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**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON DRUG
INFORMATION SYSTEM
2005 - 2006**

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1 Introduction

The Drug information system (DIS) is a comprehensive tool to monitor the drug scene in the Czech Republic, in particular illicit drug use and its consequences. The National monitoring center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (NMC) established by Governmental Decree No. 643/2002 in June 2002 within the National Drug Commission Secretariat (NDC) is the coordinator and guarantor of the system. NMC is the Czech national partner of the decentralized EU agency for drug monitoring – the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) with its headquarters in Lisbon.

The aim of NMC is to provide proven, unbiased, quality, accurate and reliable information on the drug situation in the Czech Republic. To that end, the NMC carries out, initiates and participates in monitoring and research and coordinates and closely cooperates with other institutions on such tasks. The National Action Plan on DIS (NAPDIS) serves as a tool for planning and general evaluation of DIS.

DIS aims at data collection, analysis, synthesis and interpretation on one hand and data dissemination on the other hand. In terms of methods and concepts applied, the system is in line with the EMCDDA system, in particular in relation to the system of 5 key indicators¹ (5 KI), which constitutes the main methodology and data set on drug use and its consequences in the EU. However, DIS does not limit itself only to the 5KI, but it emphasizes a full-fledged utilization and combining of various data sources and methods.

Information collected and disseminated within DIS should be used to evaluate prevention treatment programs and drug policy interventions both at a local and a national level.

2 Links between NAPDIS and the Governmental Decree and NDC

The National Monitoring Center was mandated to coordinate the Drug Information System by Governmental Decree No. 296/2003 of March 26, 2003.

NAPDIS for 2005-2006 builds on NAPDIS for 2003-2004 approved by NDC Resolution No. 3/0203 of February 12, 2003. The same Resolution also establishes the NDC Advisory Committee for drug data collection (Advisory Committee), which evaluates annually the implementation of NAPDIS in the previous year. NAPDIS for 2003-2004 was evaluated on the Advisory Committee session held on January 3, 2005.

The Annual Report on Drugs in the Czech Republic is the main information output, which is first debated by the Advisory Committee and then forwarded for information purposes to the NDC and afterwards also to the Government.

3 DIS philosophy and principles

- Evidence based approach – i.e. based on scientific evidence
- Expertise
- Application of standard proven approaches guaranteeing data comparability both in time and between regions
- Informational openness
- Horizontal and vertical interdepartmental, intersectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation
- Comprehensive and flexible approach focused on solutions of a specific scientific problem.

¹ EMCDDA key indicators are the following: (1) drug use in the general population, (2) problem drug use, (3) drug related infectious diseases, (4) drug related deaths and mortality of drug users, (5) treatment demand.

4 Current status of DIS

Report on NAPDIS 2003-2004 implementation was discussed by the Advisory Committee on January 3, 2005. The current status and functionality of DIS in the Czech Republic is evaluated as very good by the Advisory Committee as well as by domestic and international experts and institutions. NAPDIS 2005 -2006 was adopted by National Drug Commission by its resolution No. 4/0105 on January 25, 2005.

4.1 Main institutions involved in DIS implementation

- Government departments (MH, MoLSA, MEYS, MI, MJ, MIT, MF)
- National Institute of Public Health (NIPH)
- Institute of Health Information and Statistics (IHIS)
- Czech Statistical Office (CSO)
- Academy of Sciences of the CR (AS CR)
- Hygienic Service (HS)
- Police of the CR (PCR) (in particular the National Drug Enforcement Center - NDEC)
- General Directorate of Customs (GDC)
- General Directorate of the Prison Service (GDPS)
- Czech Medical Association of J.E.Purkyne (Association for addictive diseases – AAD CMA JEP, Association for forensic medicine and forensic toxicology – AFMT CMA JEP)
- A.N.O. – Association of NGOs dealing with prevention and treatment of drug addictions
- Prague Psychiatric Center (PPC)
- Ministry of Health Inspectorate for narcotic and psychotropic substances (INPS)
- Probation and Mediation Service (PMS)
- The Third Medical School of the Charles University in Prague (3. MS CU)

