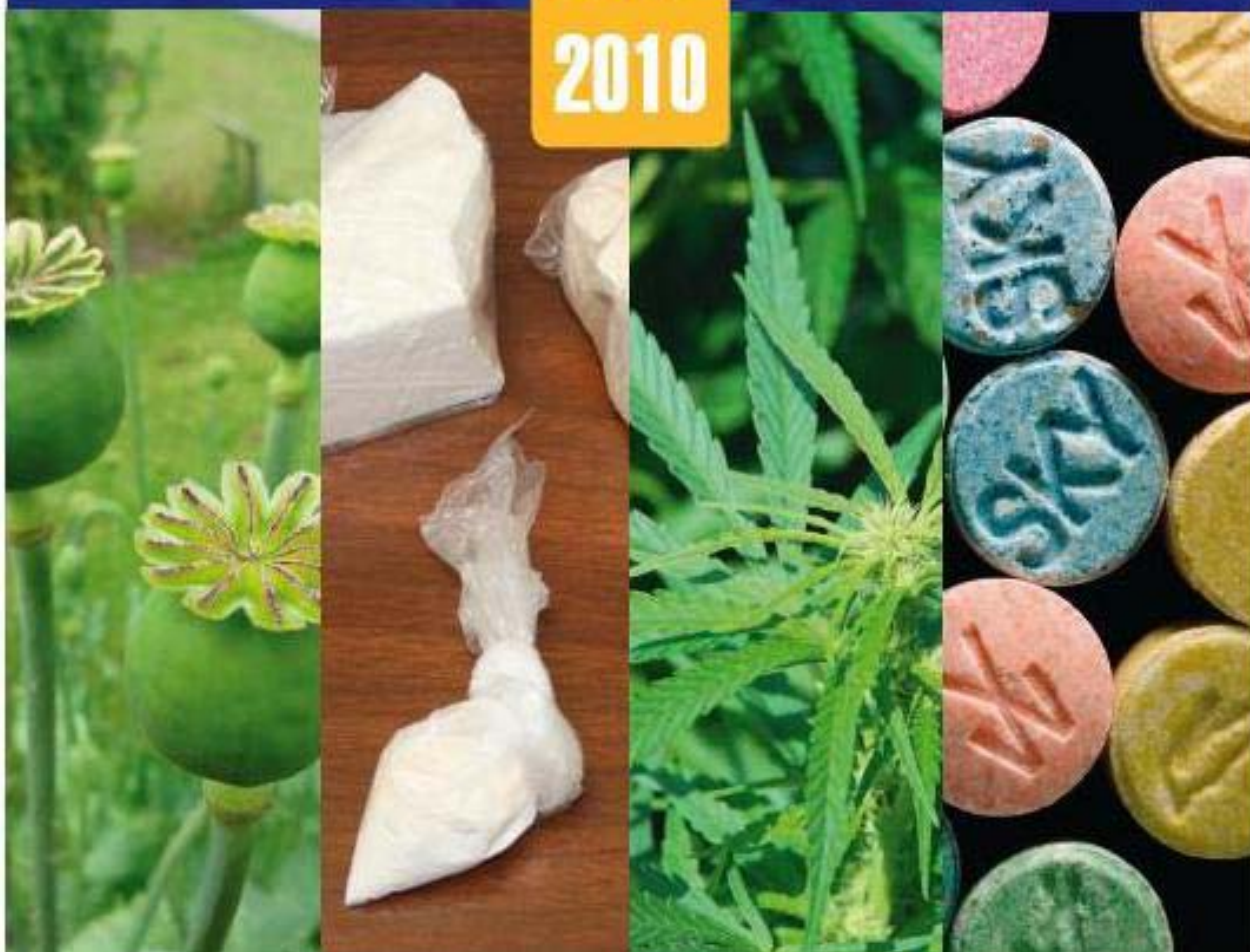




Projects, Studies and Research on Illicit Drugs

Funded by the **European Commission**

2007
2010





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Introduction

This publication provides a comprehensive overview of projects, studies and research in the field of illicit drugs funded by the European Commission from 2007–2010.

Drugs policy is largely the responsibility of the 27 EU governments and the bulk of funding to tackle illicit drugs is provided through national spending programmes. However, illicit drugs know no borders and EU governments are closely working together to reduce drugs use, drug crime and trafficking in Europe.

The EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and two EU Drugs Action Plans provide the framework for European cooperation in the field of illicit drugs. The strategy aims to achieve a high level of health protection, well-being and social cohesion by preventing and reducing the use of drugs. It also seeks to ensure a high level of security through action against drugs production, manufacture, drug trafficking and drugs-related crime.

To support the objectives of the EU Drugs Strategy and its action plans, the European Commission complements national funding on drugs by fostering European cooperation to exchange best practice across countries, to carry out cross-border law enforcement actions and multi-country research studies to inform drug policy responses.

The following EU funding programmes provide grants for cross-border drugs projects:

- The **Drug Prevention and Information Programme** is the only EU programme which is solely dedicated to funding projects in the field of drugs. It offers support for the exchange and transfer of best practice in the field of drug prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration across the EU;

- The **Prevention of and Fight Against Crime Programme** provides support for projects to combat all types of crime, including drug trafficking and law enforcement;
- The **Health Programme** funds actions to foster the exchange of knowledge and best practice on health issues, including drugs and addiction;
- The **Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)** supports European research in many fields. Drugs research can fall under the broader themes of "health", "addiction" and "security" of the FP7's Cooperation Programme.

By the end of 2010, the EU funding programmes 2007-2013 were at their mid-way point. A number of projects started late 2007/8 which means their results are not yet available. A more comprehensive picture of project outputs and research findings will emerge gradually in the coming years.

This publication is therefore 'work in progress'. It provides a summary of each project's objectives along with details of its duration, budget and the beneficiary's contact details and website.

This overview will be of interest to policy-makers, public authorities, professionals and researchers working in the field of illicit drugs.

Anti-Drugs Policy Coordination Unit
Directorate General for Justice
European Commission

June 2011

List of Projects and Studies

Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPIP) Action Grants

- Prevention of poly-drugs addiction and reduction of drug-related harms programmes for young people in recreational settings
- Development of rehabilitation and reintegration programme for children using drugs
- Addicted to Life: an international information campaign for prevention and reduction of risks associated with the use of amphetamines
- OASIS - Online assessment of substance information and support
- Rome Consensus' European Chapter: Red Cross Red Crescent European conference on the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plans
- EU-Dap TOT network: European drug abuse prevention training of trainers' network
- Improving harm reduction strategies: a Red Cross approach in Europe
- Safe Coast
- Throughcare services for prisoners with problematic drug use
- REBOUND – Resilience-based drug education. A European Model project in media-based and cooperative risk pedagogic
- European Family Empowerment: Improving family skills to prevent alcohol and drug related problems
- European Harm Reduction Network (EuroHRN): Strengthening civil society to promote the reduction of drug-related harms
- Juvenile Drug Use: tertiary prevention strategies
- Identification and optimisation of evidence-based HCV prevention in Europe for young drug users at risk
- Dangerous liaisons - the connection between prostitution and drug abuse
- ESBIRTES (Electronic Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment for(poly) drug users in Emergency Services)
- TRIP - Testing in Recreational-settings prevention-Interventions addressed to Polydrug-users

- 'Spice' and synthetic cannabinoids: Fast responses by means of forensic, toxicological and socio-scientific analyses with direct impact on prevention measures
- ACCESS - Access to harm reduction and continuity of care for drug users in custody
- ORION - Overdose Risk InfOrmatioN Project
- Social Norms Intervention for the prevention of Polydrug use (SNIPE)
- WISEteens
- Reducing hepatitis C, sexual and drug taking risk behaviours among female drug users in Europe (REDUCE)
- Evaluation and prospects of international drug control
- New methodological tools for policy and programme evaluation

Health Programme

- Prevention Standards - European standards in evidence for drug prevention
- DC&D II - Democracy, Cities & Drugs II
- Sharing good practice in supporting kinship carers to prevent substance related harm to young people (Kinship carers and prevention)
- Club Health - healthy and safer nightlife of youth
- Recreational Drugs' European Network: an ICT prevention service addressing the use of novel compounds in vulnerable individuals. (ReDNet)
- International Harm Reduction Association 21st International Conference
- Health promotion of young prisoners
- SRAP - Addiction prevention within Roma and Sinti communities
- Boys and Girls - An interactive web-based series to promote healthy lifestyles among European adolescents (Boys and Girls)
- Imp.Ac.T Improving Access to HIV/TB Testing for marginalized groups
- Nightlife empowerment and well-being (NEW implementation)
- WHO Harm Reduction

Prevention of and fight against Crime Programme (ISEC)

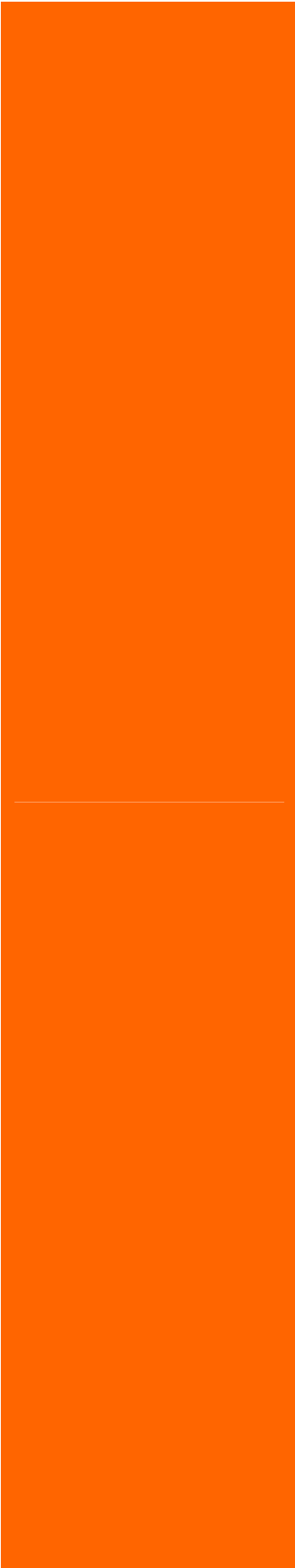
- CeCLAD-M Centre de Coordination de la Lutte Anti-Drogue en Méditerranée
- Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) MAOC-N
- Operation INBUS
- Drug related and juvenile crime – DREJC
- Shared parameters in intelligence sharing and capacity building on drug trafficking - West Africa
- Development of the geographic analytical information system for the limitation of illegal turnover of drugs
- International training centre for combating clandestine laboratories
- The impact of significant drug seizure on local communities
- Your Right Choice
- Enhancement of the cooperation and the capacities of the EU MS with the countries along the Balkan Route to combat narcotic drugs trafficking into the EU
- Youth Against Drugs
- European drugs profiling system
- The intensification of police cooperation when combating the illegal smuggling of synthetic drugs
- European Network Prosecutors Synthetic Drugs and Precursors II
- Westbridge II
- Joint Operations Coordination Centre

The Seventh Framework Programme of Research (FP7)

- Localization and tracking of components of substance production LOTUS
- Surveillance in wide maritime areas through active and passive means AMASS
- Drugs and Precursors Sensing by Complementing Low Cost Multiples Techniques CUSTOM
- Addictions and Lifestyles in Contemporary European Societies ALICE-RAP

European Commission Studies

- Comparative analysis of research into illicit drugs in the European Union
- Global illicit drugs markets 1998-2007
- Minimum quality standards and benchmarks in drug demand reduction (EQUUS)
- Understanding illicit drugs markets supply reduction efforts, and drug-related crime in the EU
- Further analysis of the EU illicit drugs market. Responding to future challenges
- Assessment of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and its Action Plans



Drug Prevention and Information Programme 2007-2013

The objectives of the DPIIP programme are:

- to prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug related harms;
- to contribute to the improvement of information on the effects of drug use;
- to support the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy.

The DPIIP programme promotes actions:

- to set up multidisciplinary networks;
- to ensure the expansion of the knowledge base;
- to support the exchange of information and the identification and dissemination of good practice, e.g. through training, study visits and staff exchanges.

<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/anti-drugs/programme/>

Prevention of poly-drugs addiction and reduction of drug-related harms programmes for young people in recreational settings

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/01

Start date
30.12.2008

End date
31.12.2010

Project Coordinator
Local Authority of Bergamo
Marco Riglietta
Via Borgo Palazzo 130
24 125 Bergamo
Italy
Tel: +39 0363 98 7202
Fax: +39 0363 98 8638
mriglietta@asl.bergamo.it
http://www.asl.bergamo.it/servizi/notizie/notizie_fase02.aspx?ID=1415

Partners and/or associate partners:

Partners:

- Synergia (Italy);
- Sundhedsstyrelsen, Region Midtvest / National Board of Health, MidWest Region (Denmark);
- University Court of the University of St. Andrews (Scotland).

Associate partners:

- Lombardia Region, General Direction "Family and Social Affairs" (Italy);
- Eotvos Lorand University (Hungary).

EC Contribution
211.865,98 EUR

EC Grant
79%

Duration
24 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

The project aims at improving the knowledge base and the exchange of information through research and analysis carried out by an interdisciplinary transnational working group on the prevention and reduction of drug-related harms programmes in recreational environments.

The transnational coordination group will have the following tasks: to update and analyse quantitative information available from institutional sources to estimate the phenomenon of addiction in each country; to produce an analytical report on the policies of prevention of poly-drugs use and reduction of drug-related harms targeted to young people in recreational settings; to map the prevention programmes in recreational settings; to define the criteria for the identification of good practices and define a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators able to evaluate the effectiveness of the prevention actions on which data has been collected; to identify Good Practices and create an "Album" representing a catalogue of concrete solutions to address common problems and situations. Planning authorities will be advised on new intervention schemes.

Beneficiaries

The principal beneficiaries will be teenagers and young adults aged between 17-24 years old.

Results

A manual is available which sets out concrete solutions and advice that will help local and regional authorities to deal with prevention and reduction of drug-related harms in recreational environments.

Development of rehabilitation and reintegration programme for children using drugs

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/03

Start date
29.12.2008

End date
28.03.2011

Project Coordinator
Vilnius Pedagogical
University
Renata Katinaite
Studentu str. 39-406
08106 Vilnius
Lithuania
Tel: +370 5 260 7783
Fax: +370 5 260 7783
renata.katinaite@vpu.lt

Partners and/or associate partners:
Partners:
Liepaja Academy, Latvia
Associate partners:
Heidelberg University of
Education, D

EC Contribution
148.605,60 EUR

EC Grant
80%

Duration
27 Months

Country
LT

Abstract

Drug addiction is especially relevant in post soviet Baltic countries where societal attitude towards drug-addicts is discriminating and difficult to change. Specialists working in educational, medical and social institutions need knowledge and abilities to address the problems that children addicted to psychoactive substances have to face. The purpose of this project is to create a programme which involves all the stages necessary when providing assistance to such children: starting with problem identification, its solution and rehabilitation up to a child's integration into society.

This programme aims to project the cooperation objectives among various institutions which solve these problems and provide possible assistance strategies for children who are addicted to psychoactive substances and their relatives. The programme is tailored according to every partner country situation and focuses on the positive experience in EU countries. Qualification improvement modules for specialists working with children who use psychoactive substances are foreseen.

The project will contribute to EU drug demand reduction policy, providing added value by developing and improving an efficient and integrated demand system including prevention, early interference, treatment, harm reduction, rehabilitation and social reintegration means in EU countries (Lithuania, Latvia and Germany in this case).

Beneficiaries

Outputs created and accomplished with the help of this project are meant for child welfare specialists who work in institutions providing educational, medical and social services. The final recipients of the project are children who use psychoactive substances.

Expected results

The main aim of the project is to develop rehabilitation and integration programme for children who use drugs.

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-01/08

Start date
30.12.2008

End date
29.12.2010

Project Coordinator
Initiative for Health
Foundation
Elena Yankova
Todor Kableshkov 52
1618 Sofia
Bulgaria
Tel: +359 2 955 0472
Fax: +359 2 955 0472
sofianep@online.bg
www.addicted2life.eu

Associated Partners
The project involves five NGOs: two from Bulgaria, one from France, one from Hungary and one from Macedonia. Almost all of them, with the exception of one of the Bulgarian partners, are involved in harm reduction initiatives for drug users.

