Estievenart presented to the coordinators the agency's latest findings on cocaine and crack cocaine in the EU. This presentation looked at the source of the world's illicit cocaine, trafficking routes and seizures, as well as prevalence, cocaine-related deaths and treatment. The Irish National Advisory Committee on Drugs also presented the latest national figures on cocaine prevalence, trends, prevention and treatment.

At the meeting, delegates from Belgium, France, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden provided national updates on the drug situation. Also discussed was the role of the national drug coordinators in the development of the EU strategy and action plan on drugs.