4.2 Main sources of DIS data

Main information on significant Czech databases on drug use and its consequences were incorporated into the Information map of epidemiological data sources on drug use. This document also includes information and contact data of institutions operating the databases listed in the following table:

Ident.No.	Registry type	Operator
EP-CZ-01	Treatment demand register (FTD/ATD)	Prague Hygienic Service (PHS)
EP-CZ-02	Reported VH incidence	National Institute of Public Health in Prague
EP-CZ-03	HIV reporting and testing	National Institute of Public Health in Prague
EP-CZ-04	Special mortality register of deaths directly related to drug use	NMC/Association for forensic medicine
EP-CZ-05	Substitution methadone treatment	Institute of Health Information and Statistics
EP-CZ-06	Inpatients in psychiatric facilities	Institute of Health Information and Statistics
EP-CZ-07	General mortality register	Institute of Health Information and Statistics
EP-CZ-08	General population survey	Institute of Health Information and Statistics
EP-CZ-09	General population survey	Public Opinion Research Institute
EP-CZ-10	ESPAD – school survey	Prague Psychiatric Center /NMC
EP-CZ-11	Seroprevalence survey of VHC	NMC
EP-CZ-12	FreeBase	NMC
EP-CZ-13	Youth and drugs – school survey	Prague Hygienic Service
EP-CZ-14	Drug related non-fatal intoxication	Prague Hygienic Service
EP-CZ-15	GENACIS – whole population survey	Prague Psychiatric Center

The full text of the information map can be found on: <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/articleview/1134>.

4.3 Horizontal cooperation on data gathering and dissemination

4.3.1 NMC task groups

Regular meetings (3-4x a year) of expert task groups:

1. Population surveys
2. Prevalence estimates of problem drug use
3. Drug related infectious diseases
4. Drug related deaths and mortality of drug users
5. Treatment demand
6. Criminal law sector data
7. Evaluation of programs and services
8. Early warning system for new synthetic drugs (EWS)

For more information see: <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/65/> .

4.3.2 Advisory Committee on drug data collection

Regular meetings 2x a year. February: Report on NMC activities in the previous year and plan of activities for the current year, possibly also evaluation of NAPDIS. September: evaluation of the Annual report on drugs for the previous year. For more information see: <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/11/>.

5 DIS priorities for 2005 - 2006

- Maintaining or improving DIS quality
- Extending the scope and improving the quality of data on experimental and intensive users of cannabis-based drugs and ecstasy
- Extending the scope and improving the quality of data on users of volatile substances
- Identifying new trends in problem use of opiates and pervitin (methamphetamine)
- Improving the quality of criminal law sector data and its compatibility with EMCDDA methodology including prison sector data
- Monitoring of EMCDDA 5 basic harmonized key indicators
- Implementation of the Early warning system for new synthetic drugs and other adverse drug-related trends
- Evaluation of results of preventive and treatment interventions
- Evaluation of costs and expenses to the society related to illicit drug misuse borne
- Providing background materials for evaluation of the National strategy for drug enforcement policy including legal drugs
- Application and implementation of EMCDDA methods and standards
- Methodological management of the network of regional drug coordinators and stimulation of gathering and analysis of data on regional and local levels
- Participation in international projects, in particular projects and activities of EMCDDA
- Active approach to informing the public and media, publishing results, Internet portal on drugs: www.drogy-info.cz
- Increasing the expertise of expert staff working within DIS.