EC Contribution
191.292 00 EUR

EC Grant
79.92%

Duration
24 Months

Country
BG

Abstract

The main activities of the Initiative of Health Foundation are aimed at the reduction of the health and social harm related to drug use. The NGO and partners will cooperate with each other and other relevant agencies in order to produce a number of information products. These products will provide clear and understandable messages on amphetamine use directed at the users, professionals, non-professionals who are affected by the problem. The project will rely on innovative and creative approaches of cooperation with the media: journalists from four countries will be trained and motivated to develop the amphetamine use topic in their work.

This is an awareness campaign targeting people using amphetamines or willing to learn more about them. Though the project has created some traditional awareness raising tools – a five-language internet portal and information leaflets - its main and innovative focus is building partnerships with the media as a channel for disseminating information to a wide audience with a view to changing existing perceptions and helping more people gain access to accurate information on the health and social aspects of using synthetic drugs.

Beneficiaries

Media representatives, drug users, professionals, non-professionals and general society who are affected by the use of amphetamines.

Results

A web-portal on amphetamine use and information leaflets addressed to the target groups. Improved quality of the information about amphetamines and their use as well as all associated health risks in the media through training journalists. A media contest was carried out in the course of the project and a manual was developed to enhance the cooperation between drugs related agencies and the media.

OASIS - Online Assessment of Substance Information and Support

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/10

Start date
29.12.2008

End date
28.12.2011

Project Coordinator
Jellinek Mentrum
Jaap Jamin
teammanager preventie
2e Constantijn
Huygensstraat 39
1054 CP Amsterdam
T: +31-20-5904211
M: +31-6-21707469
jaap.jamin@jellinek.nl
www.jellinek.nl
www.crew2000.org.uk
www.oasisonline.eu

Associated partners
This project is a co-operative
venture between
JellinekMentrum/ Unity
(Amsterdam, The
Netherlands), Crew 2000
(Edinburgh, Scotland) and
the University of Maastricht
(the Netherlands).

EC Contribution
499.587,00 EUR

EC Grant
75, 17%

Duration
36 Months

Country
NL

Abstract

This project aims at the development of an innovative intervention programme to reduce risk behaviours, specifically (problematic) alcohol and cocaine use. It fits within ongoing health promotion efforts and has a high implementation likelihood due to its efficiency in terms of costs.

The innovative intervention, OASIS, is based on three pillars: screening of high risk individuals, use of digital self-help, the use of peer mentorship and support. The intervention is based on self-regulation and social support theory, which suggests that behaviour changes and sustained changes over time are only likely when people are personally committed. People will be enabled by means of an online diary to examine potential risk situations and will be equipped with self-regulatory skills to cope with these situations. Peer educators will participate in various phases of the intervention.

The project will develop an intervention and screening tool tailored to the needs of young people. The intervention will be implemented and evaluated in the UK and in the Netherlands. In order to test the effectiveness of the OASIS intervention, it will be compared to an intervention without the social-support component. When found effective, the tools of the interventions will be made available to other European countries.

Beneficiaries

A handbook will be developed describing the intervention protocol, procedure and results of the research. A training manual and the online tool will be made available to drug risk prevention networks of other countries.

Expected results

Improved risk reduction results over time.

Rome Consensus' European Chapter

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/12

Start date
19.12.2008

End date
18.12.2009

Project Coordinator
King Baudouin Foundation
"The Rome Consensus
Fund"
Jane Francis
The Rome Consensus Fund
- European Chapter
King Baudouin Foundation
C/O The Rome Consensus
35 Grosvenor Gardens
SW1S 0BS
Tel: +44 207 072 5095
Fax: +44 207 072 5096
francis@romeconsensus.net
www.romeconsensus.net

Associated partners
The Conference was co-organised by the King Baudouin Foundation Rome Consensus Fund and the Spanish Red Cross.

EC Contribution
120,000 EUR

EC Grant
75.07%

Duration
12 Months

Country
BE

Abstract

The Rome Consensus' European Chapter Conference in Madrid was a multidisciplinary platform for the mainstreaming of elements of the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan into the work of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) movement. It aimed to acquaint European Red Cross-Red Crescent National Societies (RC/RC NS) with the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan and to encourage them to incorporate these in their drug response programmes; to exchange information and identify concrete actions to transfer know-how between the RC/RC NS and between EU institutions and the RC/RC NS; to establish benchmarks and procedures for follow up and evaluate future RC/RC engagement in drug activities; and to establish a status review of the current European RC/RC NS activities in drug prevention, information and treatment.

An RC/RC Youth Camp was held in Solferino, Italy, in June 2009 and the "Rome Consensus Europe Seminar- Drug Prevention, Treatment and Harm Reduction: Scaling-Up of Red Cross-Red Crescent Best Practices" took place in Rome December 2009.

Beneficiaries

Practitioners of Red Cross National Societies: youth representatives; health professionals; educational staff; social workers.

Results

A declaration of commitment to consolidate the Rome Consensus' European Chapter and the creation of an EU Drugs Strategy Handbook containing practical guidelines for mainstreaming and implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plans within RC/RC drug activities.



EU-Dap TOT network: European drug abuse prevention training of trainers' network

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/21

Start date
19.12.2008

End date
18.12.2011

Project Coordinator
Hogeschool Gent /
University College Ghent

Peer van der Kreeft
Voskenslaan 362
9000 Gent
Belgium
Tel: +32 9 2432655
peer.vanderkreeft@hogent.be
www.eudap.net

EC Contribution
259.086,00 EUR

EC Grant
80%

Duration
36 Months

Country
BE

Abstract

The overarching goal of the EU-Dap TOT network is to ensure quality control of efficacy tested school-based programmes based on a comprehensive social influence model during the dissemination stage. The interactive training of the teachers 'Training of Trainers' is an evidence based and indispensable component of this programme. Partners of this quality control project are installing the EU-Dap 'Faculty'. One of the goals is to increase the quality of the effective prevention programme entitled "Unplugged". Unplugged is a comprehensive social influence programme of 12 lessons that is delivered in one semester by the teacher to pupils aged 12 to 14. Unplugged has proven to be an effective intervention to delay the onset of drug use and the transition of experimenting to frequent drug use. The Faculty relies on the EU-Dap centres in 12 EU Member States to implement the 'Unplugged' prevention intervention. More EU Member States are in the process of joining them. In addition, the EU-Dap Faculty created a centrally managed European group of professionals with the responsibility to update and supervise the methods of programmes application.

Beneficiaries

Young people in the participating countries will benefit from this project but its success should benefit the whole EU once implemented.

Expected results

The TOT network will cooperate with other prevention programmes at the EU and local level. The availability of an efficient network of Trainers of Trainers, able to implement quality standards and deliver certification is an important outcome and contribution to the efforts of the EU for assuring qualitative and evidence based drug prevention programmes.

Improving harm reduction strategies: a Red Cross approach in Europe

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/36

Start date
29.12.2008

End date
28.12.2010

Project Coordinator
Fondazione Villa Maraini

Fabio Patruno
Via Bernardino Ramazzini
31
00151 Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 657 53 0311
Fax: +39 06 657 53 0302
f.patruno@villamaraini.it
europaeprojects@villamaraini.it
www.redcrosshr.eu

Partners

- Bulgarian Red Cross;
- French Red Cross;
- Italian Red Cross;
- Portuguese Red Cross;
- Latvian Red Cross.

EC Contribution
222.411,72 EUR

EC Grant
78%

Duration
25 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

This project will strengthen the capacities of the partner organisations to develop and implement Harm Reduction programmes for poly-drug, injecting drug users (IDUs) and People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) with a focus on the prevention of infectious diseases. The Villa Maraini Foundation, the Italian Red Cross, the French Red Cross in collaboration with the Croatian Red Cross provided training courses on harm reduction for their partners: Bulgarian Red Cross, Portuguese Red Cross and Latvian Red Cross. The Red Cross of the FYROM also participated.

Equipped with their new expertise, the Bulgaria Red Cross set up two drop-in centres and the opening of an harm reduction point in a night shelter for people with alcohol and drug abuse problems. The Portuguese Red Cross organized harm reduction info points in youth recreational settings. Needle exchange points and outreach services were set up in three local branches of the Macedonian Red Cross. Awareness raising and advocacy activities on harm reduction, drug prevention and fight against stigma have been implemented in each country.

Beneficiaries

Staff and volunteers of Red Cross National Societies and other local organizations/institutions working in the field of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. IDUs, problematic drug users, PLWHA.

Results

70 staff and volunteers from Red Cross National Societies and other organizations in the field of drug abuse have been trained in harm reduction approaches. Informative material on drug abuse prevention and reduction of drug related harm distributed among young people, drug users and the general population in each partner country. A project web site provides up-to-date information. A Manual on Best Practices in the field of Harm Reduction Programmes has been published in English, Portuguese, Latvian and Bulgarian.



Safe Coast

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/37

Start date
22.12.2008

End date
28.12.2011

Project Coordinator
Slovenian association for
harm reduction on drugs –
DrogArt

Barbara Purkart
Kolodvorska 20
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: +386 41 730 800
Fax: +386 15 892 233
barbara@drogart.org
<http://www.drogart.org/preds-tavitev-da>
http://etnoblog.org/?page_id=20

Partners and/or associate partners
Partners: Etnoblog, youth association established in Italy.

EC Contribution
123.182, 41EUR

EC Grant
80%

Duration
36 Months

Country
SI

Abstract

The project results from mutual cooperation of partners working in two neighboring countries (one "new EU member" and one "old EU member") in the field of harm reduction of drugs among young partygoers. As the border between countries no longer exists, not only access to parties in both countries is easier for young people, but also the cross-border trafficking of illegal drugs. Both partners have encountered language problems when their nationals needed access to harm reduction services in the other country. We encountered a lot of transferable good practice in the field of harm reduction on both sides of the border to share and improve. The project consists of several mutual actions: monitoring of users (research work) focusing on new trends of drug use in nightlife premises; exchange, education and mutual work of multidisciplinary field workers on the scenes of the venue (parties with electronic music), the exchange and mutual work of medical workers outside the venues; mutual education programmes on harm reduction and safe nightlife for workers in nightlife industry; planning, preparation and operation of mutual action on safe driving in connection with alcohol use and party going; opening of bilingual info point for safe nightlife in coast region; support the implementation of EU strategy. Awareness raising: leaflets, web page, radio programmes in both languages, Slovenian and Italian.

Beneficiaries

Young partygoers needing access to harm reduction services in Slovenia and Italy.

Expected results

The project aims to facilitate knowledge, good practice and experience which can be of value for other EU countries which try to prevent health risks related to drug use, to improve access to harm reduction services and develop and improve prevention and information programmes on alcohol and illicit drugs targeted at young partygoers.

Throughcare services for prisoners with problematic drug use

Project N°
JLS/DPIP/2007-1/38

Start date
29.12.2008

End date
28.12.2011

Project Coordinator
Birmingham City University

Morag MacDonald
Attwood, Perry Barr
B42 2TP Birmingham
England
Tel: 0044 (0) 121 331 6305
Fax: 0044 (0) 121 331 6379
Lorraine.Hackett@bcu.ac.uk
<http://www.throughcare.eu/>

Partners and/or associate partners

- WIAD, Germany;
- Omenia – Malaescu Foundation, Romania;
- ULSS 16, Italy; AVNDP, Bulgaria;
- Convictus, Estonia.

EC Contribution
405.917,14 EUR

EC Grant
80%

Duration
36 Months

Country
GB

Abstract

There is limited research and information about what throughcare provisions are available in European prisons or which identifies good practice. This project will carry out research on throughcare programmes for prisoners in EU Member States. A multi-disciplinary network will identify effective approaches to providing throughcare that targets risk behaviour and which will contribute to the reintegration of prisoners with problematic drug use into their communities.

The network will exchange experience, transfer skills, collect data and develop a standardised evaluation tool that can be used to evaluate throughcare programmes. The project focuses on prisoners and in particular women, young prisoners and ethnic minorities in each of the partner countries. Both closed and open prisons are included in the sample prison case studies.

The project will examine what provision exists, what works and gaps in provision. It will explore with prisoners with problematic drug use their perceived needs when they are released, in each of the participating countries. In-depth interviews with key prison staff and those involved in pre-release activities will be undertaken. Interviews with community service providers, teachers, NGOs will be carried out. An evaluation of existing practice in each of the partner countries for throughcare, pre – release programmes will be done.

Beneficiaries

Drug dependent prisoners in European Member States and those that work with them.

Expected results

The evaluation will identify the purpose of post-release programmes and how to work across organizations to attain these outcomes. Those in the network will produce a standardized evaluation tool (on how to implement effective throughcare provision) that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes with the target group.



REBOUND Resilience-based drug education

Project N°
JLS/2008/DPIP/AG/106

Start date
01/01/2010

End date
31/12/2012

Project Coordinator
Dr. Henrik Jungaberle
Health Research, Dipl.-MT
Institute of Medical
Psychology, Centre for
Psychosocial Medicine
Heidelberg University
Bergheimerstrasse 20, D-
69115 HEIDELBERG
GERMANY
+49 (6221) 568147

Henrik.Jungaberle@med.uni-heidelberg.de
www.my-rebound.eu

Partners

Mentor Stiftung Deutschland
Mentor Foundation UK
Mentor Foundation Sweden
Mentor Foundation Lithuania
KIRON Institute for Health
Education GmbH, D

Associate Partner

CERD – Center for
Educational Research and
Development (San Diego,
USA)

EC Contribution
485.749.11 EUR

EC Grant
48.87%

Duration
36 Months

Country
DE

Abstract

“REBOUND – Resilience-based drug education” is an interactive, multinational and media-based prevention programme for adolescents and young adults from the age of 14 up to the age of 25 designed for initial implementation in Germany and UK to be followed by Sweden and Lithuania. Its programme theory and practical structure follows best-practice guidelines (as reported by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, EMCDDA). Rebound's innovative scenario-based risk education utilizes drug-related video clips created by and with adolescents for promoting improved risk perception. This is coupled with the promotion of resilience/life-skills training developed from cutting edge research in medicine, psychology and education. REBOUND is transmitted by teachers with the extensive help of specially trained young people working as peers. It is a programme for universal prevention. Consisting of 16 video-supported modules, it is designed for adaptation and expansion. It has been specially developed for interactive drug education in schools and youth organizations.

REBOUND aims at a range of interconnected goals rather than a single desired outcome - it targets drug-related and person/group-related outcomes.

Beneficiaries

Initially adolescents and young adults from the age of 14 up to the age of 25 in Germany and the UK, but this will also be tested in Sweden and Lithuania.

Expected results

Rebound's evaluation plan is based on the EMCDDA guidelines. The programme shall be tested in a randomized controlled trial with school classes in Germany (N=750 students in intervention group) and its English adaptation will be piloted in the UK (N=125). Teachers from Sweden and Lithuania shall prepare further adaptation to the EU.



European Family Empowerment: Improving family skills to prevent alcohol and drug related problems

Project N°
JLS/2008/DPIP/AG/112

Start date
01/01/2010

End date
31/12/2012

Project Coordinator
Mr Amador CALAFAT
President
IREFREA – European
Institute of Studies on
Prevention
Rambla, 15
E-07003, Palma de Mallorca
Spain
Tel: 971-727434
irefrea@irefrea.org
www.irefrea.org

Associated partners

- IREFREA – Portugal
- LJMU – (Liverpool John Moores University), Centre for Public Health, United Kingdom
- UTRIP - (Institute for Research and Development), Slovenia
- CUNI – (Charles University in Prague), First Faculty of Medicine, Czech Republic
- STAD - (Stockholm prevents alcohol and drug problems), Sweden

EC Contribution
380,325.63EUR

EC Grant
79.78 %

Duration
36 Months

Country
ES

Abstract

A capacity-building European Family Prevention project which aims to explore and develop the preventive skills of families on their children regarding alcohol and drug use and abuse, and to identify the conditions that will facilitate parents' empowerment when managing their children risk behaviours. The study will: explore existing evidence on family empowerment in the field of prevention; detect if factors identified in the literature review are present in European families and are efficient across countries/cultures; find out interactions among parents and children and explore children permeability to parents preventive actions; assess the level of family organization and participation in social and community activities and analyze gender influence in potential preventive actions; and, finally, to elaborate best practice strategies to increase and promote family protective factors.

Data from a survey of about 7200 adolescents from six European countries and their parents will be discussed in spring 2011 and the results widely disseminated.

