General report of activities 2000

E.M.C.D.D.A.

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

This report is also available in French and German.
Translations were made by the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union.

Information on the EMCDDA can be found on its web site **(http://www.emcdda.org)**.

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.
It can be accessed through the Europa server (http://europa.eu.int).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2001

ISBN 92-9168-108-3

Printed in Italy

Contents

Foreword

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) has great pleasure in presenting its sixth *General report of activities* to the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the Member States, following its adoption by the Centre's Management Board on 12 January 2001.

The report provides a retrospective account of the EMCDDA's activities and accomplishments in 2000 at the conclusion of its second three-year work programme (1998–2000) and six years after its establishment in Lisbon.

The year 2000 was a special year for the Centre in which evaluation and future planning were at the forefront. In January, the results of an evaluation of the agency by private consultants in 1999 were examined and, in March, the Management Board put measures in place to address the issues raised. Recognising the need for medium-term planning for the further development of the EMCDDA, the Board set up two working parties on medium-term perspectives and on enlargement. It also requested the Director to present concrete proposals for the internal reform of the Centre. The medium-term perspectives document and the internal reform plan were presented to the Management Board in September 2000 and given the green light for implementation.

A significant political landmark in 2000 was the endorsement of the new EU action plan on drugs (2000–04) at the European Summit of Santa Maria da Feira in June. The action plan cites information and evaluation as preconditions for effective implementation, follow-up and assessment of EU and Member States' drug strategies and thereby confirms the importance of the work being carried out by the EMCDDA. It also urges Member States, in cooperation with the EMCDDA, to enhance their efforts to provide reliable and comparable information on key epidemiological indicators.

The follow-up to the external evaluation and the targets set out in the EU action plan are basic principles underlying the EMCDDA's 2001–03 work programme.

I now hand over the chair of the Management Board to the UK member, Mike Trace, after three years of chairmanship and three years of vice-chairmanship. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the colleagues on the Management Board and the Bureau, the Director and staff of the Centre as well as the national focal point staff and members of the Scientific Committee who have supported me over the years. The last three years, with the evaluation and internal reform, have been demanding and a high level of commitment was necessary to prepare the EMCDDA for its future tasks. I am confident that on the basis of the work undertaken in the context of the reform, the EMCDDA will be able to rise to these challenges and wish it every success.

Franz J. Bindert
Chairman of the EMCDDA Management Board
January 2001

Introduction

Activity in 2000 concentrated on completing the EMCDDA's second three-year work programme (1998–2000). Alongside this, the EMCDDA staff worked intensively on taking stock of the agency's progress to date and on shaping its future direction. Important drug-policy developments during the course of the year also had a direct impact on the agency's remit and activities.

Before moving on, I would like to spend a few moments remembering our dear colleague, Roger Lewis, who tragically passed away in April and whose sudden loss came as a shock to us all. Roger joined the EMCDDA on 1 July 1998 as Head of the Reitox Coordination Department and was a cherished member of our team. We will fondly remember him for his humanity and exuberance as well as his generosity and very special brand of humour and expression. The results of his valuable work in setting the Reitox network on a secure footing are much in evidence today. Posthumously he was awarded the United Nations Vienna Civil Society Award in December in recognition of his contribution to the drugs field and to civil society in general.

The results of the external evaluation of the agency were delivered in January 2000 and made specific recommendations for the improvement of the Centre's organisation, working methods and outputs. The EMCDDA Management Board met in March 2000 and decided on the follow-up action to be taken in the light of these proposals. This included setting up two working parties — one to consider the medium-term perspectives and objectives of the EMCDDA and the Reitox network, and one to consider an enlargement strategy for the future participation of the candidate countries in the Centre's activities. Other immediate actions to be undertaken were: developing new rules of procedure for the Management Board and a new working framework for the Scientific Committee; defining an improvement strategy for the Reitox network; and drawing up an internal reform plan.

The reform plan, put together after much internal reflection and discussion, defines radical changes in the Centre's working methods. These changes include project-based planning and activity-based budgeting and management, and an improved approach to quality management. This plan was approved by the Management Board in September and will be implemented in 2001.

Besides this, new responsibilities were conferred to the agency as a consequence of developments in EU drugs policy. The EU action plan on drugs, which transposes the EU drugs strategy (2000–04) into concrete action, was endorsed at the European Council of Santa Maria da Feira in June. Now that information and evaluation have been recognised in the plan as a key to success, the agency faces the challenge of providing policy-makers with instruments to measure the impact of action on the drug phenomenon as well as a solid knowledge base for informed drug-policy planning. The plan also paves the way for Member States to adopt and implement each of the EMCDDA's five key epidemiological indicators which will enable countries to measure the extent and effects of drug use in a harmonised way.

Considerable effort was expended during the year in drawing all the above elements together in a draft triennial work programme (2001–03). This reflects the new priorities of the action plan and takes into account the new structure and working methods of the agency. The new work programme is structured around four key aspects: monitoring the drug phenomenon in the EU; monitoring responses to the drug phenomenon; implementing the 1997 joint action on new synthetic drugs; and preparing tools for policy assessment and evaluation.

The agency's target groups were redefined in the course of the year — policy-makers are now designated as the primary audience for the findings and outputs of the agency. As a result, the agency drew up a new communication and dissemination strategy that will ensure that their information needs are served.

The agency's *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union* is now a well-recognised reference tool in the drugs field. In 2000, special effort was made to distil the findings into a more concise report better suited to its target audience. The launch, held in Brussels at the Spokesman's Service of the European Commission was a great success. It was also a pleasure to be able to make a special presentation of the report to the European Parliament's Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs, prior to its official launch and also to present to the Committee the EMCDDA reform plan and medium-term perspectives which were positively received.

The Reitox network, as ever, played a crucial role in the agency's work in 2000 via the execution of a number of 'core tasks' and special projects. Progress was achieved on a two-way discussion process and the exchange of information between the Centre and the network, as well as on the further involvement of the Reitox focal points in general EMCDDA work programming. Work focused on the qualitative aspects of data and reporting and a more structured system was set in place with common criteria and a clear feedback mechanism.

In the context of the follow-up action to the external evaluation, I was requested by the Management Board to conduct an analysis of the situation of the Reitox network — on the needs of the network, the improvements required and the future actions to be carried out. This initial analysis concluded that an in-depth external evaluation was required which has now been agreed on in principle. A steering committee has been set up to prepare the terms of reference for such an evaluation and to accompany the process.

In spite of the additional tasks resulting from the evaluation of the agency, the pace of work and output in the drugs domain did not slacken.

In the epidemiological field, real progress was made on preparing the ground for implementation in the Member States of five comparable key epidemiological indicators by testing the draft guidelines and tools. A meeting organised in Lisbon with the principal players in international drugs work advanced the task of identifying a core set of harmonised indicators in the epidemiology field at international level with the emergence of the so-called 'Lisbon consensus document'.

Great strides were made in 2000 in the area of qualitative research — for which, in many countries, there is no tradition in the drugs field. In July, the Centre published a work in the *Scientific Monograph* series on the subject, entitled 'Understanding and responding to drug use: the role of qualitative research'.

In the new synthetic drugs field, the agility and effectiveness of the early-warning system and the tight cooperation between EMCDDA and Europol was demon-

strated in July when preventive warnings were issued through national networks in the Member States in response to the emergence of 'ecstasy' tablets containing very high doses of MDMA. The agency's risk-assessment work remained high on the political agenda with two further substances, ketamine and GHB, formally referred to the agency and Europol for risk assessment by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council in April (under the terms of the 1997 joint action on new synthetic drugs).

In the demand-reduction field, focus on evaluation continued with new studies in the field of treatment, outreach work and on-site testing of synthetic drugs. Training sessions on how to evaluate drug-prevention programmes were organised in cooperation with Member States. The agency firmly believes that only when such programmes are routinely evaluated can we be sure that money used to tackle the drug problem is well spent.

Beyond the four walls of the EMCDDA, cooperation continued with the agency's six priority international partners in 2000. It was a great pleasure for me to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in March with the World Health Organisation through an exchange of letters with Mr Marc Danzon, the Director of the WHO regional office for Europe. Discussions are now underway with the WHO on joint projects such as programmes relating to drug abuse in prisons. In July, I was pleased to sign an MOU with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organisation of American States (CICAD-OAS). I have also taken up contact with the rest of our priority partners — Europol, Interpol and the World Customs Organisation — with a view to agreeing the contents of other MOUs.

Significant advances have also been made with regard to cooperation with the central and east European countries (CEECs). As part of the post-evaluation action, an enlargement strategy was drawn up and adopted by the Management Board in September. The preparation phase includes a Phare–EMCDDA technical assistance project, developed with the aim of preparing the candidate countries of central and eastern Europe to take part in the activities of the agency. The project was approved in December by the Commission and is due to commence in February 2001.

At the end of September, the Council of the EU approved the participation of Norway in EMCDDA activities. I am delighted to welcome Norway on board and look forward to working together from 2001.

The agency stands at the threshold of a new era — a new chairman, a new Bureau, a new triennial work programme to be set in motion and a new organisational structure to be put in place. At this point I would like to thank Franz J. Bindert, the outgoing chairman of our Management Board, for his dedication to the agency over the last three years and the inspiration and support he has provided to us all.

Although the year 2000 was demanding for the agency and its staff, considerable progress has been made and we can now look forward to an exciting future and an improved infrastructure within which to carry out our activities. I take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the results achieved.

