



www.emcdda.eu.int

Overview

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the hub of drug-related information in the European Union. Its role is to gather, analyse and disseminate 'objective, reliable and comparable information' on drugs and drug addiction and, in doing so, provide its audiences with a sound and evidence-based picture of the drug phenomenon at European level.

Among the Centre's target groups are policy-makers who use this information to help formulate coherent national and Community drug strategies. Also served are professionals and researchers working in the drugs field and, more broadly, the European media and general public.

One of the agency's key aims is to render drug information more comparable across Europe. This allows countries to gauge how they fit into the wider European picture and examine common problems and responses to drugs. To this end, the Centre has developed methods and tools for harmonising data and helping to assess how the EU Strategy and Action Plan on Drugs (2000–2004) are being implemented. Its *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union and Norway* is a fruit of these efforts, providing a yearly overview of the latest situation and trends. Since 2002, this report has been complemented by a *Report on the drug situation in the candidate CEECs*.

The Centre obtains information primarily from the 'Reitox network', a group of focal points in each of the 15 EU Member States, Norway, the 13 candidate countries to the EU and at the European Commission. But while the EMCDDA is primarily Europe-focused, it has increasing ties with countries further afield, forging links with organisations in other world regions.

The EMCDDA works on the assumption that sound information is the key to an effective strategy on drugs. Although the Centre cannot propose any kind of policy model, it is now making a clear impact on decision-making through its analyses, instruments and standards.

EMCDDA, your reference point on drugs in Europe

Reitox stands for the European information network on drugs and drug addiction.

Formerly the network was composed of focal points from the EU Member States, Norway and the European Commission. Since 2002, in the context of enlargement, focal points from the 13 candidate countries to the EU have been participating in Reitox meetings and are progressively involved in the EMCDDA work programme. Among others, they provide the agency with national data and reports.

Reitox focal points <http://www.emcdda.eu.int/partners/nfp.shtml>

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Candidate countries' focal points:
[http://www.emcdda.eu.int/partners/
candidates_focalpoints.shtml](http://www.emcdda.eu.int/partners/candidates_focalpoints.shtml)

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