Beneficiaries

Young adolescents, families and parents' organizations; Local and national professionals working in primary care, education, prevention, social mediators, policy-makers, responsible for sports and leisure time activities will be contacted and networked to reach all their potential beneficiaries.

Expected results

The core result of the project will be the recommendation and guidelines based on evidence and an analysis of family skills for parents and civil society (educational staff, organisations, leisure organizations, etc), to foster parents' abilities and capacities to prevent their children from alcohol and drug use as well as to promote networking as an innovative way of prevention.

European Harm Reduction Network (EuroHRN)

Project N°
JLS/2008/DPIP/AG/125

Start date
01/01/2010

End date
31/12/2011

Project Coordinator
Ms Maria Phelan
International Harm
Reduction Association
Unit 701, The Chandlery
50 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7QY
Phone +44 (0)207 953 7413
maria.phelan@ihra.net
www.eurohrn.eu

Partners and/or associate partners

Partners:

- Foundation De Regenboog Groep (FRG) - NL;
- Akzept e.v., Germany; Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvement (APDES) - PT;
- Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) - LT;
- Association d'Auto Support des Usagers de Drogues (ASUD) - FR;
- Association Française pour la Réduction des Risques (AFR) - FR.

Associate partners:

- Itaca European Association of Professionals working in the Drug Field - IT;
- Gadejuristen - DK;
- Swedish Drug Users Union (SDUU) - SE.

EC Contribution
288.075,30 EUR

EC Grant
79.99%

Duration
24 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

The objective of this project is to strengthen and coordinate civil society across Europe in order to promote proven harm reduction interventions, to expand the knowledge base, to raise awareness of drug-related harms and to promote and support public health and human rights orientated responses to drug use. These objectives will be achieved through the development – in consultation with key stakeholders over two years – of a transnational European Harm Reduction Network (EuroHRN). The EuroHRN will be developed by introducing the Steering Group and establishing sub-regional networks.

The deliverables include a EuroHRN website and e-communications platform, an agreed EuroHRN Mission Statement and structure, the enhanced coordination and productivity of civil society at EU fora, the recruitment of members across the EU, a project launch event at the IHRA conference in 2010, EuroHRN launch event in France in 2011, the production and dissemination of a 'Harm Reduction & Civil Society Audit' which is accessible and valuable to civil society across Europe, the EU, its Member States and other key harm reduction policy stakeholders.

Beneficiaries

Civil society organizations which join EuroHRN and contribute to the activities. The many indirect beneficiaries include European professionals and advocates working on these issues, people who use drugs, their families and communities, the EU Member States and other Europe-wide bodies.

Expected results

The expected results of the project are the creation - and political and legal validation - of a European Harm Reduction Network and the improved advocacy and promotion of evidence-based harm reduction policies and practices across Europe.

Juvenile drug use: tertiary prevention strategies

Project N°
JLS/2008/DPIP/AG/131

Start date
01/01/2010

End date
30/09/2011

Project Coordinator
Center Studies Don Calabria
Institute

Mr. Silvio MASIN
Project Manager
Centro Studi Opera Don
Calabria
Via San Zeno in Monte 23
I - 37129 VERONA
silvio.masin@doncalabria.it
segreteria@centrostudi@centrodoncalabria.it

Partners:

- Psychoanalytic Institute for social research – IPRS, Italy;
- International Juvenile Justice Observatory – OIJJ, Belgium;
- Work-Wise, The Netherlands;
- Diagrama Foundation Psychosocial Intervention, United Kingdom;
- Crime Prevention Foundation, Estonia.

Associate partners:

- Juvenile Justice Department – Ministry of Justice, Italy

EC Contribution
245,328.00 EUR

EC Grant
80.00%

Duration
21 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

The project foresees a review of updated studies on the most recent modifications in drug consumption by the adolescent population in regards to drugs used, the type of users, the age of first use, the users' lifestyles, and the desired effects of drug use. There will be a reflection on the problems and opportunities of national service strategies in managing the case of young offenders who are drug abusers from the point of his/her entering in the penal system (either imprisoned or under alternative measures to detention) up to the conclusion of the rehabilitation process when the young offender is reintegrated in the local community of reference.

The necessity to think about preventive interventions that focus on this at-risk population brings to the fore the importance of different institutions. In particular, the strategy of health education and the prevention of behaviors related to substance abuse targeting young offenders have to come from within networks that involve the juvenile justice, public health and social services systems. The possibility of establishing an exchange and transnational comparison – within Europe – that focuses on the development and implementation of effective strategies based on the analysis of the promising strategies at EU level, increases the efficacy of networks that include diverse institutions and the multidisciplinary nature that characterizes these networks.

Beneficiaries

Young people who come into contact with the juvenile criminal justice system due to substance use.

Expected results

Cooperation and information sharing between key agencies and service providers. Raising awareness of the evolving problems associated with drug use. Greater sensitivity to tailor prevention efforts to specific groups/youths in a holistic manner. Establishment of a multi-country network of experts and institutions that deal with or provide services to justice involved youth with substance use problems.



Identification and optimisation of evidence-based HCV prevention in Europe for young drug users at risk

Project N°
JLS/2008/DPIP/AG/142

Start date
01/01/2010

End date
31/12/2011

Project Coordinator
Universitätsklinikum
Hamburg-Eppendorf,
Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre
Suchtforschung der
Universität Hamburg -
Centre for Interdisciplinary
Addiction Research – CIAR
Hamburg

Mr. PhD Jens REIMER
Managing Director
CIAR
Martinistrasse 52
D – 20246 HAMBURG
reimer@uke.de
zurhold@uke.de
www.zis-hamburg.de

Partners
Fachhochschule
Frankfurt/Main, D
Government of Catalonia,
Department of Health, ES
Mainline Foundation, NL
Eurasian Harm Reduction
Network, LT
KETHEA – Therapy Center
for Dependent Individuals,
GR

Associate partners
Inserm, F
CORRELATION, NL;
ITACA, Italy.

EC Contribution
221,270.00 EUR

EC Grant
79.99%

Duration
24 Months

Country
DE

Abstract

The project aims to improve hepatitis-C (HCV) prevention for young, not infected drug users in Europe. It will also identify evidence-based HCV prevention and optimize existing hepatitis C prevention programmes. Available European guidelines or standards for the implementation of evidence-based HCV prevention will be collected and disseminated to relevant harm reduction networks and to the EMCDDA. Each project partner will provide an overview on implemented HCV prevention programmes in selected European regions. These will be evaluated as to their implementation, utilisation and effectiveness. The evaluation is based on the analyses of documents, qualitative interviews with the staff and about 100 face-to-face interviews with young and HCV-negative drug users. On basis of the evaluation results, 5 regional conferences and a consensus conference recommendation will be developed for the optimization of HCV prevention for young drug users. The recommendations are addressed to national policy-makers and service providers. Compilation of a set of revised manuals on innovative approaches in HCV prevention and report will be broadly distributed across Europe.

Beneficiaries

Researchers, policy-makers and professionals in Europe, health care professionals.

Expected results

A scientific evidence report will available on the “best practice portal” of the EMCDDA and published in a European Journal. Collected guidelines and policies on HCV prevention published in an overview.



Dangerous liaisons - the connection between prostitution and drug abuse

Project N°
JLS/2008/DPIP/AG/526

Start date
01/01/2010

End date
30/06/2012

Project Coordinator
On the Road Association
Mr. Vincenzo CASTELLI
Project Manager
Associazione "On the Road"
Via della Lancette 27/a
IT-64014 MARTINSICURO
vincecastelli@tiscali.it
oriana@ontheroadonlus.it
www.ontheroadonlus.it

Partners
Rede Europeia Anti
Pobreza, PT
EAPN-CLM, European Anti-
poverty network in Castilla-
La-Mancha, ES
Anti-Poverty Information
Centre, EAPN, Bulgaria
NOVA onlus - Consortium
of Social Cooperatives, IT

EC Contribution
496,000.00 EUR

EC Grant
80.00%

Duration
30 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

The main objective of the project is to understand the dynamics and conditions of the new forms of connection between prostitution and drug use/abuse of women, men and transsexuals involved in prostitution in the partner countries (Italy, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal).

A group of experts will be set up, with strong competence in the field. The research will be developed in the four partner countries that will carry out sub-national studies to investigate the characteristics of the connection between prostitution and drugs (use, consumption, involved groups, consistence of the phenomenon). The action-research will be articulated in four different phases: documental analysis; intervention research in the four partner countries; comparative analysis of the results; drafting of the joint report.

There will be three seminars at national level for each partner country to enable the exchange of good practices, that will train or re-skill the operators of public and private organizations in the social and health sector and the law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders.

Beneficiaries

Men, women and transsexuals drug-addicted or who make use and abuse of drugs and who prostitute themselves (in the street, in the apartments and/or in the night clubs). Moreover, the indirect beneficiaries are public and private actors involved in the sector (health services, social services, third sector networks, law enforcement and judicial agencies, work placement services, trade unions).

Expected results

A web site for the project results; the publication of two reports (one on research interventions and the second one on the realized seminars) in the languages of the partner countries and a final conference in Italy.

ESBIRTES

Electronic screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment for (poly) drug users in emergency services)

Project N°
JUST/2009/DPIP/AG/0930

Start date
01/05/2011

End date
30/04/2013

Project Coordinator
Mr Jochen Schrooten
Vereniging Voor Alcohol- En
Andere Drugproblemen Vzw
(Vad)
Vanderliindenstraat 15
1030 Brussels
Belgium
jochen.schrooten@vad.be

Partners

- Stichting Trimbos-
Instituut, Netherlands
Institute of Mental Health
and Addiction, The
Netherlands;
- Eötvös Loránd
Tudományegyetem,
Eotvos Lorand University,
Hungary;
- Liverpool John Moores
University, United
Kingdom;
- Instituto Europeo de
Estudios en Prevención
(IREFREA), Spain.

Associate partners
Hospital Universitario Virgen
de las Nieves, Spain.

EC Contribution
373.743,44 EUR

EC Grant
79.96%

Duration
24 Months

Country
BE

Abstract

The general objective of the ESBIRTES project is to identify and develop effective tools for screening, brief Interventions and referral to treatment (SBIRT) for young adults going to the emergency department (ED) with problems related to (poly)drug use. The project aims at developing an electronic SBIRT (e-SBIRT). ED staff will be provided with tools to deliver an e-SBIRT for clients whose substance use may put them at health risk and for clients who are already experiencing substance-related problems. ED staff will assess which client is eligible for screening and clients will be provided with personalized feedback about their substance use, risks and problems which can prompt them to consider changing their substance use behaviour. ED staff and drug prevention workers in all EU MS will be informed about the ESBIRTES website.

Based on the outcomes of a literature review, ED staff will be provided with tools to deliver an e-SBIRT for clients with possible substance use problems. After being treated for their acute health problem, all clients meeting our inclusion criteria will be screened whether they are low, moderate or high risk. Clients in the low risk range receive a brief motivational advice and a link to local/national drug information website(s). Moderate-risk-clients are referred to an online self help module. Clients in the high risk range receive a brief motivational advice to find professional help. This is possible by using an online alcohol and drug specific referral guide. Those who are not motivated for referral to treatment will be directed to the self help module. A target group-specific web platform for ED staff will be developed containing information on the project, fact sheets for ED staff, criteria for screening and the e-SBIRT.

Beneficiaries

Young adults with problems relating to polydrug use.

Expected results

The web platform and final report will be disseminated to existing networks of ED staff and nightlife professionals.

TRIP - Testing in Recreational-settings prevention-Interventions addressed to Polydrug- users

Project N°
JUST/2009/DPIP/AG/0946

Start date
01/02/2011

End date
31/01/2013

Project Coordinator
Azienda Sanitaria Locale
della Provincia di Bergamo
(A.S.L. di Bergamo)
(Local Health Authority of
Bergamo Province)
Mr Marco Riglietta
Dipartimento delle
Dipendenze
Via Borgo Palazzo, 130
24125 BERGAMO
Italy
Tel: +39 0363 98 7202
Fax: +39 035 2270393
mriglietta@asl.bergamo.it
www.asl.bergamo.it

**Partners and/or associate
partners**

Partners:

- Synergia SRL, IT;
- Alchimia Societa'
Cooperativa Sociale, IT;
- The University Court of
the University of St
Andrews (USTAN), UK;
- Fife Health Board (FHB),
UK;
- Danish National Board of
Health, DK.

Associate partners:

- Regione Lombardia –
Direzione Generale
Famiglia e Solidarietà
Sociale, IT;
- Eötvös Loránd University,
HU;
- The Representative
Council of the Majors
Assembly of Bergamo
province, IT.

EC Contribution
353,315.00 EUR

Duration
24 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

The TRIP project aims to develop at transnational level a prevention and harm reduction approach targeted to the combined use of licit and illicit substances (poly-drug use) by young people in recreational settings. This includes the finalization of the theoretically and empirically validated guidelines for harm reduction and prevention project building and tools for monitoring the project effectiveness and assessing the short-term impact of the interventions delivered.

TRIP will further develop the experience and knowledge collected during the DPIP project “Prevention of poly-drugs addiction and reduction of drug-related harms programmes for young people in recreational settings” where the same partnership studied 20 EU good practices in prevention and harm reduction projects in recreational settings by empirically testing, methodologies and tools developed in the previous project.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the activities and outputs foreseen are European public managers, researchers, psychologists, social operators involved in the field of prevention and harm reduction interventions addressed to polydrug users in recreational settings.

Expected results

Multilanguage manual that will include theoretically and empirically validated guidelines on how to build, manage, monitor and assess a prevention and harm reduction project addressed to polydrug users in recreational settings.

'Spice' and synthetic cannabinoids

Project N°
JUST/2009/DPIP/AG/0948

Start date
01/01/2011

End date
31/12/2012

Project Coordinator
Universitätsklinikum
Freiburg (University Medical
Center Freiburg)
Mr Volker Auwärter
Universitätsklinikum
Freiburg
Albertstr.. 9
79104 Freiburg
Germany
volker.auwaerter@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Partners and/or associate partners

Partners:

- Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany;
- Medical University Vienna (Medizinische Universität Wien), Austria;
- University of Helsinki, Finland.

Associate partners:

- Undeskriminalamt (BKA), Germany;
- National Bureau for Drug Prevention, Warsaw, (Krajowe Biuro Do Spraw Przeciwdziałania Narkomanii), Poland;
- University of Bern, Medical Faculty, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Switzerland;
- National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland.

EC Contribution
401.716.14 EUR

Duration
24 Months

Country
DE

Abstract

A multidisciplinary network will be set up which is capable to expand the scientific knowledge base and spread this knowledge effectively. The project will develop an innovative and fast-acting approach to prevent young people from using harmful drugs with high availability.

During the course of the project, a forensic toxicological analysis will take place (monitoring of 'Spice' products with respect to non-declared ingredients, warning of consumers against dangerous mixtures will help to avoid serious intoxications); an assessment of toxicological properties and the establishment of risk profiles (evaluation of the harmfulness of synthetic cannabinoid adulterants); a forensic analysis of drug material and biosamples will be carried out and socio-scientific research undertaken. A conference on 'Spice' prevention issues will lead to the elaboration of practical and effective prevention approaches/advice for prevention organisations. A 'Spice' information and prevention website will be available with relevant information on risks/harms of 'Spice' product use. A flyer and a brochure will be available on the website along with comprehensive general information related to the 'Spice' issue.

Beneficiaries

Law enforcement, prevention organisations and health professionals (all EU Member States, direct beneficiaries) and drug consumers, particularly younger people.

Expected results

To develop an innovative and fast-acting approach in order to prevent young people from using harmful drugs with high availability. Extensive forensic toxicological, pharmacological and socio-scientific data on synthetic cannabinoids and the use of products containing these substances.



ACCESS - Access to harm reduction and continuity of care for drug users in custody

Project N°
JUST/2009/DPIP/AG/0950

Start date
01/02/2011

End date
31/01/2013

Project Coordinator
Compass UK - Services to
Tackle Problem Drug Use
LBG
Mr Mark Jones
Compass - Services to
Tackle Problem Drug Use
5 Priory Street, Building
Langton House
YO1 6ET York
United Kingdom
Mark.Jones@COMPASS-UK.ORG

EC Contribution
401,534.12 EUR

EC Grant
79.94%

Duration
24 Months

Country
GB

Abstract

The majority of people held in European prisons have problems associated with drug use/misuse, together with related health and social disadvantages. Those categorised as problematic drug users constitute a substantial proportion of prison populations in Europe (EMCDDA 2009).