Georges Estievenart
Executive Director, EMCDDA
January 2001

EMCDDA 1998–2000 work programme

Priority areas as listed in the annex to the EMCDDA founding Regulation (EEC) No 302/93	Tasks as listed in Article 2 of the EMCDDA founding regulation	Priority objectives as listed in the EMCDDA 1998–2000 work programme
Priority area 1: Demand and reduction of the demand for drugs *Consolidating and enhancing achievements*	**A. Collection and analysis of existing data**	**Priority objective 1** **Consolidating and improving the Centre's epidemiological and demand-reduction information systems on the basis of agreed sets of core data** (a) Current trends and patterns: monitoring traditional illicit drugs (b) New trends: setting up and developing a mechanism for the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new synthetic drugs
		Priority objective 2 **Consolidating and enhancing the Reitox network in accordance with the decisions taken by the EMCDDA Management Board**
	B. Improvement of data-comparison methods	**Priority objective 3** **Improving and developing reliable and comparable methods, data systems and key indicators**
	C. Dissemination of data	**Priority objective 4** **Improving the quality of the *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union*, the visibility of the work of the EMCDDA and the Reitox network and the dissemination of the information collected and produced by the EMCDDA**
	D. Cooperation with European and international bodies and organisations and with non-Community countries	**Priority objective 5** **Developing structured cooperation with the EMCDDA's international partners and ensuring synergies and complementarity with EU programmes and activities, avoiding any duplication of work**
Priority area 2: National and Community strategies and policies (with special emphasis on international, bilateral and Community policies, action plans, legislation, activities and agreements) *Developing achievements*	**A. Collection and analysis of existing data**	**Priority objective 6** **Developing tools and methodologies for comparing interventions, legislation, strategies and policies in the EU (including cost-effectiveness evaluation)**

Chapter 1

Epidemiology

In 2000, the EMCDDA's work in epidemiology focused on preparing the ground for implementing in the Member States five comparable key epidemiological indicators of the prevalence and adverse health consequences of drug use, and on continuing to collect, analyse and synthesise data on drugs and drug use, their consequences and correlates. This related principally to priority objectives 1, 2, and 3 of the 1998–2000 work programme.

Major tasks included: producing and testing recommended draft tools and guidelines to improve comparability of core data on the five key indicators; synthesising epidemiological information for the Centre's Annual report; and managing projects or networks linked to the key indicators or to complementary topics (such as emerging trends, modelling incidence and spread of drug use, sociological and economic analysis of drug markets, mapping of social exclusion, minorities and drugs). Output included: publication of a scientific monograph on qualitative research; complementary statistical tables of core epidemiological data published on the web; and an updated web site on qualitative research (QED).

Overview of how the activities described in this chapter relate to the priority objectives of the 1998–2000 work programme

Priority objective 1

Consolidating and improving the Centre's epidemiological and demand-reduction information systems on the basis of agreed sets of core data

(a) Current trends and patterns: monitoring traditional illicit drugs

Epidemiological information systems

Priority objective 2

Consolidating and enhancing the Reitox network in accordance with the decisions taken by the EMCDDA Management Board

Reitox support projects

Priority objective 3

Improving and developing reliable and comparable methods, data systems and key indicators

Epidemiological key indicators

Priority objective 5

Developing structured cooperation with the EMCDDA's international partners and ensuring synergies and complementarity with EU programmes and activities, avoiding any duplication of work

Cooperation in the field of epidemiology

Epidemiological information systems

In 2000, the EMCDDA's work in this area included: collecting and synthesising epidemiological data for the Centre's 2000 Annual report; developing complementary statistical tables of core epidemiological data for web publication; consolidating networks of researchers to improve collection, analysis and exchange of qualitative and quantitative information; and carrying out projects to increase policy relevance through data analysis.

Collecting and analysing data for decision-makers

Data collection and analysis for the EMCDDA's 2000 Annual report

The main task involved synthesising epidemiological information from the Reitox national focal points (NFPs) and other sources on: the extent, characteristics and trends of drug use; on major health and social consequences and correlates; and on illicit drug markets and drug availability. A section on the special topic of women drug users and their children was prepared, and complementary statistical tables of core epidemiological data for the 15 Member States were published on the EMCDDA's web site to coincide with the launch of the 2000 Annual report.

Emerging trends in drug use and qualitative research on drug-use patterns

Work on emerging trends aimed at a more focused and practical approach to collecting and analysing information. A feasibility study was carried out of the youth media as an information source testing a prototype 'Emerging trends bulletin' for collecting, disseminating and confirming recent information, in this case on cocaine and crack (special topic for the 2001 Annual report). Involving France, Italy and the UK, the study included strengthening links with existing networks — telephone helplines (European Foundation of Drug Helplines), toxicologists, outreach workers — analysing data from school surveys, and a small expert meeting to review selected trends and the potential value of the bulletin.

The EMCDDA's work on qualitative research was consolidated in 2000 through updating the QED web site http://www.qed.org.uk (bibliography, research inventories and overviews) and the continued animation of a network of qualitative researchers. The EMCDDA's *Scientific Monograph* series, No 4: 'Understanding and responding to drug use: the role of qualitative research' was published in July. An *Insights* publication on risk behaviours and health was prepared and will be published in 2001.

Under the joint action on new synthetic drugs, epidemiological and social data were collected and analysed for the risk assessment of GHB and ketamine.

Dynamic modelling of drug use, its spread, consequences and costs

A study was completed on the incidence of problem drug use and latency time to treatment. Funding from the European Commission's targeted socioeconomic research (TSER) programme enabled the Centre to consolidate work with research networks of modellers on prevalence and incidence methodology, on geographical and temporal diffusion of drug use, and on economic modelling, social costs and cost-effectiveness and drug markets (see also below). Four meetings were held during the year. Progress reports are available and a synthesis of the results will be completed in 2001. EMCDDA's *Scientific Monograph* series, No 6: 'Modelling drug use: methods to quantify and understand hidden processes' was completed and will be published in early 2001.

Drugs and social exclusion, focusing on minorities

A project — focusing on minorities — was completed to map available information on social exclusion and drugs. Two expert meetings were held, one funded by the European Commission's Research DG. The results are scheduled for publication in 2001.

Drug markets and drug availability

Two pilot projects were completed during 2000, one describing the characteristics of local drug markets, the other a macroeconomic analysis of European heroin markets and the possible impact of substitution treatment. Two small expert meetings were held, one to discuss potential indicators of drug markets and availability that might be developed by the Centre, the other (with TSER funding) to examine the development of economic and other models of drug markets.

Law-enforcement statistics as epidemiological indicators

A revised information map was developed for the NFPs to identify information sources and data flow for law-enforcement and criminal-justice system indicators. The analysis will be available in 2001 and should help the EMCDDA improve col-

lection and analysis of existing data. Information on drug users in prison was collected and analysed.

Drug flows and total drug consumption

The Centre contributed to a study by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) on estimating money laundering related to drugs by providing available EU information on prevalence and consumption. It also cooperated with the UK national focal point on a feasibility study of flows of heroin and cocaine in the EU by providing methodologies and provisional estimates of total consumption.

Data protection issues and epidemiological data

A small study was launched to examine issues concerning data protection and epidemiological data collection. The results are expected in mid-2001.

Reitox support projects

Work with the Reitox network included strengthening the NFPs' involvement in preparation for implementing the five key indicators, improving evaluation criteria and feedback to NFPs on national reports [1], identifying information sources for law-enforcement and criminal-justice system indicators, and developing data collection on emerging trends.

Implementation of five key epidemiological indicators

Recommended draft tools and guidelines

At the end of 2000, the EMCDDA presented its recommended draft tools and guidelines for the five key indicators to be implemented by Member States. These were examined by the Scientific Committee and were to be considered by the Management Board in January 2001. A report was also submitted to the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HWPD) in the Council, as required by the EU action plan on drugs (2000–04).

Coordination, monitoring and EU-level expert groups

The EMCDDA continued to coordinate and monitor efforts to establish comparable collection and reporting of core epidemiological data by Member States. This included establishing: EU-level expert groups per indicator, in which all NFPs or their nominated experts participate; progress reports from NFPs and bilateral discussions on specific issues; and regular updates on the situation for the Management Board. The German and Dutch national focal points assisted in the coordination and technical work on three indicators (prevalence estimates, demand for treatment and drug-related deaths).

Reporting by NFPs

Guidelines for the 2000 Reitox national reports and for statistical tables were modified and provided to the NFPs for their contribution to the Centre's 2001 Annual

(1) National reports produced by the national focal points (as one of the Reitox core tasks) describe the drug situation in an EU Member State and provide core data for the EMCDDA's Annual report and other analyses.

report. Evaluation criteria for national reports were developed and discussed with the NFPs and the Scientific Committee, and feedback to NFPs improved. The revised information map on sources for law-enforcement and criminal-justice system indicators was also provided to NFPs.

Efforts to develop and improve the collection and reporting of data on emerging trends by NFPs continued, with particular attention to cocaine and crack (see above, especially the pilot 'Emerging trends bulletin').

Epidemiological key indicators

In 2000, the EMCDDA concentrated on field testing and finalising draft guidelines and technical tools for the five key epidemiological indicators, monitoring preparations for their implementation by Member States, and starting to examine suitable instruments for collecting, storing, analysing and disseminating the data.

Drug use in the general population

A European manual on general population surveys on drug use, including core questionnaire items and methodological guidelines, was completed and will be published in 2001. Work continued to develop an EU databank as an instrument for collecting, storing and analysing core data in comparable format from national population surveys, and to lay the basis for in-depth comparative analyses of the data (contractor: Quinx Research, the Netherlands).

Prevalence estimates of problem drug use

Draft guidelines on national and local prevalence estimates had already been completed in 1999. Work continued with the EU expert group and the German national focal point to test methods and update national estimates of problem drug use in Member States. A feasibility study was completed of longitudinal studies on changing patterns of use, health risks, careers and needs in young problem drug users, which resulted in a common core questionnaire based on existing European studies. The TSER research network on national and local prevalence estimation continued the development of new methods (see above).

Demand for treatment by drug users

With the assistance of the German national focal point and the EU expert group, the EMCDDA–Pompidou Group standard protocol 2.1 on the treatment demand indicator was completed and field-tested by collecting and analysing data from 12 Member States. More in-depth analysis of selected aspects was explored and further steps towards implementation made.

Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users

Acute, drug-induced deaths

Draft guidelines for reporting acute drug-induced deaths from general mortality and special (e.g. forensic) registers using the ninth edition of the international classification of diseases (ICD-9) were completed and field-tested with the help of the EU expert group and the Dutch national focal point. More detailed analysis was conducted on the impact of criteria used in the different Member States. Guidelines for ICD-10 were discussed and cooperation with Eurostat continued.

Mortality and causes of death among cohorts of drug users

Coordination of cohort studies in different countries continued, including implementation of new studies, follow-up and analysis of existing cohorts, and proposals for extending methods and outputs to cover broader populations and to include hospital admissions as well as deaths (contractor: Osservatorio Epidemiologico Regione Lazio, Italy).

Infectious diseases among injecting drug users (IDUs)

Improved guidelines for reporting HIV and hepatitis B and C prevalence rates among injecting drug users from a defined list of sources were produced and tested with the assistance of the EU expert group (contractor: Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health, UK). A draft proposal was developed for the surveillance of hepatitis C through community-wide surveys. Cooperation continued with EuroHIV (formerly European Centre for the Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS).

Cooperation in the field of epidemiology

Working with European and international partners

In the field of epidemiology, cooperation was fostered throughout 2000 with a range of partners, including: services of the European Commission (Eurostat, Directorate-General for Research); Europol; the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP); the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe; EuroHIV; Unaids; World Health Organisation (WHO), Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), Global Research Network on HIV Prevention in Drug Using Populations, and the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Studies and reports, 2000
Epidemiology

General population surveys indicator

- Creation of a European Union databank on population surveys on drug use, and joint analysis of data collected (Quinx Research), November 2000
- Scientific editing of a European manual with EMCDDA standard instruments and guidelines to estimate drug use among the general population (Quinx Research), November 2000
- Technical implementation and updating of the European Union databank on national population surveys on drug use, and a joint analysis of data collected (Quinx Research), to be published in 2001

Prevalence estimates indicator

- Project to start implementation of methods for estimating national prevalence of problem drug use in EU Member States (Institut für Therapieforschung), March 2000
- Continuation of implementation of methods for estimating national prevalence of problem drug use in EU Member States (Institut für Therapieforschung), to be published in 2001

Treatment demand indicator

- Coordination of the implementation of the EMCDDA–Pompidou Group standard protocol on the treatment demand indicator (TDI) in the EU Member States, and collection and analysis of treatment demand information (Institut für Therapieforschung), November 2000
- Coordination of a new phase of implementation of the key epidemiological indicator 'drug treatment demand' in the EU Member States (Institut für Therapieforschung), to be published in 2001

Drug-related deaths indicator

- Coordination of the implementation of the EMCDDA guidelines on the drug-related deaths indicator in the EU Member States, and the collection and analysis of information on drug-related deaths (Trimbos-instituut), November 2000
- Continuation of development of EMCDDA standard guidelines on the drug-related deaths and coordination of their implementation by Member States (Trimbos-instituut), to be published in 2001

Mortality indicator (cohort studies)

- Mortality of drug users in the European Union: coordination of implementation of new cohort studies, follow-up and analysis of existing cohorts and development of new methods and outputs (Agenzia di Sanità Pubblica — Regione Lazio), November 2000
- Mortality of drug users in the European Union: coordination of implementation of new cohort studies, follow-up and analysis of existing cohorts and development of new methods and outputs (Agenzia di Sanità Pubblica — Regione Lazio), to be published in 2001

Infectious diseases indicator

- Project to improve collection of data on the key indicator hepatitis B and C and HIV in injecting drug users (Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health), November 2000
- Continuation of the project to improve collection of data on the key indicator hepatitis B and C and HIV in injecting drug users (Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health), to be published in 2001

Statistical and dynamic modelling

- Study on incidence of problem drug use and latency time to treatment in the European Union (University of Rome 'Tor Vergata'), November 2000
- Macroeconomic analysis of heroin markets in the EU and the impact of substitution treatment (Modus Vivendi), December 2000
- TSER drug use modelling network: third progress report, June 2000; fourth progress report, December 2000 (EMCDDA, Institut für Therapieforschung, University of Glasgow, University of Keele, University of Rome 'Tor Vergata', RIVM, University of York)

Qualitative research

- Maintenance, update and development of the European web site and network for qualitative research — http://www.qed.org.uk (Dr Jane Fountain), November 2000
- Prolongation of previous contract for the maintenance, update and development and migration of the European web site and network for qualitative research to the EMCDDA — http://www.qed.org.uk (Dr Jane Fountain), to be completed by June 2001
- Feasibility study on monitoring youth media as a source of information for detecting, tracking and understanding emerging trends (Gruppo Abele), November 2000

Emerging trends

- Feasibility study on the implementation of longitudinal studies on changing patterns of use, health risks, careers and needs in young problem drug users (Trimbos-instituut), November 2000

Other projects

- Project to map available information on social exclusion and drugs, focusing on minorities in the 15 Member States of the European Union (DrugScope), December 2000
- Pilot project to describe and analyse local drug markets (Max-Planck-Institut), November 2000
- Study of the implications of data protection legislation for epidemiological information systems on drugs (DrugScope), to be published in October 2001

Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 2000
Epidemiology

Date	Place	Event
20–21 January	EMCDDA	Drug demand epidemiology: global consultation meeting on consensus and partnership building with UNDCP
3–5 February	Munich	Expert meeting on key indicator: national prevalence estimates of problem drug use (TSER–EMCDDA–Institut für Therapieforschung) Expert meeting: dynamic modelling of time trends and incidence (TSER–EMCDDA–University Rome Tor Vergata)
25–26 February	Brussels	First project meeting: mapping available information on drugs and social exclusion, focusing on minorities
6–7 April	Turin	First project meeting: feasibility study on monitoring youth media as new sources of information for detecting, tracking and understanding emerging drug trends
11 April	Jersey	First project meeting: cohort studies of young problem drug users (EMCDDA–Trimbos-instituut)
13 April	Jersey	Expert meeting: geographic spread and geographic information systems, diffusion of problem drug misuse (TSER–EMCDDA–Keele University)
27–28 April	Barcelona	Expert meeting: prevalence of problem drug use at local level (TSER–EMCDDA–CDMR)
7–11 May	Rome	Project meeting: time trends and incidence. Meeting to work on scientific publications on incidence and latency time estimation (EMCDDA–University of Rome Tor Vergata)
11–12 May	Amsterdam	Expert meeting to develop proposals for joint analysis based on the European databank on population surveys
15–16 June	EMCDDA	Second expert meeting: cohort studies of young problem drug users (EMCDDA–Trimbos-instituut)
22–23 June	EMCDDA	EU expert group annual meeting on key indicator: drug-related infectious diseases (hepatitis B/C and HIV)
22–23 June	Rome	Discussion of proposal to be submitted to the European Commission (Research DG) for the continuation and improvement of cohort mortality studies on drug addicts in treatment

23 June	Brussels	Project meeting: macroeconomic analysis of heroin markets in the EU and the impact of substitution treatment
29–30 June	EMCDDA	EU expert group annual meeting on key indicator: demand for treatment by drug users
8–9 September	Turin	Second project meeting: feasibility study on monitoring youth media as new sources of information for detecting, tracking and understanding emerging drug trends
15 September	Brussels	Project meeting: macroeconomic analysis of heroin markets in the EU and the impact of substitution treatment
28–29 September	EMCDDA	Second project meeting: mapping available information on drugs and social exclusion, focusing on minorities
29–30 September	Munich	European steering group meeting on further implementation process of the treatment demand indicator
16–17 October	EMCDDA	EU expert group second meeting on key indicator: drug-related infectious diseases (hepatitis B/C and HIV)
23–24 October	EMCDDA	Expert meeting: drug markets and modelling (EMCDDA–TSER–York University)
13 November	Amsterdam	Meeting with RIVM: drug-related infectious diseases
23–24 November	EMCDDA	EU expert group annual meeting on key indicator: drug-related deaths
28 November	EMCDDA	Expert meeting: drug markets and drug availability
4–5 December	EMCDDA	Expert meeting: emerging trends and qualitative research

Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 2000
Epidemiology

Date	Place	Event
23–24 February	Granada	International conference on heroin and new trends in opioid agonists, Escuela andaluza de salud pública
23–24 February	Paris	FATF technical workshop on estimating drug trafficking proceeds
7 April	London	Conference on 'Reducing harm from alcohol and drugs: making the research policy and practice connections', organised by the Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour
9–12 April	Jersey	11th international conference on the reduction of drug-related harm
14–15 April	Rotterdam	Conference on 'Sexually transmitted diseases in a changing Europe'
27–29 April	Barcelona	Conferencia de consenso sobre reduccion de daños relacionados con las drogas: cooperación e interdisciplinariedad
10–12 May	Lisbon	First quality conference for public administrations in the EU, sharing best practices, organised by the Portuguese Presidency of the EU
18 May	The Hague	Meeting of the reflection group on alignment of law-enforcement drug statistics, Europol
22–23 May	Strasbourg	30th meeting of experts in epidemiology of drug problems, Pompidou Group
22–24 May	Vienna	Expert meeting on 'Dynamic drug policy: understanding and controlling drug epidemics', Technical University Vienna–UNDCP
24 May	Strasbourg	Meeting of the Mediterranean network, Pompidou Group
31 May–3 June	Banff, Canada	Third international symposium on the economic and social costs of substance abuse organised by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
5–7 July	Durban, South Africa	Third annual meeting of the global research network on HIV prevention in drug-using populations organised by NIDA, WHO
9–14 July	Durban, South Africa	13th international AIDS conference
24–25 July	London	Drafting meeting on the revision of the Annual report questionnaire, Part II, UNDCP and CICAD
21–23 September	Dublin	11th annual conference of the European Society for Social Drug Research

10–11 October	Brussels	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs and launch of EMCDDA Annual report
13 October	London	Meeting on dance drugs, London Toxicology Group
18 October	Münster	Seminar 'Rauschgiftkriminalität', organised by Polizei-Führungsakademie
10–11 November	Amsterdam	Fourth international hepatitis C conference organised by Mainliners, supported by EMCDDA

Articles published, 2000
Epidemiology

Hartnoll, R., Letter to the editor entitled 'The Swiss heroin trial: scientifically sound?', *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, Vol. 19, No 3, 2000, pp. 210–211.

