

**“BEYOND 2008” REGIONAL CONSULTATION
FOR EUROPEAN UNION AND EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION**

INVITATION

The Hungarian Association on Addictions (HAA) hereby invites you to the regional consultation forum initiated by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs. The aim of the event is to collect the experience and ideas of NGOs globally and to develop new and improved arrangements for engaging civil society in the planning of future policies, strategies and practice in response to drug related problems. The experience and ideas collected at nine regional consultations will be brought together to inform the NGO Forum which will be held in Vienna in July 2008. From this event, the unified NGO contribution to the UNGASS review will be submitted to the CND and UNODC to aid examination of progress in meeting the targets set in 1998, to develop more effective partnerships for the future and to propose high order principles as a guide for future deliberations on drug control.

Date: 24-25 January 2008

Location: Alfa Art Hotel, Budapest, Hungary

Regional Organizing Committee: The European consultation is organized by the Hungarian Association on Addictions in cooperation with the International Drug Policy Consortium and San Patrignano Community from Italy.

Registration:

Participation in the consultation is by invitation only. NGOs selected are intended to be broadly representative of the interventions/activities undertaken in response to drug related problems in the region. Therefore in Europe we expect the participation of two NGOs from each country¹: one local umbrella organization and one non-umbrella NGO being active in the field of drug affairs. Furthermore international NGOs with European focus will also be invited.

In order to ensure the broad balance of perspectives a two-tier registration system is applied. Interested participants are kindly asked to **complete the attached registration form and send it to the Regional Organizing Committee by November 10th 2007**. The regional organizing committee will select participants according to the criteria above (reflecting the region's ethnic diversity and representing the range of interventions available). If two NGOs register from the same country with similar background selection will be based on the order of registration.

Conditions

Your representative should be fluent in English and be able to fully contribute to discussion of the questions posed at the consultation.

Interested participants are kindly requested to complete the NGO questionnaire available at www.vngoc.org by following the link to “Beyond 2008”. A paper version of the questionnaire can be downloaded or sent to you if required.

Participation in the Beyond 2008 regional consultation forum is free of charge. However participants are requested to cover their local and international travel costs as well as accommodation expenses. Meals, conference facilities and social program will be secured by HAA.²

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¹ Countries falling under the European Union and European Free Trade Association regional consultation are the ones belonging to the European Economic Area, i.e. the EU27+Iceland, Norway, Switzerland

² Taking into account the average price of a single room (55€) and a low-fair flight to Budapest (cc. 200€) the minimum budget/participant is around 340€.

Program:

The two day meeting is organized around three main objectives, namely:

Objective 1: The NGO Questionnaire: The aim is to highlight NGO achievements in the field of drug control, with emphasis on contributions to the 1998 UNGASS Action Plan, in areas such as policy, community engagement, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. That is why it is so important to fill in the questionnaire mentioned previously.

Objective 2: Better engagement / collaborative mechanisms: The aim is to review best practices related to collaboration mechanisms among NGOs, governments and UN agencies in various fields, and to propose new and improved ways of working with the UNODC and CND.

Objective 3: Key principles for future responses to drug problem: The aim is to adopt a series of high-order principles, drawn from the Conventions and their commentaries, to propose to UNODC and CND in order to guide future deliberations on drug policy

Background material is attached to this document.