The central goal of the ACCESS project will be to contribute to the knowledge on and practical implementation of harm reduction services and access to treatment/continuity of treatment for drug users within the criminal justice system (CJS) in the EU. Objectives include the development and elaboration of knowledge on harm reduction in prison, its legislative and regulatory frameworks in Europe, barriers to implementation and good practices in implementation; increasing awareness and improving capacity of staff working in prison and more widely within the CJS in Europe regarding harm reduction/treatment models and also delivery in closed/controlled environments; support to experiential learning on implementation of harm reduction and treatment services in the CJS and dissemination of information and evidence on harm reduction and treatment for drug users in the CJS to a wide European audience.

The ACCESS project will aim at involving a wide group of stakeholders in Europe composed of prison administration representatives, criminal justice staff, health and social sectors practitioners from both the public sector and NGOs and academics. In terms of direct beneficiaries, 30 people will attend the 2 Training Academies. Around 12 people will attend study visits and four people the placements. Reports will be widely disseminated in Europe.

Expected results

The project will produce and improve access to information and evidence on harm reduction and treatment/continuity of care services in the CJS. It will improve awareness and capacity of service providers to implement these services in their countries. It will bring about the exchange of experiences in the field and disseminate the results at local, national and European level.

ORION - Overdose Risk InfOrmatioN Project

Project N°
JUST/2009/DPIP/AG/0962

Start date
17/01/2011

End date
16/01/2013

Project Coordinator
Prof Gerry Humphris
University Court of the
University of St Andrews
School of Medicine
Medical and Biological
Sciences Building
North Haugh
St Andrews, Fife
KY16 9TF, UK
gmh4@st-andrews.ac.uk

**Partners and/or associate
partners**

- Business Solutions
Europa Limited (BS-
Europa), United Kingdom;
- Synergia SRL, Italy;
Universita degli Studi di
Milano (Bicocca), Italy;
- Landschaftsverband
Rheinland (LVR) Kliniken
und Institut der Universität
Duisburg – Essen,
Germany;
- Aarhus University
Hospital Risskov, Central
Denmark Region,
Denmark

EC Contribution
401,291.91 EUR

EC Grant
79.83%

Duration
24 Months

Country
GB

Abstract

The ORION project will develop an e-health tool to reduce the risk of overdose in a European population at high risk. The innovative programme will be tailored specifically to the overdose patient. We are assisted by an expert UK consultative team who have created a recent award winning decision tool applied within clinical settings to reduce hypertension. The lessons learnt from this widely received tool can be applied to the benefit of the overdose patient. The software tool will be applied in clinical practice and utilised by health service staff. The software will be available to assist in the training and education of staff in emergency response teams. The patients will be encouraged to have access to the tool's website and utilise the information held. Innovative approaches will include regular updates and reminders through email or SMS messaging to clinicians and patients.

A mixed method process will be used in order to evaluate the identifiable outcomes and also assess practicality to both service users and service providers using this e-health methodology. This will include identifying change in attitude and behaviours their polydrug use when 160 individuals are given personalised and contextualised feedback to their risk of future events to fatal overdoses. The intervention will allow live and active participation by the same individuals that encourages them to change their behaviour with subsequent reduction in overdose risk.

Beneficiaries

Individuals who take drugs and are susceptible to overdosing.

Expected results

This ORION project will develop an e-health tool to reduce the risk of overdose in a European population at high risk. A dissemination strategy of the results will include a European conference on drug deaths and innovative applications to reduce these incidents in Scotland together with reports to policy-makers within the study areas in order to support and incorporate this project into mainstream clinical settings.

Social Norms Intervention for the prevention of Polydrug use (SNIPE)

Project N°
JUST/2009/DPIP/AG/0964

Start date
01/03/2011

End date
28/02/2013

Project Coordinator
Universität Bremen (UNI-
HB)

Mr Hajo Zeeb
Universität Bremen
Achterstrasse 30
28359 Bremen
Germany
zeeb@bips.uni-bremen.de

**Partners and/or associate
partners**

Partners:

- Universiteit Antwerpen,
Belgium;
- University of Bradford,
United Kingdom;
- University of Southern
Denmark, Denmark;
- University of Navarra,
Spain;
- University of Leeds,
United Kingdom;
- Pavol Jozef Šafárik
University in Košice,
Slovak Republic.

Associate partners:

- Dokuz Eylül University,
Turkey.

EC Contribution
376,792.67 EUR

EC Grant
80.00%

Duration
24 Months

Country
DE

Abstract

The general objective of the project is to develop an E-health intervention for the reduction of licit (alcohol, especially binge drinking, and smoking) substances consumption and the prevention of illicit (cannabis, cocaine and synthetic drugs) drug consumption in university/college students.

The main objectives are to: cross-culturally assess, prevent and reduce the self-reported frequency of the consumption of licit and illicit drugs in six European countries by targeting this group and informing families as well as university/college staff through a project related website; to develop an E-health intervention based on a social norms approach to prevent and reduce the use of licit and illicit drugs as well as poly-drug use in students; to test the intervention regarding understanding, feasibility and applicability in different countries and settings to evaluate its use for other European countries after the project ends; to develop good practice guidelines for an E-health social norms intervention in order to disseminate the project results to the wider scientific community and the general public but also to interested university/ college staff wanting to implement a similar intervention.

Participants will be cluster-randomised on an institutional level to an intervention or control group to avoid risk of contamination. A follow-up survey will be undertaken 5 months after. The data collected will help to identify if the social norms approach is feasible as an intervention for this target group.

Expected results

An innovative E-health intervention tool targeting the consumption of illicit, licit as well as poly-drug use will be made available to other universities/colleges and shall be further evaluated for effectiveness in a larger trial.

WISEteens

Project N°

JUST/2010/DPIP/AG/0914

Start date

01/04/2011

End date

31/03/2013

Project Coordinator

Mr Rainer Thomasius
Universitätsklinikum
Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)
Martinistraße 52, Building W
29
20246 Hamburg, Germany
thomasius@uke.uni-
hamburg.de
University Medical Center
Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)
Dept. German Center for
Addiction Research in
Childhood and Adolescence
(DZSKJ)

Partners and/or associate partners**Partners:**

- Psychiatricke Centrum Praha, Czech Republic;
- Stockholm County Council (SLL), Sweden;
- Vereniging voor Alcohol en andere Drugproblemen vzw (VAD), Belgium;
- Lunds Universitet, Sweden.

EC Contribution

482,395.00 EUR

EC Grant

80.00%

Duration

24 Months

Country

DE

Abstract

The project WISEteens (“Web-based Screening and Brief Intervention for Substance using Teens”) aims at reducing the risks for experiencing the severe health-related and behavioural consequences that have been proven to be associated with drug use. The project will create and evaluate a web-based brief intervention (web-BI) that will motivate adolescents with risky consumption patterns to moderate or cease their problematic substance use and to seek referral to treatment if necessary. This initiative is in line with one of the priorities for drug demand reduction the EU drugs action plan 2009-2012: the provision of early interventions for individuals exhibiting risky consumption patterns.

The web-BI will be a target-group specific, age- and gender-sensitive interactive application based on the well-established principles of motivational Interviewing and including personalized consumption feedback. The intervention will be integrated in a substance use information portal with several modules: (a) an online screening tool for harmful alcohol and/or cannabis use, (b) an area with general age-appropriate health information, (c) referral to recruitment and a more extensive online assessment for adolescents screened positive, (d) the above-mentioned web-BI for the intervention group and (e) a standard care module for the control group.

Beneficiaries

Young poly-drug users (age: 16-18 years).

Expected results

The main deliverable of WISEteens will be an evaluated screening and interactive web-BI for substance using teens, integrated into a modular, informative web-portal. This best practice tool will be made accessible to the public and interested stakeholders and can easily be implemented into further settings and countries. By reducing adolescents’ harmful behaviour and the consequences of problematic substance use, the economic burden for health care systems in general will be positively affected.

Reducing hepatitis C sexual and drug taking risk behaviours among female drug users in Europe (REDUCE)

Project N°
JUST/2010/DPIP/AG/0975

Start date
01/04/2011

End date
31/03/2013

Project Coordinator
Consorcio Mar Parc De Salut De Barcelona (PSMAR)
Gail Gilchrist, Ph.D.
Substance Use Disorders Research Group
Institut Municipal d'Investigació Mèdica (IMIM)-Hospital del Mar
Dr Aiguader 88
08003 Barcelona
Spain
ggilchrist@imim.es

Partners and/or associate partners

- University of the West of Scotland – UK;
- Instytut Psychiatrii i Neurologii (Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology) – PL;
- Medizinische Universität Wien – AT;
- Servizio Salute Regione Marche – IT.

EC Contribution
488,348.95 EUR

EC Grant:
80.00%

Duration
24 Months

Country
ES

Abstract

Female drug users (FDU) are a vulnerable group at risk of hepatitis C infection (HCV). They report risk behaviours including sharing needles and syringes, prostitution and not using condoms. Previous studies of behavioural interventions to reduce risk taking behaviours among drug users have failed to consider gender and behaviours occurring in relationships with male partners.

This project will develop an evidence based toolkit for measuring HCV risk behaviours and transmission knowledge among FDU; best practice for HCV prevention initiatives throughout Europe will be examined and disseminated; the level of HCV risk behaviours and transmission knowledge among FDU in the partner countries (Spain, Scotland, Poland, Austria and Italy) will be determined and compared; an evidence based group intervention to reduce HCV risk taking behaviours and increase HCV transmission knowledge among FDU will be developed and tested; a manualised therapy to reduce HCV risk taking behaviours and increase HCV transmission knowledge among FDU will be produced and disseminated.

Beneficiaries

The direct target group will be FDU dependent or abusing cocaine, amphetamines or heroin and attending or seeking treatment in each of the partner countries. The indirect target group will be the peers of FDU.

Expected Results

The goal of the project is to reduce HCV risk behaviours among Female Drug users and thereby the acquisition and transmission of HCV in Europe. REDUCE's main expected outcome is to develop a manual based therapy that will be freely available throughout Europe. If widely implemented those who complete the intervention will be at reduced risk of HCV infection or transmission which will reduce the burden on health and social services.

Evaluation and prospects of international drug control

Project N°
JUST/2010/DPIP/AG/0984

Start date
01/01/2011

End date
31/08/2012

Project Coordinator
Mr Tom Blickman
Stichting Transnational
Institute
De Wittenstraat 25
1052 Ak Amsterdam
Netherlands
tblink@tni.org

Partners and/or associate partners
Partners: Legal Emergency
and Drugs Service Limited
LBG - RELEASE LEADS
Ltd, United Kingdom.

EC Contribution
220,397.50 EUR

EC Grant
79.45%

Duration
20 Months

Country
NL

Abstract

The project aims to promote effective international drug policy-making based on best practice, to facilitate innovative thinking about drug control policy challenges and to improve knowledge on innovative drug policy alternatives and their prospects in the international drug control system.

It will enhance the understanding of challenges in international drug control policy in order to anticipate new developments and opportunities and it identifies priorities for action by relating drug control policy more closely to regional societal needs as a means to inform public policy, policy development and future research priorities.

The project will consist of a series of expert seminars, drug policy briefings and informal drug policy dialogues. These activities will serve to cross-fertilise policy debates between countries and regions; stimulating participants to exchange experiences and learn lessons between policy officials, international agencies representatives and non-governmental experts and practitioners.

The project will contribute to expand the knowledge base on issues of quantity thresholds to distinguish between drug possession for use versus trade, proportionality of sentences, mild plant-based stimulants as harm reduction alternative in prevention.

Beneficiaries

Policy-makers and experts from local and national governments, intergovernmental bodies, the academic world and civil society organisations active in the field of drug policy, human rights, treatment and harm reduction.

Expected results

This project will facilitate innovative thinking about drug control policy challenges and improve knowledge on innovative drug policy alternatives and their prospects in the international drug control system. In so doing, it will contribute to bridge the gap between evidence and good practices and high level policy-making on the drugs issue.

New methodological tools for policy and programme evaluation

Project N°
JUST/2010/DPIP/AG/1410

Start date
20/02/2011

End date
19/02/2013

Project Coordinator:
Universita degli Studi di
Roma "Tor Vergata"
Prof. Carla Rossi
Università di Roma Tor
Vergata
Dipartimento di Medicina
Interna
Via Montpellier 1
00133 Rome, Italy
prof.carla.rossi@gmail.com

Partners and/or associate partners:

Partners:

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven – BE;
- Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant Anna – IT;
- Charles University in Prague – CZ;
- Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri – IT;
- Instituto da Droga e da Toxicoddependência (IDT) – PT.

Associate partners:

- Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, Istat – IT;
- Istituto Superiore di Sanità – IT;
- Serious Organised Crime Agency – UK;
- Consorci Mar Parc de Salut de Barcelona (PSMAR) – ES.

EC Contribution
488,397.94 EUR

EC Grant
66.46%

Duration
24 Months

Abstract

The project "New methodological tools for policy and programme evaluation" aims to develop a comprehensive set of indicators to monitor illicit drug supply and demand and to evaluate actions and policies. In order to achieve this goal, the project is organised so as to deal with the different facets of the illicit drug issue (demand, supply, contrast policies, harm reduction programs, estimation of the size of the phenomenon and economic impact of the drug market). The purpose is to settle the milestones which provide the basis to develop the indicators and define the best practices.

The objectives are to improve understanding of the mechanisms that govern the working of the illicit drug market and of the actions to be carried to improve the efficiency of the contrast policies and the demand reduction programmes. The results will be disseminated by the outputs such as the workshops and the final conference.

The project will: analyse the consumption and behavioural characteristics of consumers; analyse the supply-chain and its criminal enterprises; make an international comparison of the European policies aimed at reducing the demand and harms from drug abuse; carry out a comparative assessment of European supply-control policies and intervention; develop models to estimate consumption and supply of drugs; evaluate the economic impact of the illicit drug market and develop comprehensive indicators to evaluate policies and programmes.

Beneficiaries

Professional operators, policy makers and scientific community.

Expected results

Research papers and the final report as well as the proceedings of the final conference will be produced and disseminated through a project website.

Health Programme 2008-2013

The Health Programme's objectives are:

- to improve information and knowledge for the development of public health (health information);
- to enhance the capability of responding rapidly and in a co-ordinated fashion to threats to health (health threats);
- to promote health and prevent disease through addressing health determinants across all policies and activities (health determinants).

The Health programme provides financial support for actions, among other health concerns, on tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs and medicines, to promote and improve physical and mental health, creating healthy lifestyles and preventing disease.

<http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/>

Prevention Standards - European standards in evidence for drug prevention

Project N°
2007304

Start date
01/09/2008

End date
30/11/2010

Project Coordinator
Harry Sumnall

Liverpool John Moores
University
Egerton Court, 2 Rodney
Street
Liverpool, United Kingdom
Tel.: + 44 151 231 3575
Fax: + 44 151 231 7030
h.sumnall@ljmu.ac.uk
www.ljmu.ac.uk

Associated partners

- Azienda Sanitaria Locale della Città di Milano, Italy;
- Azienda Sanitaria Locale n. 2, Savona, Italy;
- Servicio Gallego De Salud Xunta De Galicia Cs-Sergas San Lazaro, Spain;
- Institute for Social Policy and Labour, Budapest, Hungary;
- National Anti-Drug Agency, Bucharest, Romania;
- National Bureau for Drug Prevention, Warsaw, Poland.

EC Contribution
284,507 EUR

Duration
24 months

Country
UK

Abstract

This project provided commonly agreed evidence standards, generated from robust methodologies, to support policy-makers and professionals in the selection, promotion or development of best practice in all relevant areas of drug prevention. The standards allow users to bridge the gaps between science, policy and practice, and allow them to demonstrate success in reaching specific objectives of national and EU Drugs Action Plans.

The EU Drugs Action Plan aims to develop and implement best practice in drug prevention, but needs a reference framework on how to do this. The proposal feeds into two main actions outlined in the Health programme and annual work plan—the development of innovative strategies and best practices concerning prevention and cessation methods focusing on young people and working populations and the development and improvement of prevention programmes, taking into account gender differences and targeting specific settings.

Results

The project produced a set of evidence based drug prevention standards for use in the EU. These are to be adapted and published as an EMCDDA manual in 2011. Adoption of the standards will improve drug prevention practice and efficiency of funding and reduce the likelihood of the implementation of ineffective and iatrogenic interventions. Developing a common methodology and locally relevant guidance will provide an impetus for partners to review and update standards as necessary.