Griffiths, P., Vingoe, L., Hunt, N., Mounteney, J. and Hartnoll, R., 'Drug information systems, early warning, and new drug trends: can drug monitoring systems become more sensitive to emerging trends in drug consumption?', *Substance Use & Misuse*, Vol. 35, Nos 6–8, 2000, pp. 811–844.

Wiessing, L., 'Prevention of HIV, HBV, and HCV in injection drug users in the European Union', Global Research Network Meeting on HIV Prevention in Drug-Using Populations, August 26–28 1999, Atlanta, United States, Second Annual Meeting Report, 2000, pp. 35–38.

Chapter 2

Demand reduction

In 2000, the EMCDDA's work in the field of drug demand reduction corresponded primarily to priority objectives 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the 1998–2000 work programme. The consequences for the work of the EMCDDA of the introduction of the EU action plan on drugs (2000–04) were also analysed.

The EMCDDA databases on demand-reduction activities were further developed, both contentwise and technically. The focus on evaluation continued with new studies in the field of treatment, outreach work and on-site testing of synthetic drugs. Training sessions on evaluation were organised in cooperation with the Member States. A study on assistance to drug users in prisons was completed and a preliminary study on 'Roles, structures and cooperation in the field of demand reduction' was finished, laying the ground for a study covering all EU countries.

Finally, through participation in European, national and regional meetings, the Centre succeeded in heightening the impact of its demand-reduction activities, which are increasingly recognised by both policy-makers and professionals in the field.

Overview of how the activities described in this chapter relate to the priority objectives of the 1998–2000 work programme

Priority objective 1

Consolidating and improving the Centre's epidemiological and demand-reduction information systems on the basis of agreed sets of core data

(a) Current trends and patterns: monitoring traditional illicit drugs

Exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA)
Roles, structures and cooperation of drug demand-reduction services
Assistance to drug users in prisons

(b) New trends: setting up and developing a mechanism for the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new synthetic drugs

On-the-spot pill-testing interventions

Priority objective 2

Consolidating and enhancing the Reitox network in accordance with the decisions taken by the EMCDDA Management Board

Evaluation and EDDRA training

Priority objective 3

Improving and developing reliable and comparable methods, data systems and key indicators

Evaluating outreach work
Evaluation Instruments Bank (EIB)
Women in drug treatment

Priority objective 5

Developing structured cooperation with the EMCDDA's international partners and ensuring synergies and complementarity with EU programmes and activities, avoiding any duplication of work

Cooperation with the European Commission

Exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA)

In order to facilitate consultation of the EDDRA database by a wide Internet audience, multilingual access to the database was developed, search functions in line with the EMCDDA web site standards introduced, and the EDDRA off-line editing tool improved. The Luxembourgish national focal point was commissioned with this task. A new layout for EDDRA was introduced in February 2000 and the latest version of the EDDRA off-line tool for national managers (Version 1.0.5) was released in May. The database has been running in all EU languages since the end of July.

EDDRA is a Reitox core task and the EDDRA management group agreed a working plan during its coordination meeting in March which included the objective to double the number of projects in the database in 2000 and to improve the quality of the data produced. The second meeting of the EDDRA managers, in December, dealt with minimum evaluation criteria, abstraction techniques and the promotion of EDDRA in the Member States.

At the end of 1999, the database included 144 programmes, of which 105 had been revised by the national managers. In 2000, the Member States and the European Commission provided 219 new programmes. The new programmes cover, among others, new synthetic drugs prevention, social and professional support of drug addicts and harm-reduction initiatives.

Roles, structures and cooperation of drug demand-reduction services

The preliminary study on 'Roles, structures and cooperation of drug demand-reduction services' commenced in January 2000. France, Portugal and the United Kingdom were selected as case studies (contractor: Rand Europe, the Netherlands). The main goal of the study was to construct, validate and refine an instrument for future data collection. The selected instrument — an interview protocol — was tested in around 25 interviews in the three countries. The study concluded that the interview protocol was a useful instrument for a comparative study across the EU but also emphasised that the implementation study, to be launched by the end of the year and intended to collect data from all EU Member States, could only be carried out with adequate resources. Given the complexity of this area, interviewers familiar with the drug policy of the respective country and face-to-face interviews were seen as a prerequisite for successful results.

Assistance to drug users in prisons

The EMCDDA has developed mapping studies to assess the information available on the status of drug users in the criminal justice system in the EU. A new study on 'Assistance to drug users in EU prisons' (contractor: University of Oldenburg, Germany) aims to collect information on the prisoners' state of health, drug use and drug-related harm, prevention and treatment, as well as best practice and standards of evaluation.

A first step to implementation was a seminar organised by the EMCDDA in December 1999. Participants were invited to provide their input on key concepts, methodological aspects, information sources as well as promotion of results.

A research strategy was adopted for the study based on the collection of existing written material as well as primary data. EMCDDA databases (EDDRA and QED), prison services, umbrella organisations in Europe, universities, archives, international organisations and networks were all consulted. Targeted questions were transmitted to scientific and professional experts in the field and to ministries of justice and health. The final report will be available at the beginning of 2001.

On-the-spot pill-testing interventions

The aim of this project is to draw up a comprehensive inventory of on-site pill-testing interventions in the EU (contractors: Verein Wiener Sozialprojekte and CheckIt!, Austria). Eighteen organisations already involved in pill-testing projects or with firm plans to set one up were identified and sent questionnaires. Organisations involved include DIMS (the Netherlands), Médécins du Monde (France), Modus Vivendi (Belgium), and Eve and Rave (Germany). The objectives, evaluation indicators, target groups, methodology, potential and pitfalls of ongoing programmes were examined with a view to assessing how pill-testing projects can be used for harm-reduction and prevention purposes and how the information provided through the EMCDDA joint action on new synthetic drugs can be channelled into daily demand-reduction practice. The study's report aims to provide information on: which pill-testing procedures can or should be used for which aims; which pill data should be made available to the public; how best to evaluate the procedures being used for pill-testing and prevention messages at large; and opportunities to collaborate and exchange knowledge among and between the projects and the EMCDDA. The final report will be made available on the EMCDDA web site in 2001.

Evaluation and EDDRA training

Evaluation and EDDRA training sessions were organised in three Member States in 2000. They aimed to develop a deeper commitment towards evaluation from EU professionals and policy-makers. The seminars targeted professionals with a peer-leader function in regions or leading institutions of the Member States. Another objective is to make regional decision-makers aware of evaluation practice as well as to collect feedback and suggestions from the field. This enhanced the coherence between the EMCDDA and national and regional policy implementation. The training sessions were organised by the national focal points and co-financed by the EMCDDA. Training sessions were carried out in Ireland (20 participants), in Italy (50 participants) and in Denmark (25 participants). Each focal point's national priorities were reflected in the aims and organisation of the training seminars. Focal point representatives were satisfied with the training sessions and welcomed the increased visibility that such types of events bring to their work at national level. EMCDDA staff intensified links to key persons in regional policy and demand-reduction practice.

Evaluating outreach work

Evaluating outreach projects is still in its infancy in most EU Member States but evidence presented in the EMCDDA's *Insights* publication, 'Outreach work among drug users in Europe' (ISBN 92-9168-062-1) reveals that the most urgent need of the projects is how to improve the practice of outreach work.

In a follow-up study to this study on outreach work, the Centre for HIV/AIDS and Drugs Studies (UK) and the University of Amsterdam were commissioned to develop evaluation guidelines for outreach work, in line with the EMCDDA strategy to provide assistance and tools to professionals. Evaluating outreach work has special requirements which makes it necessary to adapt existing EMCDDA tools and to complement them with new instruments. The project aims to facilitate data-collection methods, develop evaluation guidelines and tools, and create training and cooperation opportunities. The development of the guidelines takes into

account the particular needs of an intervention setting where evaluation is difficult. The guidelines focus on the process through which individual projects assess and reflect on their performance and are aimed at outreach project managers and staff, principally for self-evaluation in consultation with stakeholders.

Evaluation Instruments Bank (EIB)

In 2000, the EIB was integrated into the EMCDDA public web site. It is a document-base of tools designed to encourage evaluation using reliable methods and to help to standardise them. The EIB contains tools for evaluating both prevention and treatment programmes. The user enters the specific criteria of the intervention to be evaluated and the search result provides the most suitable evaluation tool, together with comments on its use and references to related studies. The EIB was updated in July 2000 and to date contains 31 instruments in the field of prevention and 184 instruments in the field of treatment. Although most of the instruments (two thirds) are currently in English, the document bank has been designed to be flexible and expandable, thereby allowing for the continuous addition of different language versions and also the introduction of instruments for specific settings.

Women in drug treatment

At the 45th permanent correspondents meeting, in March 2000, the secretariat of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe was given the mandate to discuss, with the EMCDDA, ways to implement follow-up actions regarding the topic of women and drugs. By February 2000, the Pompidou Group had finalised a report on 'Community-based services for female drug users in Europe', a compilation of case studies and guidelines for good practice. In June 2000, the EMCDDA proposed to draft an introduction to this report and to develop internally a 'needs assessment guide for female users of drug services'. The guide aims to support policy-makers in planning drug services taking into account the specific needs of women. Both outputs will be included in the respective web pages of the two organisations.

Cooperation with the European Commission

Strengthening cooperation with the Health and Consumer Protection Unit in charge of the Community action programme for the prevention of drug dependence was a priority task for 2000. In order to ensure a smooth flow of information, bilateral quarterly meetings were organised where activities have followed along two main lines. On the one hand, the EMCDDA provided scientific material to the Commission on the drug phenomenon and responses for its preparation of draft recommendations on drug public-health responses. On the other hand, the Commission services participated actively in the EDDRA project and submitted six programmes that were inserted into the database.