5.1 Expected results

- Functional DIS providing information on drug use and its consequences both for expert public and lay public and public administration authorities in the CR, and for international institutions, in particular for EMCDDA
- Sustainability and stability of human and financial resources and a network of cooperating institutions
- Implemented and standardized system of data gathering and dissemination and cooperation of individual institutions with NMC
- Improving the quality and reliability of data
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of preventive, treatment and repressive measures
- Producing the Annual report on drugs in the Czech Republic
- Operational web presentation of NMC
- Active publishing plan (edition of scientific publications, bimonthly Focused on drugs)
- Submitting data required by EMCDDA in requested deadlines

6 Work plan for 2005 – 2006

6.1 5 key indicators

6.1.1 Drug use in the general population (and sub-populations)

- Analyzing and publishing results of a whole population survey with standard questions in line with EMCDDA. Carried out by: Institute of Health Information and Statistics (IHIS). Methodological cooperation and preparation: NMC task group „Drug use in the population“. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Gathering of data on drug use as a part of „Selective survey of the health condition of Czech population 2005“, analyzing and publishing of preliminary results. Carried out by: IHIS. Deadline: 2. half of 2005.
- Analyzing and publishing the results of ESPAD 1995-2003. Carried out by: PCP and NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Another round of HBSC school survey. Carried out by: PCP. Deadline: 2006.
- Analyzing data from field programs for users of dance drugs carried out in 2005 and 2006 – For more information see: <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/articleview/763/1/13/>. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously.
- Analyzing and publishing the survey „Dance and drugs 03“. Carried out by: DROGMEM o.s. in cooperation with NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Finalizing the minimal set of questions for the whole population and school surveys on drug use. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.

More information on development of the indicator „Drug use in the population“ in the Czech Republic is available on <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/27/>.

6.1.2 Prevalence estimates of problematic drug use

- Analysis of a national survey by the Capture-Recapture method with the files from the IHIS register of inpatients, Prague HS and NPC register of treatment demand. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2006.
- Prevalence estimate carried out by the multiplication method and utilizing data from low-threshold programs. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005, 1. half of 2006.

More information on development of the indicator „Prevalence of problematic drug use“ in the Czech Republic is available on <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/31/>.

6.1.3 Drug related infectious diseases

- Maintaining a register of HIV-positive persons and a register of AIDS cases with intravenous application of drugs being the probable transmission route. Carried out by: National reference lab for AIDS, NPHI in Prague. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Aggregated register of persons tested for HIV antibodies with stated reasons for the test. Carried out by: National reference lab for AIDS, NPHI in Prague. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Maintaining a register of recorded cases of infectious hepatitis among intravenous drug users within the register of recorded infectious diseases (so called EPIDAT). Carried out by: Hygienic service and NPHI Prague. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- A publication summarizing results of the main part of the survey „Seroprevalence of VHC among intravenous drug users“. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Ongoing implementation of prospective parts of the survey „Seroprevalence of VHC among intravenous drug users“. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Analyzing results of infectious diseases tests in the low-threshold facilities in 2003. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Analyzing results of infectious diseases tests among drug users in prisons. Carried out by: General Directorate of the Prison Service in cooperation with NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Mapping the testing of infectious diseases among drug users in treatment programs. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 2. half of 2005
- Analyzing data on exchange program and other activities in the field of infection prevention and harm reduction in the CR from the final reports of programs. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

More information on development of the indicator „Infections related to drug use“ in the Czech Republic is available on <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/33/>.

6.1.4 Drug related deaths and mortality of drug users

- Gathering and analyzing data on drug related deaths from a special register of drug related deaths from 14 forensic medicine centers in the CR. Carried out by: NMC in cooperation with AFMT CMA JEP. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Developing a web register of dissected persons in the forensic medicine centers in the CR. Carried out by: MH CR in cooperation with NMC group „Drug related deaths“. Deadline: by the end of 2006.
- Dissemination of methodology „Drug related deaths“ to departments of forensic medicine, toxicology, police and other expert public. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Analyzing a national retrospective prospective survey of drug users mortality. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.

More information on development of the indicator „Drug related deaths and mortality of drug users“ in the Czech Republic is available on <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/34/>.