Democracy, Cities & Drugs II

Project N°
2007306

Start date
01/05/2008

End date
30/04/2011

Project Coordinator
Elizabeth Johnston
European Forum for Urban
Safety
38 Rue Liancourt
Paris, France
Tel.: + 33 1 40 64 49 00
Fax: + 33 1 40 64 49 10
fesu@urbansecurity.org
www.democitydrug.org

Associated partners

- ACCES, France;
- National Anti-Drug Agency, Romania;
- Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo, Spain;
- Association Nationale des Intervenants en Toxicomanie, France;
- European Treatment Centres for Drug Addiction, Germany;
- Forum Français pour la Sécurité Urbaine, France;
- Forum Italiano Sicurezza Urbana, Italy;
- Instituto Europeu para o Estudo dos Factores de Risco em Crianças e Adolescentes, Portugal;
- Istituto di Ricerca Europeo sui Fattori di Rischio nell'Infanzia e Adolescenza, Italy;
- Municipality of Matosinhos, Portugal;
- University of Padova Department of General Psychology, Italy.

EC Contribution
900 000 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
FR

Abstract

The project's aim is to help support EU cities develop local partnership-based drug policies involving the relevant stakeholders – local authorities, health services criminal justice services, communities, including visible minority ones, and drug service users –so that a coordinated, participative, targeted, and thus resource effective approach can be developed towards drug-related problems.

In terms of supporting key community strategies on drugs and alcohol, the project supports good practice sharing; promotes integrative approaches across health determinants (alcohol and lifestyle) and urban safety; contributes to the reduction of health inequalities; addresses a gender perspective; targets specific settings such as nightlife; develops best practices to improve access to services for drug users; develops training for professionals.

Results

The project provides support for an EU experimental network among the partner cities and four national networks of partner countries covering five themes: policies addressing specific needs of women with drug misuse; activities for health promotion in nightlife settings; integrated responses to migrant young drug users; outreach activities on drug use and sexual infectious diseases; and local policies improving access to treatment.

Sharing good practice to young people in supporting kinship carers to prevent substance related harm

Project N°
2007302

Start date
01/04/2008

End date
31/03/2011

Project Coordinator
Andrew Brown
Mentor Foundation UK
Limited - Mentor UK
Great Eastern Street 74, 4th
Floor
GB-EC2A3JG London
United Kingdom
+ 44 207739 8494
andrew.brown@mentoruk.org

Associated partners

- Regione Abruzzo - Regione ABRUZZO, Italy;
- Mentor Sverige – Sweden;
- vzw Provinciale afdeling Broeders van Liefde - DE SLEUTEL, Belgium;
- Association Mentor Lithuania - ML, Lithuania;
- Holt Romania – *Fundatia de Consultanta si Servicii Sociale pentru Copii si Familii*, Romania;
- University Of Navarra, Spain.

EC Contribution
699 995 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

Children and young people who are brought up by carers other than their parents can be particularly vulnerable to drug and alcohol related harm. This project proposes to reduce the potential for drug and alcohol related harm to these children and young people by supporting those caring for them.

The project aims to improve the quality of prevention programmes targeting children and young people living with kinship carers, thus preventing vulnerable children and young people from experiencing harm as a consequence of alcohol or drug use.

The main methods and means used to achieve the objectives will be to undertake a comprehensive literature review and research; by listening to the needs and experiences of kinship carers and children in their care across the EU; to pilot responses to help kinship carers protect children from harm; to develop a resource and training pack for professionals.

Results

The project expects to develop and improve prevention programmes targeting young people in kinship care. It will develop training for professional working on the front line and improve access to services particularly for kinship carers and the vulnerable young.



Club Health – healthy and safer nightlife of youth

Project N°
20081211

Start date
16/04/2009

End date
15/04/2012

Project Coordinator
Matej Košir
Institute for Research and
Development 'Utrip' (UTRIP)
Trubarjeva cesta 13, SI-
1290 Grosuplje, Slovenia
info@institut-utrip.si
www.club-health.eu

Associated partners

- LJMU, UK;
- IREFREA, Spain;
- IREFREA, Portugal;
- Zentrum für empirische
pädagogische Forschung,
University of
Koblenz/Landau,
Germany;
- CePT, Luxembourg;
- SANANIM o.s., Czech
Republic;
- KathO NRW, Germany;
- UoH, UK;
- Tibiscus, Romania;
- ISG, Austria;
- HSE, Ireland;
- Azienda U.L.S.S; n°1
Belluno, Italy;
- City of London-LDPF, UK;
- IDEC, Greece;
- Blue Point, Hungary;
- MEKKA, Hungary;
- HoGent, Belgium;
- CONRUA-A, Portugal;
- PROTASI, Greece.

EC Contribution
700 000 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
SI

Abstract

The Club Health project, with 20 associated and 15 collaborating partners from 15 EU Member States and Norway, will support the European Commission (EC) in its public health and other related strategies to reduce the social costs and harm associated with youth risk behaviours in nightlife.

The aims of the project are to consolidate, maintain and broaden the Club Health network, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders in the field of youth risk behaviour; to undertake impact assessment of implementation of strategies and laws; to develop an inventory of effective evidence-based legislative and policy measures and to build capacity at country, regional and local levels for effective implementation of legislative and policy measures through pilot trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences.

The project will utilize the networking methodology to exchange experience and good or promising measures, data collection and techniques to document implementation of strategies and laws, legislative and policy measures, impact assessment methodology, and capacity building through piloting training, running workshops, seminar, conferences, and auditing.

Expected results

The main expected results include a vibrant Club Health network, an inventory of effective legislative and policy measures, and enhanced capacity on country, regional and local levels to implement effective measures. The approach will develop recommended health and safety standards, city criteria for measures of implementation and training models supported by different guidelines and recommendations. It will also include an assessment of the implementation of strategies and laws at the country level.

Recreational Drugs' European Network (ReDNet)

Project N°
20091216

Start date
01/04/2010

End date
31/03/2012

Project Coordinator
Fabrizio Schifano
University of Hertfordshire
Higher Education
Corporation
College Lane
PO-BOX
GB-AL10 9AB Hatfield
United Kingdom
Tel: +44(0)1707281347
f.schifano@herts.ac.uk

Associated partners

- Bergensklinikkene (The Bergen Clinics Foundation), Norway;
- Consorci Mar Parc de Salut de Barcelona, Spain;
- De Sleutel department of vzw Provincialelaat der Broeders van Liefde, Belgium;
- DrugScope, United Kingdom;
- Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, London, United Kingdom;
- Poland King's College;
- Rhine State Hospital (University of Duisberg-Essen), Germany;
- Servizio Salute Regione Marche, Italy;
- Szociálpolitikai és Munkaügyi Intézet (Institute for Social Policy and Labour), Hungary.

EC Contribution
449 663.00 EUR

Duration
24 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

During the last decade there has been a sharp change in the social, cultural and political context of drug addiction, which has led to new challenges. Increasing numbers of unregulated websites are dedicated to the dissemination of new recreational drugs, which may well have long-term effects on users' health. Young and problematic individuals are amongst the most at risk of taking advantage of online available information. The ReDNet project will help to inform and promote healthier ways of life while reducing health related risks associated with drug taking.

It will also seek to create new synergies among health agencies at the national and transnational level and help to reduce health inequalities among those who are marginalized and have no immediate access to public health services.

The ReDNet research project will design an innovative and effective ICT-based model to share knowledge and information with health/other professionals and raise awareness of the potential harms associated with new drugs. It will identify and disseminate recommendations relevant to the development of the awareness on novel compounds initiatives across the EU. It will also identify any remaining gaps in knowledge and methodological lessons learned to inform future projects in the field of drug prevention using ICT tools.

Expected results

The expected outcomes of this project will be both immediate and long lasting. It will constitute the first EU-wide ICT-based preventative programme designed for novel psychoactive compounds/combinations targeted at young and vulnerable individuals. In this sense, it will not only inform and stimulate a much-needed discussion on the rapid and almost unpredictable diffusion of novel compounds, but also contribute to an enhanced scientific understanding of recreational drugs via the publication of results in both peer reviewed journals and at international conferences. The project results will provide advice to both EU/international agencies and national policy-makers.

International Harm Reduction Association

21st International Conference

Project N°
20094205

Start date
01/01/ 2010

End date
31/05/2010

Project Coordinator
Annie Kuch
International Harm
Reduction Association
Unit 701, The Chandlery
50 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7QY
Tel: +44 (0)207 953 7413
Annie.Kuch@ihra.net
www.ihra.net

EC Contribution
50.000 EUR

Country
UK

Abstract

IHRA's annual international harm reduction conference aims to promote a conducive environment for the implementation and development of ways to reduce harms from all legal and illegal psychoactive substances. It is a focus for sharing knowledge about best practice and latest developments in harm reduction (HR), networking and the development of collaborative support and partnerships amongst HR experts and practitioners, presentation of the latest scientific research on HR, and advocating for the further implementation of HR, and advocating for HR.

The IHRA's 21st International Conference was held in Liverpool where the first conference took place in 1990. It thus acknowledges the city's contribution to harm reduction and public health. Three decades on from the first harm reduction projects in Europe, the conference assessed achievements and debated the 'Next Generation of Harm Reduction'. The 'next generation' means both attending to the needs of young people and new populations, and also tackling pressing issues such as the continuing inequalities within and between countries in the provision of harm reduction services, the poor resourcing of harm reduction, promoting harm reduction and a public health approach into all policies, and tackling how to deliver harm reduction in low and middle income countries.

The conference created links between policy, practice, science and advocacy. Participants included front-line workers, policy and programme managers, staff of UN organisations and international and national NGOs, drug user advocates, sex workers, people affected by HIV/AIDS, researchers, law enforcement, judiciary and health promotion.

Health promotion for young prisoners

Project N°
20091212

Start date
01/04/2010

End date
31/03/2013

Project Coordinator
Dr Caren Weilandt
Wissenschaftliches Institut
der Ärzte Deutschlands
(WIAD) gem.e.V.
Scientific Institute of the
Medical Association of
German Doctors
Ublerstrasse 78
D-531173 Bonn
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)228 8104 182
Fax: +49 (0)228 8104 1736
caren.weilandt@wiad.de
www.hpyp.eu, www.wiad.de

Associated partners

- Association of Varna Organizations for Drug Prevention, Bulgaria;
- Birmingham City University, United Kingdom;
- ConvictusEesti, Estonia
- Latvia's Association for Family Planning and Sexual Health "Papardeszieds", Latvia;
- Promoting the Right to Health, Romania;
- Association of Schools of Social Work in Romania, Romania;
- University of Prague, Centre for Addictology, Czech Republic.

EC Contribution
499 976 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
DE

Abstract

The project Health Promotion for Young Prisoners (HPYP) aims at developing and improving health promotion for young vulnerable people in the prison setting. It will implement a health promotion toolkit for young prisoners across EU Member States. The toolkit addresses health related factors regarding infectious diseases, sexual health, mental health as well as the prevention and treatment of drug use. The project brings together a multi-disciplinary network covering a range of different professional groups and practitioners working inside and outside prisons.

Using a participatory approach, the development of the toolkit on health promotion will draw on the views and an assessment of the needs of vulnerable young people in prison as well as on those of prison staff and non-governmental organisations as possible deliverers of health promotion in custodial settings. Focus groups with young prisoners and expert interviews with professionals in the field are part of the methodology.

Expected results

The toolkit will have both a short-term impact and longer-term health outcomes including changes in individual health behaviours and skills of young prisoners.

The toolkit will encourage prison administrations to implement interventions and support changes in prison policy to include health promotion as an integral part of health delivery.

The results will be transferable and assist EU prison authorities in tailoring their policies, strategies and interventions according to their specific needs and meet the policy requirements of EU drugs policy, the HIV Action Plan 2005-09, the European Pact for Mental health and Wellbeing and the Green Paper regarding the educational disadvantage of many migrant children and the associated risks for social exclusion (2008).

SRAP- Addiction Prevention within Roma and Sinti Communities

Project N°
20091218

Start date
06/07/2010

End date
05/07/2013

Project Coordinator

Patrizia Marani
Municipality of Bologna
Mayor's Cabinet and Staff
International Relations, Co
operations and Projects
Via Marsala 23 – 40126
Bologna
Tel: + 39 051 2194530
Fax: + 39 051 219 4652
patrizia.marani@comune.bologna.it
www.comune.bologna.it/relazioni-internazionali

Associated partners

- Comune de Venezia – IT;
- Cooperativa Sociale Società Dolce – IT;
- Developmental and educational centre Novo mesto (Razvojno izobraževalni center Novo mesto) – SI;
- European Forum For Urban Safety – FR;
- Fundacion Secretariado Gitano – ES;
- Fundatia Parada – RO;
- Health And Social Development Forum – BG;
- Hors De La Rue – FR;
- Roma Public Council Kupate – BG;
- Trnava University, Faculty of Health Care and Social Work – SK.

EC Contribution

661 385 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

The aim of SRAP is to tackle the prevention and reduction of use/abuse of illegal/legal drugs among young Roma. The specific objectives are to improve and exchange in Europe the knowledge of the behaviours and practices of the young Roma related to drug use and of the determinants affecting this use by performing a research action in all partners countries; to strengthen the prevention skills of young Roma and to improve the intercultural health approach of healthcare workers; to sensitise the public health sector and the civil society to the distinct needs of young Roma and promote the inclusion of Roma needs in health and prevention policies and interventions; to promote the inclusion of this issue also in the research agenda and the adoption of evidence-based approaches in the mainstream policy making.

Expected results

The project will ensure a better understanding of addiction in young Roma, the conditions and characteristics that lead to drug consumption. A transferable and validated intervention methodology tailored to the young Roma needs and available to health and addiction practitioners and outreach workers in Europe will be created. There will be a pool of health practitioners able to relate to the Roma who provide information on health and addiction. Increased knowledge by young Roma of the health services, what they can do, how they can be accessed and used is expected. The issue of prevention and their distinct needs will be presented to policy-makers and decision makers in the fields of health, addiction, research; moreover a European network committed to work on addiction prevention and harm reduction among Roma will be created.



Boys and Girls – An interactive web-based series to promote healthy lifestyles among European adolescents

Project N°
20091203

Start date
01/09/2010

End date
31/08/2012

Project Coordinator
Goof Buijs
Netherlands Institute for
Health Promotion
De Bleek 13
PO-BOX
NL-3447 GV Woerden
Netherlands
Tel: +31 348 437615
Fax: +31 348 437666
gbuijs@nigz.nl
www.boysandgirlslabs.eu
www.boysandgirlslabs.com

Associated partners

- ANIMATION STUDIOS
Sas di BARILE NICOLA &
C., Italy;
- Business Solutions
Europa, United Kingdom;
- Center for Sex og
Sundhed, Denmark;
- EDEX Centro de
Recursos Comunitarios,
Spain;
- European Centre for
Social Welfare Policy and
Research, Austria;
- Katholische Hochschule
Nordrhein-Westfalen,
Germany;
- Poznan University of
Medical Sciences,
Poland;
- Śląski Uniwersytet
Medyczny w Katowicach
(Medical University of
Silesia), Poland.

EC Contribution
529 899 EUR

Duration
24 Months

Country
NL

Abstract

The project will assess the effectiveness of a web-campaign to raise awareness about risky lifestyles for youth aged 15-18 years old who are neither in work nor in education. The project aims to target these adolescents in a way that will lead to raise their awareness and knowledge of healthier behaviours.

Unhealthy lifestyles are widespread among young people in Europe. They are difficult to reach through the more traditional communication means. Communication should be on their terms and in a language that they understand and relate to. The project will reach out to the target group in an environment they trust and in a way that does not push information at them. Young Europeans from all backgrounds share the same passion for the internet and new media. To them, this medium is accessible and democratic and it overcomes geographical, social, educational and economic boundaries.

The project will start with a workshop to identify the priorities and develop the messages with a focus on nutrition, sexual health, alcohol and drugs. Next a Peer Review Group of 28 adolescents will review and validate messages and storylines. The work in this group consists of three consultation rounds and feedback gathered through on-line questionnaires. This will lead to the production of 50 short episodes of a web-series in English, dubbed into six languages. A communication and dissemination plan will be developed.

