

EUROPEAN MONITORING CENTRE FOR DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION

Rua da Cruz de Santa Apolónia 23-25
P- 1100 Lisboa
Tel.: +351 1 811 30 00
Fax: +351 1 813 17 11

Press Release

Contact: Kathy Robertson, Gregor Burkhardt

EUROPEAN MONITORING CENTRE ORGANISES FIRST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON THE EVALUATION OF DRUG PREVENTION

Over 80 high-level experts working in the field of drug prevention in the European Union are meeting in Lisbon from 12 to 14 March 1997 to examine the scientific evaluation of drug prevention programmes in the EU Member States and beyond.

The aim of the Conference, the first of its kind in Europe to focus exclusively on this theme, will be to promote evaluation as a means of achieving higher quality standards and control in drug prevention activities. The Conference responds to the low level and extent of scientific evaluation of prevention in Europe.

Among those attending the event will be Father Vítor Feytor Pinto, Chairman of the EMCDDA's Management Board, Mr. Georges Estievenart, Director of the EMCDDA, as well as representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA) and the European Commission.

A theoretical introduction and presentation of different aspects of the evaluation of prevention will be followed by three workshops examining a set of draft *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Drug Prevention*, drawn up by the EMCDDA in 1996. The aim of this manual, which is currently being tested in a feasibility phase involving some 20 projects around Europe, is to offer practical advice on how to ensure optimal quality and good practice in the evaluation of drug prevention activities. Other workshops will look at how these *Guidelines* may be used in different settings, such as the community, schools, youth sub-cultures and the mass media. The final version of the *Guidelines* will be published in the Summer of 1997.

The participants at the Conference will include programme-planners in the area of drug prevention, researchers, scientists involved in evaluating programme results and decision-makers responsible for funding and evaluating projects.

Evaluating prevention will facilitate communication on experiences and results, foster a transfer of knowledge and contribute to improving the quality of prevention. In this area, the EMCDDA aims to facilitate evaluation in a simple and understandable way, promote a concept of prevention where the measurement of results is routine and, last but not least, prove that prevention works.

Wednesday 12 March -	Opening Session 10.³⁰-11³⁰	Open to the press
Friday 14 March -	Closing session 11.¹⁵-13.⁰⁰	Open to the press