Studies and reports, 2000
Demand reduction

- 'Improving evaluation skills using EMCDDA guidelines for evaluation of demand-reduction activities and the EDDRA system in Italy, Denmark and Ireland'
- 'Evaluation: a key tool for improving drug prevention'
- 'Reviewing current practices in drug-substitution treatment in the EU'
- Workbooks 'Evaluation of psychoactive substance use disorder treatment' (Cooperation between WHO, UNDCP and EMCDDA)
- 'Inventory of on-site pill-testing interventions in the EU'
- 'Measuring the roles, structures and cooperation of drug demand-reduction services: results of a preliminary study'
- 'Assistance to drug users in prison'
- 'Evaluation guidelines for outreach work'

Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 2000
Demand reduction

Date	Place	Event
30–31 March	EMCDDA	EDDRA managers meeting
6–8 April	EMCDDA	Board meeting of the European Foundation of Drug Helplines (FESAT)
29–30 September	EMCDDA	Guidelines for the evaluation of outreach work workshop
4–5 December	EMCDDA	Meeting of the qualitative research network (QED)
7–8 December	EMCDDA	EDDRA managers meeting

Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 2000
Demand reduction

Date	Place	Event
20 January	Madrid	Seminar on 'The gypsy community and drug addiction'
27–29 January	Braga	International congress, 'Os mundos sociais e culturais da infância'
4 February	Porto	European conference, Federation of European Professionals Associations Working in the Field of Drug Abuse (ERIT)
5 February	Rome	International Reference Group (CeIS)

25 February	Brussels	Collège médical interinstitutionnel
28–29 February	Brussels	Interinstitutional conference on drugs policies in Europe
10 March	Lisbon	Training seminar in evaluation for professionals of the Serviço de Prevenção e Tratamento da Toxicodependência (SPTT)
16 March	Luxembourg	Committee meeting of the programme of community action on the prevention of drug dependence in the framework of public health
13–17 March	Lisbon	EDDRA off-line training with the Portuguese demand-reduction networks
20 March	Bern	WHO (Europe) health in prisons project
18–19 May	Dublin	Evaluation and EDDRA training seminar
30 May	Brussels	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs
31 May–3 June	Montreal	Society for Prevention Research, eighth annual pre-conference workshops meeting
1–7 June	Luxembourg	Multinational networks in the field of drug prevention
5–6 June	Verona	Evaluation and EDDRA training seminar
8–9 June	Odense	Evaluation and EDDRA training seminar
19 June	London	Conference on women and drugs
22–24 June	Alcorcón	Fifth 'Jornadas de prevención de drogodependencias'
30 June	Luxembourg	Collège médical interinstitutionnel
3–4 July	Brussels	Exploratory meeting with international organisations
6–8 July	San Sebastian	Summer school of the Basque University on drug prevention policies
8–12 July	Birmingham	British prison drug workers' conference
20–21 July	Oviedo	Workshop on social impact of legal drugs
7–8 September	Malmö	Cooperation against drugs, organised by European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD), Nordic Branch
22–24 September	Rome	International Reference Group (CeIS)
10 October	Brussels	Multi-stakeholder conference, Future health strategy
16–17 October	Bologna	European meeting, Evaluation of services for drug addictions
6–7 November	Madrid	Seminar on evaluation and quality indicators
13–15 November	Karlsruhe	DHS Fachkonferenz Sucht 2000
23–24 November	Venice	Training on prevention quality and evaluation
23–25 November	Athens	WHO Adequacy in drug abuse treatment and care in Europe (ADAT) conference
27 November	Stockholm	Meeting of technical advisory network of Mentor Foundation

Burkhart, G., 'First childhood interventions — possibilities and experiences in Europe', *Toxicodependências*, Vol. 6, No 2, 2000, pp. 33–46.

Burkhart, G., 'Intervenções na primeira infância: experiencias realizadas na Europa sobre prevenção de drogas', *Actas do Congresso Internacional 'Os mundos Sociais e Culturais da Infância*, Vol. 3, Instituto de Estudos da Criança, Universidade do Minho, Braga (Portugal), 2000, pp. 53–58.

Burkhart, G., 'Programación y evaluación, instumentos y claves para la mejora de los programas preventivos', De Arce, F. (Ed), *Ponencias de las IV Jornadas sobre prevención de drogodependencias*, Ayuntamiento de Alcorcón, Comunidad de Madrid, 2000, pp. 85–90.

Burkhart, G., 'Calidad en programas de prevención: evaluación, diseño, documentación y visibilidad', De Arce, F. (Ed), *Ponencias de las IV Jornadas sobre prevención de drogodependencias*, Ayuntamiento de Alcorcón, Comunidad de Madrid, 2000, pp. 275–286.

Nilson, M., Zur Europäischen Beobachtungsstelle für Drogen und Drogensucht — EBDD, *BINAD–Information*, Vol. 17, January–May 2000, pp. 41–47.

Nilson, M., Editorial, *IDEA Prevención*, No 19, July–December 1999, pp. 5–7.

Solberg, U., 'Visitation i Danmark', *Stof*, No 12, Copenhagen, September 2000, pp. 8–9.

Solberg, U., 'Substitutionsbehandling i EU', *Stof*, No 13, December 2000, pp. 24–25.

Chapter 3

Reitox coordination

The main work of the Reitox coordination department in 2000 corresponded to priority objectives 2 and 4 of the 1998–2000 work programme. Progress was achieved on a two-way discussion process and exchange of information between the EMCDDA and the network, as well as the further involvement of the Reitox focal points in general EMCDDA work programming (e.g. the 2001–03 work programme). The EMCDDA evaluation and internal reform process and further discussions on the role of the Reitox network stimulated these developments. Work focused on the qualitative aspects of data and reporting, and more structured systems were set in place with common criteria and a feedback mechanism.

The analysis of the Reitox network, carried out by the director at the request of the Management Board and in cooperation with the Member States and the national focal points, provided for reflection on the needs of the network, the improvements required and future actions to be undertaken. On the basis of this analysis, the Management Board decided to create a Reitox steering group (composed of representatives of the Management Board, Scientific Committee, Reitox focal points and the EMCDDA executive director) to draw up the terms of reference for an external evaluation of the Reitox focal points. These were to be presented to the Management Board for discussion and approval in early 2001.

Overview of how the activities described in this chapter relate to the priority objectives of the 1998–2000 work programme

Priority objective 2

Consolidating and enhancing the Reitox network in accordance with the decisions taken by the EMCDDA Management Board

Core tasks

Priority objective 5

Developing structured cooperation with the EMCDDA's international partners and ensuring synergies and complementarity with EU programmes and activities, avoiding any duplication of work

Preparation phase for the adhesion of the candidate countries

While the majority of the department's activities focused on the above objectives, it also played a fundamental role in the execution of priority objectives 1, 3, 4 and 6

Other activities

Dissemination, networking and discussion

Core tasks

The Reitox coordination department's primary role is to coordinate and animate the Reitox network — composed of the 15 EU national focal points, the European Commission focal point and the Norwegian focal point — and to assist them in achieving their core tasks (defined in the Reitox 'core tasks' contract drawn up between the EMCDDA and each Reitox national focal point annually).

In 2000, the five core tasks of the Reitox national focal points were:

- updating the national reports describing the national drug situation in 1999;
- actively participating in the progressive implementation of five harmonised epidemiological key indicators (see Chapter 1);
- actively participating in, and contributing to, the electronic information system exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA) (see Chapter 2);
- participating at national level in the early-warning system on new synthetic drugs foreseen by the 1997 joint action on new synthetic drugs (see Chapter 4);
- collecting information on data sources in the field of law enforcement and documentation centres (information maps).

National reports

The focal points drew up their national reports (covering the full year 1999) and most of them updated information on the year 2000 regarding demand-reduction activities, new trends, policy and legislation changes and key issues. The reports were submitted to the EMCDDA by the end of October 2000 and provided the

Centre with vital data, among others, for its 2001 *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union*. The national reports included three key issues which were selected at a special Reitox session in March 2000: drug strategies in European Union Member States; cocaine and base/crack cocaine; and infectious diseases. As part of the 2000 national reports, the NFPs also submitted their updated epidemiological standard tables to the EMCDDA in mid-September.

During 2000, there were two important developments in this area — the introduction of a bilateral feedback process on the 1999 national reports and the development of shared and coordinated guidelines for the 2001–02 reports.

Despite the differences between countries, the quality of information ranges from sufficient to quite good and most of the information needed to obtain an overview of the drugs situation in Europe is present. The main problems are related to methodological issues such as data comparability and assuring the broad coverage of new areas.

The guidelines for the preparation of the 2002 Annual report were presented to the NFPs during the Reitox meeting in October and were finalised in December. The key issues chosen are multiple drug use, successful treatments and drug users in prison. These reflect the new targets defined in the EU action plan on drugs (2000–04) and involve the focal points in information collection in new target areas.

Harmonised epidemiological key indicators

In 2000, the existing methods and instruments regarding the five harmonised epidemiological key indicators were reviewed and further developed. This included the establishment of EU-level expert groups per indicator in which all national focal points (or their nominated experts) participated (see Chapter 1).

The importance of this activity was highlighted in the EU action plan on drugs (2000–04) which urged Member States, in cooperation with the EMCDDA, 'to enhance their efforts to provide reliable and comparable information on the key epidemiological indicators in order to better evaluate the impact of drug-related issues [2].'

Exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA)

In 2000, the EDDRA managers group concentrated on improving the quality of the information made available, on increasing the number of projects or programmes in the database, and on facilitating broad consultation of the information by the general public. Attention was also paid to improving the existing contents. The managers defined a shared quality framework for data compilation and worked in subgroups on abstraction techniques; on minimum standards of evaluation; and on advertising and promoting EDDRA. The material in the database doubled during 2000 and, for the first time, the Commission also introduced projects into it (see Chapter 2).

