



FACT SHEET from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

EMCDDA PROMOTION: NEW ONLINE POOL OF NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION Drugs agency launches 'Country situation summaries'

(13.7.2004, LISBON) 'Country situation summaries' are a new feature launched by the **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** on its website today, offering a fresh look at national drug data in Europe.

These concise overviews are based on national reports and standard tables on the drug situation, produced by the national focal points of the agency's Reitox network. Maps of the enlarged European Union and of individual countries help illustrate data.

Summaries are now downloadable for the **new EU Member States** as well as for **Greece**, which served as a blueprint. In October, they will be available for the remaining Member States and Norway. Summaries are also foreseen for the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) and other EU neighbours.

Each country situation summary is broken down into 12 categories covering the domains of the five EMCDDA epidemiological indicators (see 1–5 below) plus additional information on responses to the drug problem, drug-related crime, laws and policies:

1. Drug use among the general population (and young people)
2. Problem drug use
3. Drug-related infectious diseases
4. Drug-related deaths and mortality of drug users
5. Demand for drug treatment
6. Prevention
7. Treatment responses
8. Harm-reduction responses
9. Drug markets and drug-related offences
10. National drug laws
11. National drug strategies
12. Coordination mechanisms in the drugs field

The main purpose of the summaries is not to compare data across Member States – possible through other EMCDDA outputs – but to provide policy-makers, researchers, journalists and the general public with a brief synopsis of up-to-date data, trends and core characteristics of the state of the national drug problem and responses to it. The summaries also include selected links, facilitating access to other national information sources.

All country situation summaries were produced by the EMCDDA in collaboration with the Reitox focal points, which are briefly presented on each country page along with basic socio-demographic information.

For more see <http://profiles.emcdda.eu.int>