6.1.5 Drug related treatment demand

- Maintaining registers of drug users – treatment applicants, that is both first-time applications and all applications for treatment. Carried out by: Prague HS. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Maintaining a register of released and deceased in in-patient psychiatric facilities due to problems related to alcohol and other NPS. Carried out by: IHIS. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Maintaining a national register of users of prescribed substitution substances. Carried out by: IHIS. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Maintaining a register of patients (users of alcohol and other NPS) registered in outpatient health care facilities. Carried out by: IHIS. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Methodological support to the users of FreeBase database (registry of clients and services in the low-threshold centers - for more information see: <http://freebase.drogy-info.cz/>). Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Delivering 2 school workshops for the FreeBase users and for organizations reporting to the register of drug users applying for treatment. Carried out by: NMC in cooperation with Prague HS. Deadline: 1 workshop in 2005, 1 workshop in 2006.
- Development of FreeBase output reports formats for all requests of the register of treatment applicants of the Prague HS and for program final reports in the grant proceedings. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Gathering of data on treatment demand in prisons. Carried out by: General Directorate of Prison Service and Prague HS in cooperation with NMC group „Drug related treatment demand“. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

More information on development of the indicator „Drug related treatment demand“ in the Czech Republic is available on <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/32/>.

6.2 Gathering and analysis of other data

6.2.1 Qualitative data

- Analyzing the pilot round of gathering of qualitative data. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: by May 31, 2005.
- Gathering and analysis of qualitative data (drug users – managed interviews, service providers – focus groups). Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

6.2.2 Early warning system for new synthetic drugs - EWS

- Approval of EWS by the Government Board for Drug Enforcement Policy Coordination. Material preparation: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Activities of the EWS network and its gradual activation. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

6.2.3 Monitoring of drug use in the national minorities

- Monitoring of drug use in the Roma community via field workers and Roma advisors. Carried out by: NMC in cooperation with NGOs active in this field and in cooperation with the Government Council for Roma issues. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

6.3 Evaluation of interventions

6.3.1 Evaluation and quality of drug services

- Finalizing of the list of interventions for various types of drug services and their definitions. Finalizing of a minimum evaluation set for service providers (reports of clients, services, financial indicators). Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Development of a Czech pool of evaluation tools available on www.drogy-info.cz. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.

6.3.2 Evaluation of drug enforcement interventions and programs implemented in the Central Bohemian Region

- Gathering of data on both supply and demand reduction (epidemiological data, performance data of services and institutions) for the Central Bohemian Region. Carried out by: ITI consulting, NMC – expert cooperation. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006. For more information see: <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/articleview/805/1/60/>.

6.3.3 Evaluation of a primary prevention community program

- Evaluation of a primary prevention community program of OS Prev-centrum Prague. Carried out by: Prev-centrum and Institute of Psychology of the AS CR, NMC – expert cooperation. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006. For more information see <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/articleview/781/1/60/>.

6.3.4 Substitution therapy survey – addictions to opiates and HIV/AIDS

- Gathering of data in participation centers (Prague Apolinář, Prague Drop-In, Brno and Ústí nad Labem). Carried out by: NMC in cooperation with substitution centers. Deadline: continuously in 2005.

6.3.5 Evaluation of prevention on the dance scene

- Survey preparation stage, establishing of a research team, development of tools and detailed methodology, selection and training of field interviewers. Carried out by: NMC in cooperation with Drogmem OS. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006 (implementation depends on approval of the research project by the Czech government). For more information see: <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/articleview/1051/1/60/>.

6.3.6 EDDRA (Exchange on Drug Demand Reduction Action)

- Placing good practice projects to the EDDRA EMCDDA database. Contacting service providers and asking for their participation in EDDRA. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

6.3.7 Survey of drug use costs to the society

- Survey methodology development, survey protocol preparation. Carried out by: NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.

6.3.8 Evaluation of the National strategy for drug enforcement policy in the Czech Republic for 2005 - 2009

- Evaluation methodology development, selection of methods and tools according to selected process and result indicators in relation to the Strategy Action plans. Carried out by: NMC in cooperation with sRVKPP. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Ongoing evaluation of the Strategy. Carried out by: NMC in cooperation with sRVKPP. Deadline: 1. half of 2006.