[2] Presidency Conclusions, Santa Maria da Feira European Council, 19 and 20 June 2000, SN 200/00, para. 51.

Joint action on new synthetic drugs

In 2000, the Reitox focal points regularly informed the EMCDDA on both the progress and the functioning of the mechanisms implemented at national level. Within the early-warning system on new synthetic drugs, Reitox focal points were also requested to report against Article 3 of the joint action, i.e. to report to the EMCDDA, in close liaison with Europol, the detection of new substances in the EU.

The most important result in 2000 was the first global feedback on the joint action on the basis of the progress reports provided by the NFPs during the year. This feedback exercise is fundamental to improving the quality of data collected and to the operation of the special network on new synthetic drugs. Focal points were also informed by the EMCDDA on the outcome of the risk assessment concerning the substances GHB and ketamine (see Chapter 4). The EU action plan on drugs (2000–04) highlights the importance of the work already achieved through the joint action and the need for improved cooperation between national authorities.

Preparation phase for the adhesion of the candidate countries

The preparation of the adhesion of the candidate countries commenced in 2000 and has already achieved interesting results. The candidate countries provided their national reports describing the drug situation at national level in 1999. The methodology for adhesion was defined and presented to the Commission at the end of November (see Chapter 8).

Dissemination, networking and discussion

Dissemination activity

The Reitox focal points are already actively involved in the dissemination of EMCDDA products on a voluntary basis. To date their main tasks in this area have been:

- the distribution of publications to national and regional bodies, NGOs and professionals;
- active participation in the launch of the Annual report (distribution of the Annual report and news releases, responding to requests from journalists and following up contacts, press clippings).

Further discussion took place in 2000 and it is foreseen that in 2001 the core tasks will be extended to other objectives, especially increased participation of the NFPs in the field of dissemination.

Common EMCDDA–Reitox electronic network

The common EMCDDA–Reitox electronic network, set up with funding from the European Commission's interchange of data between administrations (IDA) programme, was increasingly used by the Reitox community (EMCDDA and national focal points) for disseminating and exchanging information and promoting understanding and transparency within the network. The electronic services provided in the private Reitox web site include: secure e-mail communication; transfer of meet-

ing minutes, documents and data; agenda consulting; and participation in discussion groups. During the year, the Reitox community prepared for the further extension of services and applications as well as the smooth integration of new partners.

Meetings and cluster groups

Three meetings of the national focal points were held in Lisbon in 2000. They focused on: the state of progress in achieving the core tasks; the contractual and financial terms; the consequences of the internal EMCDDA reform process for the Reitox network; and the future EMCDDA three-year work programme (2001–03). Furthermore, a special working party took place in June, involving several national focal points and EMCDDA staff, to brainstorm on how to improve the two-way relationship between the Centre and the focal points. Finally, a cluster meeting (topic-focused workshop) — involving the Belgian, French and Dutch national focal points — was held in Brussels at the end of November. This cluster meeting focused on data quality and networking, the objective of which was to define common standards and procedures in order to improve the quality of information and to identify new and better means for networking. The intention is to extend the abovementioned cluster meeting to the other focal points during 2001.

Studies and reports, 2000
Reitox

- National focal point national reports for 1999
- National focal point reports on recent developments and trends, 2000
- National focal point reports on the implementation of the joint action on new synthetic drugs at national level, 2000
- National focal point reports on the implementation of the information system on demand-reduction activities, 2000
- National focal point work plans regarding the implementation of the epidemiological key indicators at national level, 2000

Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 2000
Reitox

Date	Place	Event
9–10 March	Lisbon	19th meeting of the heads of the Reitox national focal points
30–31 May	Lisbon	Extraordinary meeting of the heads of national focal points
15 June	Lisbon	Reitox working party (improving the two-way relationship with Reitox national focal points)
16–18 October	Lisbon	20th meeting of the heads of the Reitox national focal points
25 October	Lisbon	Reitox steering group (preparing the external evaluation of the Reitox national focal points)

Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 2000
Reitox

Date	Place	Event
20 June	Luxembourg	Meeting at the Luxembourgish national focal point on 'Improving the two-way relationship with Reitox'
22 June	Brussels	Meeting at the European Commission focal point on 'Improving the two-way relationship with Reitox'
23 June	Brussels	Meeting at the Belgian national focal point on 'Improving the two-way relationship with Reitox'
5–6 July	Rome	Sports against drugs
17 July	Brussels	Reitox–IDA II project
18 July	Brussels	Meeting with Unisys on 'Business solutions'
27 November	Utrecht	Meeting with the Dutch national focal point on 'Qualitative data feedback and global networking improvement'
28 November	Paris	Meeting with the French national focal point on 'Qualitative data feedback and global networking improvement'
29 November	Brussels	Cluster meeting with Belgian and Dutch national focal point on 'Qualitative data feedback and global networking improvement'
12–13 December	Rome	Public policies against drugs in Europe
22 December	Reggio Emilia	Drug and at-risk behaviours

Articles written or papers delivered, 2000
Reitox

The following papers were presented at events during the year:

- Feedback on national reports 1999: 'A first evaluation on data quality'
- Guidelines for the 2000 and 2001 national reports
- 'Improving the two-way relationship with Reitox', drafted at the Reitox working party of 15 June 2000 and finalised following several meetings with the national focal points
- Report from the Reitox steering group to the EMCDDA Management Board, regarding the 'External evaluation of the Reitox focal points'
- 'Sport against drugs: the scientific basis for drug prevention in sport', Rome, 5–6 July 2000
- 2001–03 Reitox work programme (with active involvement of the national focal points)

Chapter 4

National and Community strategies

The principal activities carried out in this area relate to priority objectives 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the 1998–2000 work programme.

In the area of drug-related legal information, collaboration with the network of legal experts was formalised and the infrastructure for a legal database on drugs developed. Two studies were finalised, one on the prosecution of drug users and one on the costs of drug policy, scheduled for publication in 2001. An extended section on drug law was added to the EMCDDA web site.

In the area of new synthetic drugs two substances — ketamine and GHB — were formally referred to the EMCDDA and Europol for risk assessment. The latter offered the Centre the opportunity to combine its information-collection and scientific-evaluation expertise to influence decision-making on drugs in the EU.

Work carried out in 2000 was undertaken by the section of the EMCDDA attached to the director's office responsible for new synthetic drugs, international cooperation and legal information.

Overview of how the activities described in this chapter relate to the priority objectives of the 1998–2000 work programme

Priority objective 1

Consolidating and improving the Centre's epidemiological and demand-reduction information systems on the basis of agreed sets of core data

(b) New trends: setting up and developing a mechanism for the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new synthetic drugs

Mechanism for the implementation of the joint action on new synthetic drugs

Priority objective 2

Consolidating and enhancing the Reitox network in accordance with the decisions taken by the EMCDDA Management Board

Joint action on new synthetic drugs and the Reitox network

Priority objective 5

Developing structured cooperation with the EMCDDA's international partners and ensuring synergies and complementarity with EU programmes and activities, avoiding any duplication of work

Cooperation in the field of new synthetic drugs and legal information

Priority objective 6

Developing tools and methodologies for comparing interventions, legislation, strategies and policies in the EU (including cost-effectiveness evaluation)

Collecting and analysing drug-related legal information

Mechanism for the implementation of the joint action on new synthetic drugs

Information exchange

The adoption of the joint action on new synthetic drugs in 1997 provided the EMCDDA and Europol with a clear mandate to coordinate, via their respective networks, the collection and exchange of information on any new synthetic substance appearing on the European market.

In March 2000, the EMCDDA and Europol prepared two joint progress reports, which provided preliminary information on the substances GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) and ketamine (2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)-cyclohexanone) and which had been collected and exchanged under Article 3 of the joint action (information exchange). Europol covered the production and trafficking aspects of the drugs while the EMCDDA looked at use and the possible health and social

risks of the substances. This work was carried out in response to a request from the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HWPD) of the Council of the EU due to the detection of problematic use of the substances within the EU.

On 20 March, the joint reports were submitted to the Chairperson of the HWPD of the Council, the Council Secretariat and the European Commission for consideration. On 17 April, the Portuguese Presidency of the EU formally referred GHB and ketamine to the EMCDDA and Europol for risk assessment under Article 4 of the agreement.

Risk assessment

The Scientific Committee's subcommittee on risk assessment met five times in 2000 (see Chapter 7). The work of the subcommittee largely focused on weighting criteria via the use of a scoring instrument with the purpose of improving the *Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs*. In order to advance the process, the Scientific Committee recommended that MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine) be used as the reference substance to validate the scoring instrument (see Chapter 7).

On 13 and 14 July, a technical expert group on the pharmacotoxicology of GHB and ketamine met at the EMCDDA. Discussions were based on the scientific literature, on the substances and on their current incidences. A literature review — compiled externally — was submitted to the risk-assessment meetings on 25 and 26 September (see below). This was included in the technical annexes to the final risk-assessment reports on GHB and ketamine in accordance with the *Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs*.

From 25 to 26 September, a formal risk assessment of the drugs was carried out by the EMCDDA Scientific Committee and experts in Lisbon (see Chapter 7). These special risk-assessment sessions examined the health and social risks of the substances and the possible consequences of prohibition. The result was the adoption of the risk-assessment reports on GHB and ketamine in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs.

The risk-assessment meeting took note of the significant therapeutic use of ketamine as well as the main risks of its recreational use (the psychological dependence, loss of self-control, and the risk of acute intoxication). Therefore, the meeting expressed two different opinions on possible methods of control. The opinion which received significant support was that, as a common minimum, ketamine should be subject to control under medicines legislation in the Member States due to the large legitimate use of ketamine for veterinary medicine. However, another opinion firmly expressed was that, in addition to medicines legislation, stronger measures of control were necessary to deal with diversion, trafficking and inadvertent exposure (i.e. through fake 'ecstasy' tablets). With regard to GHB, the meeting noted its therapeutic potential as well as the fact that, in recreational use, the dose margin between the desired and the serious adverse effects is very narrow. Because of the effects of the drug, the levels of fatal and non-fatal emergencies and reports of dependency, GHB is considered to pose significant risks to health. As in the case with ketamine, two opinions were expressed on how GHB should be controlled: some participants were of the opinion that control through medicines legislation was sufficient, while many others felt that this substance should be subject to more stringent control measures.

