



FACT SHEET from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS

Profile: Wolfgang Götz, Director EMCDDA

(1.5.2005) Wolfgang Götz (Germany) has a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Freiburg and lecturing qualifications in macroeconomics, management and accounting. For more than 18 years of his 28-year career, he has managed European and international programmes, projects and teams in the field of information.

Since 1985, as a civil servant of the German state of Baden-Württemberg, Mr Götz has been seconded to international organisations. His overseas experience began in West Africa, where he was EU project leader managing field operations, statistical surveys and the analysis and dissemination of their results. He also headed a regional project supporting West African nations in the standardisation of their foreign trade and customs statistics and procedures. At the same time he supervised the development of a central information system holding data from the 16 members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

In 1994, Mr Götz took up employment with Eurostat in Luxembourg where he was instrumental in evaluating the statistical practices and requirements of the Central and East European Countries (CEECs). Here he conceived, launched and supervised measures to strengthen and standardise the statistical information systems and services in these countries and initiated the first systematic dataflow from the CEECs to Eurostat.

In December 1996, Mr Götz joined the EMCDDA to head the agency's information department where he oversaw the development of information and communication strategies covering multilingual publishing, media relations, informatics and new media and public information. From February 2001 until his election to the post of Director on 19 April 2005 ⁽¹⁾, he was responsible for 'Reitox and Enlargement', where he played a central role with Member States in coordinating EMCDDA data-collection processes and preparing the agency for the entry of 10 new countries in 2004.

Mr Götz is fluent in German (mother tongue), English and French.

⁽¹⁾ See also news release No 4/2005 at <http://www.emcdda.eu.int/?nnodeid=875> (DE, EN, FR, PT).



'It is with great satisfaction and motivation that I take up the post of Director of the EMCDDA as the agency enters its second decade and embarks on an exciting new phase in its life. The Centre has achieved a great deal over the last 10 years, establishing the all-important networks, mechanisms and tools to gather sound and comparable drug data across the European Union. But we now need to build on these foundations. Among my top priorities will be to safeguard and enhance the scientific quality of our outputs, demonstrate scientific independence and boost our reputation as the European centre of excellence in the drug information field. Our job is not to dictate drug policy but to provide the evidence necessary for informed decision-making. Sound information is the key to an effective strategy on drugs. This is our core business.'

Wolfgang Götz, Director, EMCDDA