6.4 Drug supply reduction data (criminal law sector)

- Ongoing analysis of data on the links between committed crimes and use of individual types of narcotic and psychotropic substances (NPS). Carried out by: Probation and mediation service. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.
- Implementation of changes in the criminal statistics of public prosecution offices and courts allowing to classify recorded charges, indictments and judgments for drug related crimes by individual types of NPS. Carried out by: Ministry of Justice in cooperation with NMC. Deadline: January 2005.
- Survey of the consumption of illicit drugs in the territory of the Czech Republic, estimation of illegal proceeds related to drug abuse. Carried out by: Czech Statistical Office in cooperation with NMC. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Analysis of data on the purity of confiscated drugs in the CR. Carried out by: NPC in cooperation with NMC. Deadline: in the 1. half of 2005 (for 2004), and in the 1. half of 2006 (for 2005).

7 Dissemination of information

Dissemination of information on the drug situation is the responsibility of NMC.

7.1 Publications

- Annual report on drugs in the Czech Republic in 2004 and 2005. Deadline: by October 30 of the following year.
- ESPAD: results of the ESPAD school questionnaire survey in 1995-2003, trends in use, availability, attitudes to drugs, regional differences. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Dance and drugs 03: results of a questionnaire survey carried out among the users of dance drugs in 2003, drug use, attitudes, risk factors, health problems, comparisons with previous surveys in the CR, international comparisons. Deadline: 1. half of 2005.
- Seroprevalence of VHC among intravenous drug users: an analysis of the survey Seroprevalence of VHC among intravenous drug users with emphasis on significant risk factors, participation in exchange programs. Deadline: by the end of 2005.
- Translations of important publications on drug epidemiology and drug enforcement policy and original work in that field. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

7.2 „Focusing on drugs“ periodical

Six monothematic issues will be published each year in 2005 and 2006. One issue in each year is a summary of the drug situation in the previous year. The first issue in 2005 shall focus on legal drugs – alcohol and tobacco. Another issue in 2005 shall focus on experimental use of cannabis and ecstasy. The publishing plan of the Focusing on drugs periodical is created on an ongoing basis according to the current situation on the drug scene and aims at informing expert public. The database of customers covers around 1500 institutions, experts, state administration authorities and local governments.

For more information see: <http://www.drogy-info.cz/article/archive/15/>.

7.3 NMC web presentation

This is a web portal www.drogy-info.cz on legal and illicit drugs. Information will be updated, in particular „help maps“ and „calendars of events“. Implementation: NMC. Deadline: continuously in 2005 and 2006.

8 Involvement in EMCDDA activities

These are regular activities of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The NMC is responsible for providing data for the CR and coordinating Czech experts involved in EMCDDA activities.

8.1 Meeting of heads of monitoring centers

Meeting of heads of monitoring centers (REITOX FPs): participation of heads of NMC, 3 meetings in 2005: 23. - 25.2., 18. – 20.5., 16. – 18.11. Dates for 2006 are not known yet.

8.2 EMCDDA task groups

These are the regular task groups established and organized by EMCDDA aiming at improving the quality and harmonize data gathering in individual member states and individual areas.

Task group	CR representatives
Legal correspondents	Ondřej Petroš, NMC
Drug related treatment demand	Běla Studničková M.D., Prague HS
Drug related infectious diseases	Blanka Korčíšová, NMC
Estimates of prevalence of problematic drug use	Viktor Mravčík M.D., NMC
Population studies	Pavla Lejčková, NMC
EMCDDA managers	Lenka Miovská, NMC

EWS correspondents	PharmDr. Magdalena Šustková, 3. MS CU Prague
Drug related deaths and mortality	Viktor Mravčík M.D., NMC
Criminal law sector data	Ondřej Petroš, NMC

EMCDDA also organizes „ad hoc“ working meetings and invites experts from selected countries to take part.

The dates of neither the regular task group meeting nor the „ad hoc“ task group meetings have been set for 2005 and 2006 so far.

8.3 Mandatory reporting to EMCDDA

- Updating of standard statistical tables and structures questionnaires for the previous year. Deadline: mid-September of the following year.
- Annual report on drugs in the Czech Republic. Deadline: end of October of the following year.
- Report on the progress of implementation of key epidemiological indicators, EWS, information systems (EDDRA and others). Deadline: end of January of the following year.