Expected results

The project will provide an increased knowledge about how to reach the target group through social media. This could be applied to future projects and communication initiatives across a wide range of health issues. The web-series will address the target group in a language that they understand and will help them to relate to a range of health issues. The project aims to measure how this approach can contribute to raise awareness among European adolescents.

Imp.Ac.T

Improving Access to HIV/TB Testing for marginalized groups

Project N°

20091201

Start date

01/09/2010

End date

31/08/2012

Project Coordinator

Nadia Gasbarrinni
Fondazione Villa Maraini
Via B. Ramazzini 31
00151 Roma Italy
europaeprojects@villamara.ini.it

Collaborating Partners

- National Institute for Infectious Diseases, Rome, It;
- Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Turin, It;
- Klinika infektologie a geografickej, Bratislava, SR
- Aids Centrum FN Bulovka, Prague, CZ;
- Azylove centrum Ceskse spolecnosti, Karlin, CZ.

EC Contribution

410.980,15 EUR (as maximum)

Duration

24 Months

Country

IT

Abstract

HIV infection remains one of the main communicable diseases in Europe associated with serious consequences (high costs of treatment and care, high number of deaths, etc). As for tuberculosis (TB), EU countries are increasingly recognising the aggregation of cases among particular vulnerable groups and the need of developing a better insight into the TB/HIV co-epidemic. The project's objective is to broaden access to HIV/TB testing, prevention, treatment and care for two risk groups: intravenous drug users (IDUs) and migrants DUs. The risk groups encounter great challenges due to personal, institutional and structural barriers related to lack of knowledge on HIV/AIDS and testing possibilities, and of adequate services for testing uptake.

The project will use outreach work to promote a new provider-initiated counselling and testing in Rome, Turin, Amsterdam, Prague and Bratislava. It is expected that rapid tests will increase the number of persons tested and notified HIV/TB among those unaware: it will influence transmission-related behaviours, contributing to the reduction of transmission. The project will contribute to combat discrimination and inequalities in access to health services: cooperation between low-threshold facilities and treatment and care services will facilitate access for individuals that have no contacts with health services.

Expected results

The project will raise awareness of the importance of promoting testing uptake, ensuring a link between testing and treatment for those found positive, as well as of prevention and information. Innovative testing strategies for IDUs/migrants will be identified, promoted and streamlined, and counselling will be recommended as part of the testing process. Finally, the project will contribute to developing a new surveillance system for assessing and monitoring the trend of HIV/TB infection among IDUs/migrants.

Nightlife empowerment and well-being (NEW Implementation)

Project N°
2010 12 07

Start date
01/01/2011

End date
31/12/2013

Project Coordinator
Stephane Leclercq
ASOCIACION BIENESTAR
Y DESARROLLO (ABD)
c/o Quevedo 2
08012 Barcelona
Stephaneleclercqeu@gmail.com
[com](http://www.com)

Associated Partners

- Modus Vivendi (Modus Vivendi) – B;
- Jellinek Foundation (Jellinek) – NL;
- Suchtzentrum Leipzig GMBH (Drug Scouts) – D;
- Agencia Piaget Para O Desenvolvimento (APDES) – PT;
- Association Techno Plus (TECHNO PLUS) – F;
- Universita' Degli Studi Di Padova (UNIPD) – IT;
- Verein Wiener Sozialprojekte (CHECK-IT) – AT.

EC Contribution
900 000 EUR

Duration
36 months

Country
ES

Abstract

Research shows a higher prevalence of polydrug use in recreational settings (clubs, festivals or raves) than in the general population. Some countries have already developed integrated approaches to nightlife health that allows environmental issues and substance use to be tackled together. However, growth in international travel associated with nightlife and the risks posed by night-clubbing in a foreign country mean that interventions and basic health and safety measures are required on an international basis.

The project aims at promoting safer clubbing labels, which have demonstrated their effectiveness in raising awareness in Paris, Brussels, Zurich and Catalonia, and that should be implemented also in other cities. It also sets up six common interventions in big international summer music festivals based on peer education, harm reduction information and community empowerment. A database of synthetic drugs will check results collected by partners and reports on new trends of uses to improve rapidity of the responses on a European scale and to develop individual harm reduction strategies through the use of interactive technology tools and emerging media. Dissemination of good practice, training sessions and study visits support the existing interventions and the implementation of the activities.

The project's main target group are young partygoers (16-30 years old) synthetic drug users and potential drug users, primarily tourists. It also addresses field operators, nightlife professionals, local/regional authorities, scientific community and NGOs.

The project is expected to have positive impacts by changing partygoers' behaviours in the six international festivals and reducing the reported crisis situations; improving knowledge on synthetic drugs-related harm and how to reduce it; improving nightlife stakeholders' community empowerment; developing new harm-reduction interventions; extending the use and implementation of alerts, recommendations and trend reports; and increasing knowledge of 300 stakeholders on synthetic drugs and new adulterants through the TEDI newsletters.

WHO Harm Reduction Scaling-up access to high-quality harm reduction, treatment and care for injecting drug users in the European region

Grant Agreement with WHO

Start date
01/12/2009

End date
31/11/2011

Project Coordinator
Martin Christopher
Donoghoe
Communicable Disease Unit
WHO Regional Office for
Europe
Scherfigsvej 8
DK-2100 Copenhagen
Mdo@euro.who.int

Collaborating Partners

- Centre for Research on
Drugs and Health
Behaviour at the London
School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine;
- the Eurasian Harm
Reduction Network.

EC Contribution
559.082 EUR

Duration
24 months

Abstract

2010 was the year for achieving the UN General Assembly target 'near universal access' to HIV prevention, treatment and care for populations affected by HIV.

In Europe, considerable progress has been made towards achieving greater coverage to harm reduction services for injecting drug users (IDUs). In keeping with EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plans, all EU Member States where injecting drug use is reported offer access to needle and syringe exchange programmes (NSP) and opioid substitution treatment (OST). Yet access to services remains variable. Alongside developing measures of service coverage there is a need to assess and improve the *accessibility* and *quality* of harm reduction services delivered across Europe. In its evaluation of the Drug Action Plan in 2008, the European Commission acknowledged the need to make continual improvements to enhance service coverage as well as the quality of service delivery. This grant agreement with the European Commission addresses this latter need.

The project is led by the WHO Regional Office for Europe which has established regional expertise in the area of harm reduction (including in prisons and involving civil society), and which is ideally placed to work with multiple partners within Europe to promote policy guidance towards improving the accessibility and quality of service provision.

The project will develop operational research to better understand the barriers and facilitators influencing universal access to harm reduction services among IDUs and which also influence the quality of harm reduction services delivered. This assists the development of quality indicators for use at national-level as well as regional policy guidance towards the effective provision of universally accessible and high-quality 'combination' models of harm reduction interventions.

Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme 2007-2013

The Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme (ISEC) aims to promote and develop coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding among law enforcement agencies, other national authorities and related EU bodies.

The programme consists of the following themes:

- crime prevention and criminology;
- law enforcement;
- protection and support to witnesses and
- protection of victims.

The ISEC programme provides financial support for projects to prevent and combat all types of crime: terrorism, corruption, fraud, trafficking in persons, illicit arms and illicit drugs trafficking.

Projects in the field of illicit drug trafficking include cross-border law enforcement and customs cooperation and studies into drugs markets and drugs-related crime.

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/isec/funding_isec_en.htm

CeCLAD-M

Co-ordination centre for the fight against drugs in the Mediterranean area

Project N°
JLS/2007/ISEC/436

Start date
15/10/2007

End date
15/02/2009

Project Coordinator
Ministry of Interior, France
Head Office of the National Police, France
Central Directorate of the Judicial Police, France
Central Service for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic of Drugs, France

EC Contribution
136.284,29 EUR

Duration
16 Months

Country
FR

Abstract

The Centre de Coordination de la Lutte Anti-Drogue en Méditerranée (CeCLAD-M) was launched by an international conference organised by the French Presidency of the EU on 24-26 September 2008.

CeCLAD is an intelligence-led anti-narcotics law enforcement/military platform based in Toulon.

It aims at intercepting drug trafficking by sea and by air, from North and West Africa in the Western Mediterranean Sea. CeCLAD is committed to strengthening intelligence exchange as well as dismantling criminal organization networks.

CeCLAD is managed by the French law enforcement agencies and the navy, as well as representatives from Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Portugal, the UK, Morocco and Senegal.



Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) MAOC- N

Project N°
JLS/2007/ISEC/426

Start date
01/10/2007

End date
30/09/2010

Project Coordinator
Mr Ryan Brady
The Serious Organised
Crime Agency – SOCA
PO Box 8000
London SE 11 5EN UK
ryan.brady@soca.x.gsi.gov.uk

Associated partners
Policia Judiciaria, Directoria
Nacional PT

- Department of Justice
Equality and Law Reform
IE
- Organised Crime
Intelligence ES
- Ministry of Interior FR
- Ministry of Interior NL

EC Contribution
660.071,73 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

The Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) – MAOC-N – was set up by the naval and law enforcement agencies (police and customs) of the UK, France, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Netherlands and Italy and further supported by Europol. It is based in Lisbon.

MAOC-N's purpose is to enhance criminal intelligence and coordinate law enforcement actions to counter the maritime smuggling of bulk cocaine and cannabis from the Caribbean and Americas to the Atlantic borders of the EU and West Africa.

Results

According to an independent evaluation of MAOC-N concluded in October 2009, the coordination of drug interdiction operations in the Atlantic via MAOC-N led to the seizure of more than 43 tonnes of cocaine in less than two years of operation.

This cooperation illustrates the added value of sharing information and pooling assets to prevent drugs from reaching Europe.

Operation INBUS

Project N°
JLS/2007/ISEC/C1/017

Start date
18.12.2007

End date
17.03.2009

Project Coordinator
Ludger Berning
Customs Criminal Office
Cologne Germany
Ludger.Berning@zka.bfinv.de

Partners:
Bulgarian National Customs
Agency

EC Contribution
124.974,70 EUR

Duration
15 months

Country
D

Abstract

The working group *Customs Co-operation Working Party (CCWP)* of the Council of the European Union decided to carry out a joint customs and police control operation to intercept the smuggling of synthetic drugs in international coach traffic. All EU countries participated in the operation as did Europol, Interpol and the World Customs Organisation.

Operation INBUS was the first joint operation between customs and police authorities which focused on international coaches. The operation took place during the summer 2008 for a period of 16 days and was subdivided in a number of short phases. A communication network with national contact points and an operational coordination unit was set up. The joint control operation INBUS was considered a success, although the seizures of synthetic drugs did not confirm the findings of the threat assessment of synthetic drugs.

Drug related and juvenile crime (DREJC)

Project N°
JLS/2007/ISEC/500

Start date
01/12/2007

End date
01/12/2008

Project Coordinator
Sabrina Brutto
Studies Centre Opera Don
Calabria Association
sabrina.brutto@doncalabria.it

Associated partners:

- Associazione Centro Studi Opera;
- Dipartimento Giustizia Minorile Ministero Della Giustizia;
- DVJJ;
- Fundacio Diagramma;
- Observatoire international de Justice Juvenile, F;

EC Contribution
151 595,29 EUR

EC Grant
70%

Duration
12 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

This initiative concerns the correlation between the use of psychotropic substances and doing crimes. The DREJC project aimed to achieve a better understanding among the partner countries of the national legal systems tackling juvenile crime.

DREJC analysed the drugs-related crime phenomenon, individualised and systematized the principles/norms and regulations, sharing the different methodologies of interventions and treatments implemented. It analysed the various models of crime prevention and examined significant variables in prevention programmes with the intention of setting up a European Network.

A group of ten researchers participated in this initiative working together with juvenile justice operators regarding the legal aspects, representatives of public institutions concerning prevention interventions and specialised social organisations as regards protection, reintegration and rehabilitation of these young people. Interviews were carried out with young people using drugs involved in the penal circuit.

Results

The project report provides an analysis of German, Italian and Spanish drug-related good practices, recommendations and conclusions on the innovative modalities of intervention and prevention in each participating country.

Shared parameters in intelligence sharing and capacity building on drug trafficking - West Africa

Project N°
JLS/2008/ISEC/028

Start date
01/08/2008

End date
31/10/2009

Project Coordinator
Mr Ryan Brady
The Serious Organised
Crime Agency – SOCA
PO Box 8000
SE11 5EN UK
ryan.brady@soca.x.gsi.gov.uk

Associated partners

- Direction Centrale de la Police Judiciaire, FR;
- Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga, IT;
- Organised Crime Intelligence Centre, ES.

EC Contribution
112.899.86 EUR

Duration
15 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

The UK, France, Spain and Italy agreed on a technical study focusing on the identification of core elements that would constitute an EU platform for the exchange of criminal intelligence and technical capacity building. The initial stage would incorporate a pilot study within West Africa. This study concerns primarily the development of closer cooperation modelled on the regional hubs of Dakar, Senegal, and Accra, Ghana.

The technical study provides a detailed assessment on best practice and operating procedures for joint EU operating platforms focusing on drug trafficking and organised crime and will seek to identify common standards in the following areas: legal status; functional relationship with regional initiatives; financing; status of personnel; field of competence; operating procedures and sharing of intelligence; relations with countries outside the EU; relations with Interpol; opening up to other EU member countries.

Beneficiaries

The study provides a benchmark for intelligence sharing and associated capacity building within non-EU countries and to be used to develop a valid European model that could be implemented in areas that pose a threat to the EU.

Results

An assessment of best practice and operating procedures for joint EU operating platforms in regions outside the EU to strengthen law enforcement cooperation in the field of drug trafficking and organised crime.

Development of the geographic analytical information system for the limitation of illegal turnover of drugs

Project N°
JLS/2008/ISEC/104

Start date
05/05/2009

End date
04/11/2010

Project Coordinator
Janis Urbans
The Information Centre of
the Ministry of the Interior of
the Republic of Latvia
Janis.Urbans@ic.iem.gov.lv

Associated partners:
IT and Communication
Department under the
Ministry of Interior (Vilnius,
Latvia)

EC Contribution
142.387.00 EUR

Duration
18 Months

Country
LV

Abstract

The aim of the project is to contribute to the coordination of national and international institutions involved in counter drug activities as well as the analysis of information on drug related criminality and drug addiction.

The project will ensure the consolidation of information stored in different systems to a visual and geospatial link which will connect different kinds of information; it will provide cartographical data in order to identify areas of high risk; perform other wide-ranging activities required for the analytical work; and ensure opportunities for effective information exchange among EU Member States in the field of drug prevention and drug trafficking.

Results

The creation of a GIS system, better coordination between Europol and other EU agencies, better cross-border information exchange and a contribution to a better public analytical/statistical information on drug related criminality in the country.

International training centre for combating clandestine laboratories

Project N°
JLS/2008/ISEC/FPA/C3/054

Start date
15/12/2008

End date
14/06/2011

Project Coordinator
Waldemar Krawczyk
The Republic Of Poland,
Ministry of Interior and
Police Administration.
waldemar.k@policja.gov.pl

EC Contribution
200.000 EUR

Duration
31 Months

Country
PL

Abstract

The aim of the project is to carry out specialist training in an established International Training Center Anti-Illegal Drug Laboratories.

The project is divided into three stages: adaptation of the specified building for training purposes, reconstruction of illegal drug laboratories in cooperation with Europol and a specialized training programme. The project provides specialist training in the fight against illicit drug laboratories for 75 police officers and experts from the EU and third countries. From 2009 to 2011 the project will set up five training courses for participants from EU candidate countries, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Every training session will be implemented in two-week cycles. The project will cover 42 countries and applying a cascading model of training so that overall 500 participants will be trained and equipped with unique expertise in the field of combating illicit drug laboratories.

Results

Sharing expertise on current trends and threats and the promotion of modern investigative techniques and tools such as joint investigative teams or Controlled Shipping both within and outside the EU.

Support was provided for the activities of Europol and COSPOL by developing strategic and operational analysis within the context of the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) project and the Analysis Work Files (AWF).

The project will contribute to strengthening international cooperation to dismantle illicit drug laboratories and harmonize operational procedures carried out in the EU.

