



NEWS RELEASE from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

LATEST ON THE DRUG PROBLEM ACROSS EUROPE

2003 Annual reports from the EU drugs agency

- o **Drug facts, figures and analyses: across Europe and by country**
- o **Latest trends and social, legal and political responses**
- o **Special issues: young people; social exclusion; public expenditure; infectious diseases; drug strategies**

(8.10.2003 LISBON) Key issues on drugs in Europe are addressed in the **2003 Annual reports** out soon from the Lisbon-based **EU** drugs agency, the **EMCDDA**.

- o **Launch date: Wednesday 22 October**
- o **Time: 10H00 (Strasbourg time)**
- o **Venue: Press Briefing Room (LOW N-1/201), European Parliament Building, Allée du Printemps, 67070 Strasbourg, France.**

As in 2002, the EMCDDA is publishing two reports this year presenting overall trends and responses. The **Annual report 2003: the state of the drugs problem in the European Union and Norway** (available in the 11 EU languages + Norwegian) carries special issues on drug and alcohol use among young people; social exclusion and reintegration; and public expenditure in the area of demand reduction.

The **Annual report 2003: the state of the drugs problem in the acceding and candidate countries to the European Union** (available in English) offers three selected issues: drug and alcohol use among young people; drug-related infectious diseases; and national drug strategies.

Expanded online versions of the reports will appear simultaneously on dedicated websites: <http://annualreport.emcdda.eu.int> and <http://candidates.emcdda.eu.int>. These offer full downloadable PDF versions of the reports; news releases; and a wealth of additional material and statistics complementing and further illustrating the content of the printed versions.

The **Annual reports** and news releases (in 12 languages) will go online at **10H00 (Strasbourg time)**. For access to news releases see http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/news_media/newsrelease.cfm

- o **Overview release: Offering key points on the latest trends and responses in the EU and Norway**
- o **Special focus release: Highlights from the acceding and candidate countries report**
- o **Special issue release: Drug and alcohol use among young people**

Helpdesks will operate at the **EMCDDA** (Lisbon) on the day of the launch to answer journalists' questions (Tel: 351 218 11 30 00). Meanwhile **National focal points** will be offering the same service. Full contact details can be found at http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/news_media.shtml. **National reports** from the above countries will also be downloadable from http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/publications/national_reports.shtml

This year the **EMCDDA** celebrates its 10th anniversary (1993 founding regulation). Register on the **EMCDDA** homepage for regular news at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int/infopoint/register.cfm>