The reports also contained a number of recommendations made by the meeting such as the need to target information on the substances to the most vulnerable risk groups, existing and potential users as well as to key professional groups.

Control

The abovementioned risk-assessment reports on GHB and ketamine were forwarded to the French Presidency of the HWPD of the Council, to the Secretary-General of the Council and to the European Commission on 13 October in accordance with Article 5 of the joint action (procedures for bringing specific new synthetic drugs under control). On 22 November, in accordance with Article 5 of the joint action, the European Commission submitted its opinion to the Council. With reference to the Commission's opinion and to the reports, the Presidency put forward draft conclusions at the HWPD meeting on 18 December. The final conclusions are expected at the beginning of 2001 under the Swedish Presidency.

The risk assessments on GHB and ketamine were the third and fourth such exercise undertaken to date by the EMCDDA, the first involving MBDB (N-methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-butamine), the second involving 4-MTA (4-methylthioamphetamine).

Joint action on new synthetic drugs and the Reitox network

In 2000, the national focal points of the Reitox network regularly informed on progress, on the functioning of the mechanisms at national level for information collection and exchange, and on the detection of new substances within the EU.

On 11 July, the EMCDDA released an urgent information briefing through the Reitox network regarding 'ecstasy' tablets and capsules containing very high doses of MDMA. These had been detected in Belgium and France before the summer. On 19 July, the EMCDDA released a second alert through the Reitox network regarding the presence of paramethoxyamphetamine (PMA) in 'ecstasy' tablets carrying a Mitsubishi logo, seized in Denmark in June.

Cooperation in the field of new synthetic drugs and legal information

Cooperation under the joint action on new synthetic drugs

Practical cooperation between the EMCDDA, Europol, the European Commission and the EMEA was enhanced in 2000.

Cooperation in the field of legal information

During 2000, the EMCDDA and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) improved collaboration in their respective database projects and in the assessment of 'model of laws' in the demand-reduction area.

Collecting and analysing drug-related legal information

National strategies and legislative area

The procedures launched in 1999 to set up a legal information system on drugs were followed through in 2000 with the implementation of the project to construct the legal database infrastructure (successfully completed in November) and the setting up of a group of legal correspondents. The first meeting of legal correspondents successfully launched the basis for data-collection procedures on drug laws.

Two studies, coordinated by the EMCDDA, explored the application of penal and administrative measures towards drug users and the costs of drug policy in the EU Member States. The results of the first study were presented in December at the Council's Horizontal Working Party on Drugs in Brussels. Another study examining the legal boundaries of treatment and rehabilitation measures in the EU was launched in October.

In 2000, the EMCDDA increased its capacity to respond to various institutional questions as well as those from researchers, students and the media. In September, the EMCDDA web site was extended with a comprehensive section on legal issues including drug law tables and comparisons (http://www.emcdda.org/activities/strategy.shtml). The objective is to serve policy-makers and a broad public interested in the legislative figures and information of EU members. Ad hoc reports as well as interviews and responses were delivered throughout the year. The contribution to the Annual report this year included the new trends in drug policy and legislation, and a key topic on law-enforcement prosecution.

Studies and reports, 2000
National and Community strategies

New synthetic drugs

- 'EMCDDA–Europol progress report on GHB' in accordance with Article 3 of the joint action on new synthetic drugs of 16 June 1997
- 'EMCDDA–Europol progress report on ketamine' in accordance with Article 3 of the joint action on new synthetic drugs of 16 June 1997
- Elliott, S., 'Review of the pharmacotoxicological data on GHB'
- van Aerts, L. A. G. J. M., and van der Laan, J. W., 'Review of the pharmacotoxicological data on ketamine'
- 'Report on the risk assessment of GHB in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs'
- 'Report on the risk assessment of ketamine in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs'

Legal information

- Opinion on the project of law in Portugal for the Portuguese Government
- Report on approximation of drug legislation for the Home Office, UK
- Report on legal aspects of substitution treatment for the Pompidou Group
- Report on the situation of penal aspects of drug consumption in the EU — MILDT, France

- Comparison of drug law of EU countries — Drug Report to the Italian Parliament
- Opinion on Mexican drug law — Ministry of Health, Mexico
- Country profiles on cannabis data and policy situation in the EU for Home Office, UK
- 'Prosecution of drug users in Europe: varying pathways to similar objectives'
- 'Public expenditure on drugs in the EU'

Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 2000
National and Community strategies

Date	Place	Event
New synthetic drugs		
16 March	EMCDDA	Subcommittee on risk assessment
13–14 July	EMCDDA	Technical expert and subcommittee on risk assessment meeting (GHB and ketamine)
24 September	EMCDDA	Subcommittee on risk assessment
25–26 September	EMCDDA	Special risk-assessment meetings (extended EMCDDA Scientific Committee)
26 September	EMCDDA	Subcommittee on risk assessment
12 December	EMCDDA	Subcommittee on risk assessment
Legal information		
25 January	EMCDDA	Public expenditure study — project assessment
23 February	EMCDDA	Setting up the European legal database on drugs (ELDD) — project assessment
27 April	EMCDDA	Implementation of the memorandum of understanding with UNDCP on legal information
15 May	EMCDDA	Public expenditure study — project assessment
25–26 May	EMCDDA	Legal correspondents meeting
27 July	EMCDDA	Setting up ELDD — project assessment
12 September	EMCDDA	Study on prosecution of drug users — project assessment
9 October	EMCDDA	Setting up ELDD — project assessment

Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 2000
National and Community strategies

Date	Place	Event
New synthetic drugs		
January–December	Brussels	Meetings of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs under the Portuguese and French Presidencies (see Chapter 8)
28–29 February	Brussels	Second interinstitutional conference on drugs policy
14 March	Paris	TREND–Sintes project
10–11 April	Monaghan	Oisín conference on combating the potential threat of the abuse of controlled drugs in rural areas — synthetic drugs
11 April	Brussels	Meeting of the EU–Ukraine subcommittee on drug trafficking — synthetic drugs
5–6 October	Moscow	Third meeting of the EU–Russia subcommittee — synthetic drugs
9 October	Paris	OFDT meeting on the early-warning system
23–24 October	Turin	Intoxicating substance strategy seminar
25–26 October	Estoril	Oisín conference on synthetic drugs
9 November	Lisbon	Third seminar of magistrates of southern Europe on drugs
24 November	Paris	Second European meeting on drug abuse and dependence
Legal information		
21–22 February	Strasbourg	Social cost meeting
28–29 February	Brussels	Second conference on drug policy
5 April	Luxembourg	Legal database assessment meeting
26 June	Milan	Seminar on social communication on drugs
13–14 September	Kromeritz	Training seminar for law enforcement authorities
28 September	Rome	Seminar on analysis of drug-related data
4 October	Lisbon	Seminar on legislative harmonisation on drugs in the Andean countries
12–13 October	Sintra	Inter-ministerial conference on harm reduction
26–27 October	S. Patrignano	Sixth Rainbow meeting
20 November	Brussels	Legal aspects of treatment and rehabilitation measures in the EU — feasibility study meeting
28–30 November	Genoa	Third national conference on drugs

Chapter 5

Information strategies and communication resources

The information strategies and communication resources department encompasses online and off-line publications, media and public relations, documentation and information technology (IT). In 2000, the EMCDDA's work in these fields corresponded primarily to priority objective 4 of the 1998–2000 work programme.

Strategic developments included drawing up a dissemination and communication strategy to ensure that the needs of target groups, redefined during 2000, are served and that appropriate products are produced. The role of IT and its positioning in the Centre was reviewed and its future defined with the help of an IT strategy group.

The EMCDDA public web site was further developed with the introduction of a multilingual branch and the integration of online products and databases resulting from EMCDDA projects. It was highly commended in the European Information Association awards and praised by the judges for its genuinely useful content and clear brand image.

Overview of how the activities described in this chapter relate to the priority objectives of the 1998–2000 work programme

Priority objective 4

Improving the quality of the *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union*, the visibility of the work of the EMCDDA and the Reitox network and the dissemination of the information collected and produced by the EMCDDA

Strategic developments
EMCDDA publications
Media relations
EMCDDA public web site
EMCDDA intranet
Documentation
Dialogue with the European citizen
Information technology

Strategic developments

A comprehensive dissemination and communication strategy was drawn up in the course of the year. This repositions dissemination as the focal point of EMCDDA activity and lays out a set of measures to be implemented and a range of tailored products to be developed in order to serve the needs of the Centre's key audiences — mainly policy-makers. The EMCDDA reform plan stresses the strategic importance of online products and future developments in this area were defined in the 2001–03 work programme.

The planned reorganisation of the Centre and new working methods call for a clear and coherent IT strategy. A working group was established at the end of the year to work on this issue.

EMCDDA publications

2000 *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union*

The 2000 *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union* was launched by the EMCDDA on 11 October at the European Commission's Spokesman Service in Brussels (see 'Media relations' below). A special presentation of the report was made on 10 October to the European Parliament's Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs.

The report, targeted primarily at policy-makers, assembles new data and information from 1998 while updating findings from previous years. Special effort was made in 2000 to distil the findings into a more concise report better suited to its target audience.

The report updates information on overall trends, patterns of drug use, health consequences of drug use and responses to drugs. It also carries special sections on:

the specific problems facing women and drugs; substitution treatment; the prosecution of drug-related offences; as well as a special chapter on the state of the drugs problem in central and eastern Europe.