The impact of significant drug seizure on local communities

Project N°
JLS/2008/ISEC/FPA/C3/069

Start date
31/12/2008

End date
31/07/2011

Project Coordinator
Mr James Muir
j.muir@lbs.gla.ac.uk
University of Glasgow
Centre for Drug Misuse
Research
89 Dumbarton Road
Glasgow
G11 6PW
[http://www.gla.ac.uk/
departments/drugmisuse/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/drugmisuse/)

EC Contribution
240.926.00 EUR

Duration
31 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

This project is led by former police officers engaged in research within the Unit for the Study of Serious Organised Crime (USSOC) based at the Centre for Drug Misuse Research University of Glasgow. Initially the project established an information flow between law enforcement and the Unit for the Study of Serious Organised Crime in an attempt to identify downstream destination points for large scale, Level 3, drug seizures. Impact assessments were developed to assess the immediate local impact of such a large scale drug seizure and, utilising the same instrument, the immediate local impact of two Drug Test Purchase Operations. The instruments developed for this project were mainly constructed to consider the perceptions of drug users in terms of the immediate availability of illicit drugs following law enforcement interdiction (seizure) and thereafter drug availability after a number of weeks had elapsed.

Results

The measuring instruments were successfully used in three sites in the UK and close working relationships established between researchers and law enforcement ensured that information (intelligence) vital to the success of the project was shared. Using the methods developed for this project the potential exists for the development of similar impact assessments in other EU countries. Importantly, what this project demonstrates is that in the drug interdiction research theatre, the cross sharing of data between research and law enforcement greatly enhances research capability and leads to a greater understanding of the impact of law enforcement interdiction. The results of this two-year project, which is nearing completion, will be disseminated to law enforcement agencies involved in Level 3 interdiction within the UK and across the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN).

Your Right Choice

Project N°
JLS/2008/ISEC/FPA/C3/071

Start date
01/08/2009

End date
31/12/2011

Project Coordinator
Ms Jana Krivičková
Ministry of Interior of the
Slovak Republic
jana.krivickova@minv.sk

EC Contribution
143.736.84 EUR

Duration
29 Months

Country
SK

Abstract

The project's objective is to reduce crime committed by juvenile offenders, to increase the awareness of pupils as well as providing guidance on how not to become a victim of crime or criminality.

The project takes account of the most recent knowledge in the area of the crime prevention. Children aged 9-10 will learn about crime prevention in an interactive creative workshop ("ICW"). The ICW will involve 20 000 children in the Slovak Republic and 8 500 children in the Czech Republic. Training will be provided for around 120 educators from the police, staff at health consultation centres and teachers. Their task will be to raise awareness on the harmful effects of the use of addictive substances, their influence on human behaviour, criminality and traffic accidents committed under the influence of addictive substances, in an interactive creative way with the support of the ICW three-dimensional objects and working papers developed for the purpose of the project.

Expected results

In addition to the interactive workshop, dissemination of information to schoolchildren in 2110 primary schools in the Slovak Republic and 192 primary schools in the Czech Republic through the use of accompanying posters created for ICW which demonstrate the negative consequences of smoking, the use of alcohol and drugs.

Drug policing on the Balkan Route

Project N°
JLS/2008/ISEC/FPA/C4/076

Start date
01/10/2009

End date
30/09/2012

Project Coordinator
Mr Christian Mader
Christian.Mader@bmi.gv.at
Ministry of the Interior/
Criminal Intelligence Service
Office 3.3 – Drug related
crime
Josef Holaubek Platz 1
A – 1090 Vienna
www.bmi.gv.at
www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BK/

EC Contribution
251.750.00 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
AT

Abstract

The Austrian Ministry of Interior and Crime Intelligence Service with the partner countries, Germany, Bulgaria and Serbia is carrying out a three year project to combat drug related organized crime along the Balkan route which involves three conferences (2010, 2011 and 2012) in Bulgaria, Austria and Serbia. Participation will include investigators and experts from the 27 EU member countries, three candidate countries, Western Balkans (WB), UA, U.S., Europol, Interpol, Eurojust, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, UNODC and the European Commission.

The objective is to exchange information on drug trafficking along the Balkan route on a legal and operational level. The results will serve as a basis for further joint investigation by the partner countries in cooperation with countries in the Western Balkans. Through the participation of the countries along the Balkan route, the existing problems will be directly detected and treated as the majority of heroin produced in Afghanistan is smuggled through these countries into the EU. During the project up to nine operational meetings will be held when required (depending on the status of investigations) to coordinate activities against criminals operating along the Balkan route groups. These meetings will be attended by 15 investigators (from affected countries as well as Europol and Eurojust).

Results

The goal is to develop a common strategy to combat drug trafficking along the Balkan route and to improve communication between the different countries and organizations. Additional benefits are the establishment of joint investigation teams to dismantle criminal groups and to reduce the supply of illegal drugs.

Youth Against Drugs

Project N°
JLS/2009/ISEC/AG/069

Start date
17/12/2009

End date
16/12/2011

Project Coordinator
Ms Zane Maskalonoka
Republic of Latvia Ministry of
Interior, State Police of Latvia
Ciekurkalna 1st line 1, k - 4,
LV – 1026
zane.maskalonoka@vp.gov.lv
<http://www.sargi-sevi.lv/>
<http://www.vp.gov.lv/>

Associated partners

- Research Centre for Woman's Affairs (GR);
- Institute of Equality (GR);
- Migrant Women Association (D);
- Women Issues Information Centre (LT);
- Day-Mer (UK).

EC Contribution
419.962.00 EUR

Duration
24 Months

Country
LV

Abstract

The project's target group is young people between 16-21 years old as the statistics show the highest rates of experimenting use of psychotropic substance during this period.

The project will take an innovative approach to drug related crime prevention among youth, using simulation games, as they are very popular among young people and are one of the most effective way to understand and memorize up to 85% of information. Scenarios will be worked out together with police officers and drug prevention specialists from non government organisations who will also take part in seminars in the regions and the capital city. Winners of regional competitions will be invited to participate in a final game to be carried out in the capital city. Final results of the project will be presented in a meeting held for the police representatives of all three Baltic countries. In addition the project will carry out a large anti-drug media campaign targeted at young people in public places und youth TV programmes. Handouts will be developed and distributed in education centres, sport clubs, cinemas and other places where young people gather. The project will be carried out in close partnership with other state and non-governmental institutions to ensure an integrated approach to crime prevention.

Expected results

The aim is to decrease drug demand and drug supply as well as raise awareness of high school and first year university students about all the consequences of drug use - criminal liability (storing and distribution), health and other social aspects. Outcomes will be used to achieve better results during combined crime prevention activities and media campaigns.

European drugs profiling system

Project N°
JLS/2009/ISEC/AG/088

Start date
15/02/2010

End date
14/02/2013

Project Coordinator
Mr Noud de Bruin
The Netherlands National
Police Agency
Postbox 3016
2700 KX Zoetermeer
noud.de.bruin@klpd.politie.nl
noud.debruin@worldmail.nl

Partners and Associated Partners

- National Police Agency – KLPD- and Forensic Institute NL;
- National Bureau of Investigation and National Forensic Laboratory FIN;
- National Police Board and Forensic Laboratory SW;
- SOCA (Serious Organised Crime Agency) UK;
- Forensic Science Service B;
- Federal Police and Forensic Scientific Institute in Brussels;
- NICC-OCRTIS (Office Central for Drugs Trafficking) and Forensic Laboratory INPS LPS Lyon, F;
- Federal Police, Uni. of Lausanne CH;
- Chemcentre Perth West Australia;
- Europol.

EC Contribution
2.146.974.48 EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
NL

Abstract

The objective of the three year project is the development of a sustainable European drugs profiling system to reduce the supply of drugs in the European Union by integrating forensic profiling in intelligence led law enforcement operations. The systems developed in the EU-funded project CHAIN will be extended to the drug MDMA (XTC), and to new EU member countries. A user guide will be produced.

This project will include: the implementation of a harmonised profiling methodology for XTC in seven member countries, raising awareness in law enforcement regarding the use of XTC forensic information, the use of XTC information in law enforcement operations; the continuation of the chemical profiling of amphetamine in participating EU countries and its extension to other countries. The project results will be combined with the results of the chemical profiling, the existing Europol ecstasy logo system and Europol's Illicit laboratory comparison system (EILCS), integrated in the project SYNERGY.

In April 2011 *XTC-profiling*, a new tool, will be developed by the Forensic Technical Group, supported by a database, modified by the Chemcentre of West Australia.

The feasibility study on the forensic profiling of *heroin* and *cocaine* to identify law enforcement needs will be completed by the end of 2011.

Results

So far the project covers the continuous profiling of samples of amphetamine. Working procedures have been improved and harmonised amongst the national law enforcement focal points with the support of Europol. 11 EU countries were connected to the system by December 2010. The result of the project will be to reduce organised crime involved in the production and trafficking of illicit synthetic drugs by integrating forensic profiling in intelligence and law enforcement operations.

The intensification of police cooperation when combating the illegal smuggling of synthetic drugs

Project N°
JLS/2009/ISEC/AG/120

Start date
19/03/10

End date
18/07/12

Project Coordinator
Ms Ruta Jasinskiene
Police Department under the
Ministry of the Interior
Saltoniskiu str. 19, Vilnius
LT-08105, Lithuania
ruta.jasinskiene@policija.lt

Partners and Associated Partners:

- Criminal Police Board of the State police of Latvia;
- Criminal Police Department of Police and Border Guard Board of Estonia

EC Contribution
75.633 EUR

Duration
27 Months

Country
LT

Abstract

Illicit drugs constitute a secure financial source for organised crime. Lithuanian organised criminal groups are involved in the organisation of international smuggling of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) to Scandinavia via the Baltic States. There is a need for a more coordinated and efficient approach to matters of security connected to organized crime. We aim to safeguard public safety, i.e. better quality investigations into illicit drug production and suppression of smuggling channels via cooperation between law enforcement agencies and by carrying out joint actions aimed against international smuggling of ATS via the Baltic States to Scandinavia and Russia.

Investigating officers have attended language courses to support international cooperation. Meetings of the Drug Control Units of the Baltic States have taken place to exchange information on international investigations, to improve the coordination of joint action and a better understanding of the legal framework and to raising awareness of assistance provided by Europol and Eurojust to support international drug smuggling investigations.

A guide is being prepared with information on pre-trial and operational investigations, investigative methods and tools.

Exchange of information on drugs profiling between Estonia and Lithuania with an agreement by Lithuania to send samples of amphetamine for profiling to the Estonian Forensic Science Centre.

Expected results

Increased initiation of international investigations through improved communication among trained officers.

European Network of Prosecutors Synthetic Drugs and Precursors II

Project N°
JLS/2009/ISEC/AG/175

Start date
11/06/10

End date
10/06/11

Project Coordinator
Ms Annemiek Heynens
National Public Prosecutor's
Office, Southern
Netherlands
a.heynens@minjus.nl

EC Contribution
38.171 EUR

Duration
12 Months

Country
NL

Abstract

Illicit synthetic drugs are produced in several EU countries. A conference will be organised for European prosecutors to discuss the entire synthetic drugs chain from the import and trade in raw materials and hardware to the production and sale of the end product.

The main theme of the conference will be new strategies and the Dutch "barrier-model". The barrier-model shows the possibilities how and where to put up the barriers in the production for synthetic drugs in the Netherlands and worldwide.

Results

The creation of an EU-wide network of national prosecutors sharing knowledge, skills, experiences and best practices.

The introduction of the Dutch barrier-model at the European level as well as the development of a strategy for multidisciplinary cooperation.

WESTBRIDGE II

Project N°
JLS/2009/ISEC/FPA

Start date
22.12. 2010

End date
22.12. 2013

Project Coordinator
Gary Coppell
UK Border Agency
National Operations &
Performance
1st Floor, Dorset House
27-45 Stamford Street
London
SE1 9PY
Gary.Coppell@homeoffice.gov.uk
si.gov.uk

Associated partners
Ministry of Justice NL
Customs Investigation
Bureau AKA:
Zollkriminalamt (ZKA), D

EC Contribution
1.074.173,60 €

Duration
36 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

The aim of Westbridge II is the disruption of drug courier traffic that attempts to enter the UK or EU through West African airports. It achieves this through engagement with law enforcement agencies in selected West African countries, using EU anti-smuggling experience to build host country capability to intercept the drug courier traffic. The project works with partner EU Member States to exploit the intelligence and operational benefits of this approach (including working through the EU liaison officer's network) and encourage its extension to other West African countries whilst linking in with other EU and international drugs interdiction projects based in West Africa.

The project achieves its aims through use of experienced officers who support local staff to identify smuggling attempts, at the same time identifying their training needs, assisting in the deployment of drug detector technology and instilling an improved understanding of new intervention techniques. The UK officers will mentor local officers in risk assessment techniques, passenger and freight profiling, questioning and the use of drug detection technology and build in sustainability to enable the local agencies to continue protecting the EU borders once the project draws to a close.

Results

- Upskilling local enforcement officers;
- Increasing drug courier interdictions;
- Capacity building;
- Increasing intra EU co-operation;
- Testing ways to provide an enduring upstream disruptive capability once the project concludes.

Joint Operations Coordination Centre

Project N°
JLS/2009/ISEC/FPA/C1/064

Start date
01.07.2009

End date
01.07.2010

Project Coordinator
Mr Ryan Brady
The Serious Organised
Crime Agency – SOCA
PO Box 8000
London SE 11 5EN UK
ryan.brady@soca.x.gsi.gov.uk

EC Contribution
88.636,90 EUR

Duration
12 months

Country
UK

Abstract

The Joint Operations Coordination Centre (JOCC) will be an integral part of the operational/tactical response of the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics), MAOC-N, which was set up in 2007 to counter the maritime smuggling of bulk cocaine from the Caribbean and Americas to the Atlantic borders of the EU and West Africa.

The JOCC will establish a more formalised process for intelligence sharing and operational coordination with MAOC-N and will develop MAOC-N's operational response including improved coordination of intelligence sharing, improved coordination of its operational activity, ensuring coherence in MAOC-N's operational processes, fusing intelligence from Country Liaison Officers, maintaining contact with partner agencies and developing the technical response of the JOCC and maintaining knowledge of new developments.

Results

As a result of the project, MAOC-N will have further established common parameters for working, both in intelligence sharing and operational coordination. In the long term, this will support wider EU work to develop an EU model for law enforcement cooperation on drug trafficking and other types of organised crime.



Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) MAOC- N

Phase 3

Project N°
JLS/2010/ISEC/FP/C2

Start date
2011

End date
2014

Project Coordinator
Ms Jean Byrne
Serious Organised Crime Agency
PO Box 8000
London SE 11 5EN UK
Jean.byrne@soca.x.gsi.gov.uk

Associated Partners

- Policia Judiciaria, Directoria Nacional PT
- Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform IE
- Organised Crime Intelligence ES
- Ministry of Interior FR
- Ministry of Interior; IT
- Ministry of Interior NL

EC Contribution
tbc

Duration
36 Months

Country
UK

Abstract

This ISEC project will support the further development of new methods and techniques to support operational law enforcement in the field of drug trafficking; the facilitation of the coordination of activities in particular cases with a cross border dimension.

Since the inception of the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) project (MAOC(N)), over 30 successful operations have been coordinated by the Centre. This has resulted in approximately 40 tonnes of cocaine being seized, over 20 tonnes of cannabis resin, with subsequent prosecutions underway in France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Liberia and Venezuela. The first phase of the MAOC(N) project has been achieved allowing for a detailed evaluation to take place and Phase 2 of the MAOC(N) project is now underway with the formal development of the Joint Operations Coordination Centre (JOCC).

Phase 3 includes a number of activities to strengthen MAOC(N)'s capacity, inter alia, to deliver through improved security, improved IT systems, to increase staff resilience, particularly in support of the JOCC project, and to move to new premises to suit expanding role. Governance structures will be strengthened, a closer link with Europol will be established

MAOC will develop an observer status for Latin American and West African countries and carry out training and best practice for third countries.

A further Phase 3 goal for MAOC(N) is the training of LEDETs from suitable African/LA partners so that jurisdiction can be transferred to a country closer to the point of interdiction, alleviating the problems concerning transportation of seized vessel, crew or drugs back to the EU jurisdiction and relieving EU partners of the prosecution burden.

The Seventh Framework Programme on Research 2007-2013

The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe.

FP7 bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof and plays a crucial role in reaching the goals of growth, competitiveness and employment.

The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. For each type of objective, there is a specific programme corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy.

While there is no specific research topic 'illicit drugs' under FP7, there are a number of potential entry points for drugs-related research cooperation under the research themes of the 'Cooperation Programme':

- Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities;
- Health;
- Security.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/themes/research>

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/>



LOTUS- LOCALISATION OF THREAT SUBSTANCES IN URBAN SOCIETY

Programme
FP7 Security 2007

Project N°
217925

Start date
01/01/2009

End date
31/12/2011

Project Coordinator
Sara Wallin
TOTALFORSVARETS
FORSKNINGSINSTITUT
Gullfossgratan
STOCKHOLM
SWEDEN
Tel: +46 8555040947
Fax: +46 855503949
Registrator foi.se
<http://www.lotusfp7.eu>

Consortium

- Swedish Defence Research Agency-FOI, Sw;
- Secrab Security Research, Sw;
- Portendo AB, Sweden;
- Research and Education Laboratory in Information Technologies, GR;
- Saab AB, Sw;
- Bruker Daltonik GmbH, D;
- Ramem S.A., Spain;
- Bruhn Newtech A/S DK;
- Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek – TNO, NL
- Universidad de Barcelona, ES.

EC Contribution
3.19 million EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
SE

Abstract

Terrorist acts committed using Home Made Explosives (HME) pose an increasing threat against our citizens. The usage of HME in the 2005 attacks on the London Underground is a frightening example. Our capability to deal with this threat is challenged by the terrorist's capability to easily manufacture explosives from common components.

LOTUS will address the critical issue of detecting bomb (and drugs) factories. The concept of the *LOTUS* project is to create a system by which the illicit production of explosives and drugs can be detected during the preparation and production phase of a terrorist plot. *LOTUS* provides intelligence of a sort that is otherwise unavailable. This intelligence covers a gap where little information is available from other sources.

LOTUS main activities are the measurement of the dispersion of precursors at the production and surveillance system development. The system capability will be demonstrated by adapting existing and emerging sensors for the detection of selected precursors and integrating the sensors in a networked system.

The sensor resides in the roof-top box of a car and communicates through the mobile phone network and the internet to the *LOTUS* server where the sensor data are sent to and data are analyzed at and further sent and presented on the client workstations containing the *LOTUS* presentation system. Apart from the sensor, the roof-top box also contains a power supply and an inter-connection unit called router. The router is the central computer in the roof-top box and connects to the sensor for sensor readings, to GPS for geographical location and to the GSM network for data communication with the server.

The proposed *LOTUS* system concept, using mobile automatic sensors, data transfer/location via GSM/GPS for on-line detection of illicit production of explosive or precursors to explosives and drugs has been shown to be a viable approach.

AMASS Surveillance in wide maritime areas through active and passive means

Programme
FP7 Security 2008

Project N°
218290

Start date
01.03.2008

End date
31.08.2011

Project Coordinator
Thomas Anderson
CARL ZEISS OPTRONICS
GMBH
CARL-ZEISS-STRASSE 22
OBERKOCHEN
GERMANY
Tel: +49 7364 202833
t.anderson@optronics.zeiss.com
www.amass-project.eu

Consortium

- Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft Zur Foerderung Der Angewandten Forschung E.V, D ;
- Universidad De Las Palmas De Gran Canaria, ES;
- Instituto Canario De Ciencias Marinas, ES;
- Osrodek Badawczo-Rozwojowy Centrum Techniki Morskiej, PL;
- Fugro Oceanor As, NO;
- Armed Forces Malta, M;
- Iq Wireless Gmbh, D
- Hsf Spol. S R.O. Sokolo, CZ
- Crabbe Consulting Ltd , UK

EC Contribution
3.58 million EUR

Duration
42 Months

Country
DE

Abstract

The Autonomous Maritime Surveillance System (AMASS) will be used for the observation and security of wide critical maritime areas in order to reduce actual and potential illegal immigration and the trafficking of drugs, weapons and illicit substances. The surveillance system will consist of autonomous, unmanned surveillance buoys with active and passive sensors, the key sensors being un-cooled thermal imagers connected as a network with wideband radio.

Further sensors will include hydrophone arrays and possibly other sensors e.g. CCD camera. A sophisticated data fusion process will enable the transmission of relevant information. Alarms from the system will be displayed on a map system in blue border surveillance command centres providing information on location and direction. It will also be possible for the operator to switch directly to a video stream to view the detected image.

AMASS will contribute to increasing the capability for integrated blue border surveillance.

CUSTOM Drugs and Precursor Sensing by Complementing Low Cost Multiple Techniques

Programme
FP7 Security 2009

Project N°
242387

Start date
01.06.2010

End date
31.05.2013

Project Coordinator
Anna Maria Fiorello
SELEX SISTEMI
INTEGRATI SPA
VIA TIBURTINA Casella
Postale 000
ROMA
ITALY
Tel: +39 0641503104
Fax: +39 0641503701
a.fiorello@selex-si.com

Consortium

- Alcatel Thales Iii V Lab
France;
- Ministère Du Budget Des
Comptes Publics Et De La
Fonction Publique Et De La
Reforme De L'etat
France;
- Gasera Oy Finland
- Aalto-Korkeakoulusaatio
Finland;
- Agenzia Nazionale Per Le
Nuove;
- Tecnologie, L'energia E Lo
Sviluppo Economico
Sostenibile Italy;
- Fundacion Inasmet Spain;
- Consorzio
Interuniversitario
Nazionale Per La Scienza
E Tecnologia Dei Materiali
Italy;
- Turun Yliopisto Finland;
- Consiglio Nazionale Delle
Ricerche Italy.

EC Contribution
3.49 million EUR

Duration
36 Months

Country
IT

Abstract

A large number of techniques have been developed in recent decades, which are able to screen and identify specific molecules for drug precursors' detection even at very low concentrations in lab testing. Nevertheless a system which proves to be easy to use, compact, able to provide screening over a large number of compounds with low false alarm and high probability of detection is still an open issue.

The project will focus on employing multiple techniques, integrating them in a complex system which employs them in a complimentary approach in order to identify an optimum trade-off between opposite requirements: compactness, simplicity, low cost vs. sensitivity low false alarm rate, selectivity. Known techniques, such as fluorescence, will be improved by mean of novel proteins, as antibodies to extend probability of detection.

Results and Deliverables

A low cost, high data throughput sensing technique, based on UV-Vis-NIR fluorescence. Fluorescence will be enhanced by development of organic macro-molecules sensitive to specific classes of compounds of interest (ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, P2P) in the domain of drug detection. The fluorescence analysis will be based on an opto-chip which can incorporate an array of different properly engineered fluorescent chemical protein able to bind to the analytes with an immuno-type reaction. An array of classes of compounds can be thus very fast discriminated by one-shot measurement.

A high sensitivity and selectivity, but compact and low weight, spectroscopic sensing technique in MIR IR optical range, based on Laser PhotoAcoustic Sensor Detection of drug precursors based on spectroscopic techniques can guarantee a good selectivity, a low probability of false alarm and a suitable operation speed. The size of the photo-acoustic cell can be made as small as possible for a compact sensor.



ALICE-RAP

Addictions and Lifestyles in Contemporary European Societies

Programme

FP7 Socio-Economic
Sciences and Humanities
2010

Start date

April 2011

End date

March 2016

Project Coordinator

Dr. Antoni Gual
Hospital Clinic Barcelona
Addictions Unit
+34607253705
tqual@clinic.ub.es

Consortium

43 research institutions
from 25 EU countries,
Iceland, Norway, Switzerland

EC Contribution

8 million EUR

Duration

5 years

Abstract

Policies governing addictive substances and behaviours need to balance individual freedom and social responsibility, while taking into account social, economic and ethical considerations.

But scientific evidence points to the fact that the classification and legality of addictive substances has rarely been related to the relative harm that these substances can cause to individuals or to society. In fact, while there is a large amount of global scientific evidence to inform the development of effective drug policy to improve public health, current policy in most societies takes little or limited account of this research.

ALICE RAP is a trans-disciplinary EU project which aims to help policy-makers to “think, debate and shape” current norms and future implications of addiction and lifestyles in Europe over the next 20 years. The project will critically examine and analyze currently fragmented research and strengthen scientific evidence to inform a new dynamic platform for public and political dialogue and debate on current and alternative approaches to addictions.

The project will investigate addiction in its broadest sense, including all types of substance problems and even internet gaming and gambling. ALICE RAP will analyze the potential economic, health and social consequences of new or alternative approaches to govern and manage addiction using foresight methodologies and expert working groups to identify more effective and efficient EU and national level policy options.

The consortium covers experts from several research institutions from a wide range of different quantitative and qualitative scientific disciplines, stretching across the humanities and social sciences and the biological and medical sciences.



Studies on Illicit Drugs Contracted by the European Commission

The European Commission's tasks in the field of illicit drugs are to initiate, monitor and evaluate actions agreed under the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and the two EU drugs action plans.

With the financial support of the relevant EU funding programmes, the European Commission contracts out external studies which research the situation across the EU and provide in-depth analysis which help underpin its tasks and strengthen the knowledge base in the field of illicit drugs.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/anti-drugs/document/index_en.htm

Comparative analysis of research into illicit drugs in the European Union

Programme
DPIP 2007

Contract N°
JLS/2007/C4/006

Start date
01/03/2008

End date
01/07/2009

Project Coordinator
Dr. Prof Gerhard Buehringer
Institut für Therapie
Forschung
Parzivalstr. 25
80804 Munich
buehringer@ift.de
www.ift.de

Project Partners

- Technische Universität
Dresden, D
- National Addiction Centre,
King's College, UK

Budget
250. 000 EUR

Duration
18 months

Abstract

This study maps the key research areas, research disciplines and recent research trends, covering both drug demand and drug supply reduction in the EU. It analyses the capacity, infrastructure and model of coordination of drug-related research in the EU Member States. It briefly describes – for comparative purposes - the drug-related research trends, capacity, infrastructure and model of coordination in the US, Canada and Australia as well as major research collaborations in the drug field with EU partners. On the basis of this research, the study identifies strengths and weaknesses in EU drug-related research and sets out the gaps in the knowledge infrastructure. Its conclusions present a number of options for strengthening the drug-related research infrastructure in the EU.

Its main findings are that there is a considerable national variation between EU countries in the size and type of illicit drug use and in the priorities and volume of research undertaken.

Much of the research into illicit drugs is part of a broader substance-related research programme. Coordination between policy, research and practice lacks a coherent longer term approach for the identification and funding of new areas of research. The EU should develop an integrated strategy to help researchers make better use of funding. The study presents number of options for this strategy.

Analysis of the operation of the world market in illicit drugs and of policy measures to curtail it

Programme
DPIP 2007

Contract N°
JLS/2007/C4/005

Start date
December 2007

End date
December 2008

Project Coordinator
Franz Trautmann
Trimbos Institute
Da Costakade 45
3521 VS Utrecht
The Netherlands
Ftrautmann@trimbos.nl
www.Trimbos.nl

Project Partners
RAND Europe – UK

Budget
596 000 EUR

Duration
12 months

Abstract

This Commission study, "*Detailed Analysis of the operation of the world market in illicit drugs and of policy measures to curtail it*", provides an overview of the nature and extent of the global drugs problem today, and aims to assist policy-makers at national and regional levels to deal with it. In 1998 the UN, at a special session of the General Assembly, issued a declaration and action plans aimed at rolling back drug abuse and trafficking world-wide (UNGASS 98). In 2007 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reviewed progress achieved by the UN Member States 10 years after UNGASS 98.

The European Commission study found no evidence that the global drug problem was reduced during the UNGASS period from 1998 to 2007. For some nations the problem declined but for others it worsened and for some of those, it worsened sharply and substantially. The drug problem generally lessened in rich countries and worsened in a few large developing or transitional countries.

The study concludes that the total revenues generated by illicit drug sales are smaller than approx. EUR 285 billion a year calculated by UNODC in 2002/2003. The study estimates an approximate range for the total global cannabis retail market in 2005 between EUR 40 billion and EUR 120 billion, with the best estimate being about half of the UNODC's EUR 125 billion estimate (these values are in EUR 2005).

Minimum quality standards and benchmarks in drug demand reduction (EQUS)

Programme
DPIP 2009

Contract N°
JLS 2010/DPIP/PR/1023

Start date
May 2010

End date
December 2011

Project Coordinator
Ambros Uchtenhagen
Michael Schaub
Institut für Sucht-und
Gesundheitsforschung
Research Institute for Public
Health and Addiction
Konradstrasse 32
Postfac
CH 8031 Zürich
isgf@isgf.uzh.ch
www.isgf.ch

Budget
250. 000 EUR

Duration
18 months

Abstract

Improving the quality and effectiveness of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, rehabilitation and social reintegration is a priority under the EU Drugs Strategy.

This study will :

- conduct an *inventory of existing (minimum) quality standards and benchmarks* at national, EU and – when relevant – international level for the various types of demand reduction interventions;
- develop a *workable design for a realistic, feasible and scientifically robust framework for EU minimum quality standards and benchmarks*;
- establish a *framework for an effective consultation and advisory mechanism necessary for consensus building* among experts and relevant stakeholders from Member States and EU level.

The research is guided by an international expert group to peer review all the documents and advise on the consultation with national stakeholders. A European conference with stakeholders will take place on 15-17 June 2011 as part of the consensus-building process.

The final report will consist of options on EU minimum quality standards and benchmarks in the field of drug demand reduction and provide a key contribution for future Commission proposals.

Understanding illicit drugs markets, supply reduction efforts and drug-related crime in the EU

Programme
ISEC 2008

Contract N°
JLS/2008/C2/001

Start date
June 2008

End date
June 2009

Project Coordinator
Stijn Hoorens
Rand Europe
Westbrook Centre
Milton Road
Cambridge
Hoorens@rand.org
www.rand.org/randEurope

Budget
165 065 EUR

Duration
12 months

Abstract

EU Member States have made considerable strides in collecting information about the demand for drugs at the international, national and subnational levels in Europe. However, developing indicators that allow for rigorous policy analysis of supply reduction efforts (e.g. seizures, trafficking arrests) has been considerably slower.

To advance these efforts the European Commission commissioned a study on "*policy relevant information in the field of drug supply reduction and drug-related crime*".

This analysis recommends indicators for improving the understanding of illicit drugs markets, supply reduction efforts and drug-related crime in the EU.

Insights and recommendations were based on data analysis, international meetings with scientific and policy experts, interviews, case studies and results from literature reviews.

The study provided a number of key insights on emerging and developing new indicators in the field of drug supply. It also developed a definition of drug-related crime and a framework for its further analysis.

Further analysis of the EU illicit drugs market; responding to future challenges

Programme
ISEC 2010

Contract N°
HOME/2010/ISEC/022-
JUST-C4

Start date
April 2011

End date
December 2012

Project Coordinator
Franz Trautmann
Trimbos Institute
Da Costakade 45
3521 VS Utrecht
The Netherlands
Ftrautmann@trimbos.nl
www.Trimbos.nl

Project Partners
RAND Europe – UK;
Institute for Criminal Policy
Research,
Birbeck College, University
of London – UK.

Budget
595, 503 EUR

Duration
20 months

Abstract

The study will provide a further analysis of the specific characteristics and operations of the EU's illicit drugs market. It will address some key aspects and mechanisms in that market that are still inadequately understood, providing a detailed analysis of the size and share of the EU illicit drugs market.

It will provide a health, social, legal and economic perspective, reflecting the multidimensional approach of drug policies at national and EU level. It will also examine a number of potential policy impacts on the EU drugs market in recent years.

The researchers will look to the future and describe the likely future trends in the drugs market and define adequate policy responses.

The analysis will draw on data and information already available from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and Europol as well as other international, EU and national sources.

Independent assessment of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and its Action Plans

Contract N°
FWC JLS/2009/A1/0001-1

Start date
January 2011

End date
December 2011

Project Coordinator
Stijn Hoorens
Rand Europe
Westbrook Centre
Milton Road
Cambridge
Hoorens@rand.org
www.rand.org/randEurope

Project Partner
IPSOS Mori

Budget
232.969 EUR

Duration
12 months

Abstract

The European Commission, assisted by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol, is carrying out an external evaluation to assess the overall implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and its Action Plans.

This external evaluation has the following objectives:

- to assess to what extent the objectives and priorities of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 have been implemented at both EU and national level;
- to examine the extent to which the EU Drugs Strategy and its Action Plans has influenced Member States' drugs policy and legislation;
- to assess to what extent the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012 and its Action Plans has had an impact on the drugs situation in the EU and on the responses prepared to tackle the drugs problem;
- to identify key aspects and recommendations that may be of importance for the formulation and implementation of the new EU Drugs Strategy and of its implementing Action Plans.