At the time of the launch, all 11 language versions of the Annual report were available in printed form, and electronic files were downloadable from the EMCDDA's web site. In addition to this, basic epidemiological tables used in its preparation were made available online. In order to manage increased traffic to the web site, a supplementary download area was created. Shortly after the launch the report was proactively distributed to the Centre's audiences and partners (over 15 000 copies).

Production of other EMCDDA publications

In 2000, the EMCDDA also published its *General report of activities 1999*; six issues of its bimonthly newsletter, *DrugNet Europe*; two titles in its *Scientific Monograph* series and one in its *Insights* series. In total 12 titles and 44 volumes were published.

Cooperation with the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

In 2000, EUR-OP was responsible for the production and distribution of all EMCDDA publications with the exception of *DrugNet Europe,* which is produced and distributed locally. Contacts with EUR-OP's 'Sales and copyright' division (OP/A/4), which includes the unit for promotions and fairs, were strengthened during the year, and joint ventures undertaken to increase the visibility of the Centre's products.

European Union Publishers' Forum

On 19 October, the EMCDDA was among the guest speakers at the European Union Publishers' Forum (EUPF), where it presented the guiding principles of its publications programme and offered elements of potential interest to commercial publishers. In the run-up to the meeting, the Centre contacted over 180 commercial publishers in order to introduce its publications and gauge interest in potential licensing and co-publishing agreements. Partnerships with interested publishing houses were being followed up at the end of the year.

International exhibitions and fairs

Frankfurt Book Fair

From 18 to 20 October, the EMCDDA attended the 52nd Frankfurt Book Fair, the largest international trade fair for the publishing world. The Centre participated at the European Union stand where it displayed its latest publications and general publicity material on its products. The Centre's work generated much interest from those attending the fair.

The EMCDDA produced marketing materials for display in Frankfurt including a publicity bookmark advertising its recently published Annual report and a catalogue of EMCDDA publications, *Drugs in Europe*, published in cooperation with EUR-OP (OP/A/4).

Online Information 2000

From 5 to 7 December, the EMCDDA attended Online Information 2000, the largest and most comprehensive information-industry event in the world, held in London. The Centre was among several EU services exhibiting at the European Union stand.

The EMCDDA distributed information in the conference press dossier and EU press packs publicising its online activities. The EMCDDA workstation at the stand received many visitors including representatives of drug-related organisations, academics, librarians, the media and educational professionals.

EMCDDA publications, 2000

Title	Languages
2000 *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union*	All 11 EU languages
General report of activities 1999	English, French, German
DrugNet Europe, six issues, 21–26	English, French, German, Portuguese
'Understanding and responding to drug use: the role of qualitative research', *Scientific Monograph*, No 4	English
'Evaluation: a key tool for improving drug prevention', *Scientific Monograph*, No 5	English
'Reviewing current practice in drug-substitution treatment in the European Union', *Insights*, No 3	English
Drugs in Europe, publications catalogue (EUR-OP–EMCDDA co-production).	English, French, German
Total number of titles	**12**
Total number of volumes	**44**

Further information on all EMCDDA publications including details of how to order are available on the EMCDDA web site at **http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications.shtml**

Media relations

The influence of the mass media on the policy-maker and the general public is undisputed, as is their contribution to raising the visibility of the EMCDDA in European society. The agency therefore considers the media to be a prime conduit of information to its target audiences and, as such, one that must be properly served.

In 2000, the EMCDDA continued to expand and improve its relations with the media, to record the results of these contacts, and to enhance communication with journalists.

Media contacts

Throughout 2000, the EMCDDA's media desk responded to all incoming media requests, aiming to provide answers within 24 hours. Details of these contacts were catalogued and included, for the first time, in the EMCDDA quarterly news reviews (see 'Media follow-up' below).

The EMCDDA continually updated its media contact lists per EU Member State and selected third countries. It also updated the contacts in its fax database (designed for automatic dissemination of faxes to 1 250 journalists) and continued to build up a list of e-mail groupings for the faster transmission of news releases. These lists cover both print and broadcast media. Contacts with the Brussels press corps, specialised journals and the youth media were also increased in 2000, following the recommendations of an external consultant in 1999. The Centre maintains close contact with a core group of drug-specialised journalists.

Media products

In 2000, the EMCDDA produced 10 news releases (see http://www.emcdda.org/press/press.shtml). These releases focused less on institutional events and more on the Centre's findings and work results. All news releases were disseminated by fax and e-mail to over 1 200 journalists across the EU.

As in previous years, the Centre contributed articles on its activities to magazines and newsletters in the EU and enhanced its profile through listings in major directories of international organisations.

Media events

On 11 October, the EMCDDA launched its 2000 Annual report at a news conference at the Spokesman's Service of the European Commission in Brussels. EMCDDA Director, Georges Estievenart, presented the latest findings to the Brussels-based 'European media'.

The EMCDDA distributed over 1 000 press packs across Europe containing news releases and the Annual report in 11 EU languages. In 2000, the EMCDDA went a step further than in previous years by producing two special-focus releases on women drug users and on substitution treatment in addition to the two main releases. Thus four news releases in all 11 EU languages were distributed to 1 240 journalists. The Reitox national focal points, Spokesman's Service and the European Commission and Parliament offices in the EU Member States helped to further disseminate these communications and to follow up media contacts and coverage. The launch was filmed by the European Commission's audiovisual service for dissemination to interested European TV networks. The Euronews channel produced a special programme on the work of the EMCDDA which was broadcast throughout the week following the launch.

As in previous years, one of the most important features of the launch was the availability of the Annual report and news releases on the EMCDDA web site, offering journalists rapid access to materials. On that day helpdesks also operated at the EMCDDA and national focal points to answer journalists' questions and give interviews.

Media follow-up

Throughout 2000, the EMCDDA produced quarterly news reviews recording the impact of EMCDDA news releases. These also catalogued: press contacts; articles published by EMCDDA staff in external journals; and book review articles on the Centre's products.

As in previous years, the Centre also compiled a news review on the launch of its 2000 Annual report, which totalled some 400 pages.

EMCDDA public web site

The EMCDDA's public web site, at http://www.emcdda.org, is central to the Centre's dissemination strategy. Prioritising the use of Internet technology as a means of reaching the key audiences also forms an integral part of the Centre's reform plan and time has been dedicated to planning future developments in this area.

The site, which was extensively redesigned and restructured in 1999, is gaining repute in the information field. In March 2000, at the 'EIA Awards for European Information Sources 1999', it was nominated as one of two 'Commended titles' in the 'Electronic sources: Internet web sites' categories.

One of the main achievements in 2000 was the integration of a multilingual branch which now provides a comprehensive overview of the Centre's work in all official EU languages. Content developments included the addition of a comprehensive section on legal issues concerning drugs.

In the context of the online publication of the Annual report, a new section was introduced better adapted to the Internet medium, offering downloadable statistical tables and data sources.

Further measures were also taken to improve the performance and technical stability of the service. A second download site is now hosted outside the Centre to ensure stability and ease traffic at peak periods e.g. at the launch of the Annual report. Promotion and search possibilities were enhanced through increased meta tagging of files.

The public site is the general interface from which the entire range of the Centre's online products and databases can be accessed. The visual integration of the 'Virtual library' project and Evaluation Instruments Bank were completed in 2000 and further products are on course for integration.

EMCDDA intranet

The Centre's intranet has been expanded and improved. Its profile has been raised and it has now been adopted as the preferred means of internal communication. An information correspondent in each department is responsible for providing up-to-date information and contributing to its further development under the responsibility of the intranet project manager.

Documentation

Documentation and Information Centre (DIC)

During 2000, the EMCDDA's documentation collection was expanded. New material was catalogued, classified and loaded into the EMCDDA's internal library catalogue.

Indexing of the documentary collection commenced so as to render the library database fully functional and provide users with better access to the information. A list of terms covering the EMCDDA's working areas, and organised thematically, was drawn up to assist in this task. This exercise forms part of a broader terminology project covering both documentation and publications.

The 'Thematic bibliographies' area was enlarged with the addition of a third bibliography of scientific literature on 'drug-related non-fatal emergencies'.

Development of 'Bibliodatabase'

Bibliodatabase, the online bibliographic catalogue available to EMCDDA staff was improved with new software which provides a user-friendlier interface and offers more capabilities. Two chapters — 'EMCDDA reports' and 'Thematic bibliographies' — were made available to the general public via the Centre's public web site during 2000.

User services

Internal and external demand for the provision of user services continued to grow. The work undertaken by the DIC during 2000 covered:

- bibliographic searches on internal and external databases (including Internet and specialised CD-ROMs);
- strengthening contacts with European and international organisations to acquire and exchange documents;
- timely replies to information requests;
- lending services and inter-library loans;
- presenting the documentary activities to external visiting groups.

Representation and partnership activities

In 2000, documentation staff participated in the Eurolib general assembly and in the Elisad annual conference. As a follow-up to these meetings, the EMCDDA plans to disseminate its documentary resources in the Eurolib directory via the Europa server and to participate in Elisad projects such as the European Internet subject gateway on alcohol and other drugs.

Dialogue with the European citizen

The EMCDDA pursues an active policy in the field of public information and receives an increasing number of requests for information on its work and findings. In 2000, this service concentrated on: ensuring a quick and high-quality response; guaranteeing the appropriate level of response to the audience's needs; and implementing the code of good administrative behaviour for officials in their relation to

the public, which was adopted by the Centre in January, following a recommendation by the European Ombudsman in 1999.

Information technology (IT)

Common EMCDDA–Reitox electronic network

The common EMCDDA–Reitox electronic network, set up with funding from the European Commission's interchange of data between administrations (IDA) programme, was increasingly used by the Reitox community (EMCDDA and national focal points) for disseminating and exchanging information and promoting understanding and transparency within the network (see Chapter 3).

During 2000, a working group of experts, composed of members of the EMCDDA and the NFPs, was created to discuss the further development of this network within the framework of the IDA II programme. The submission of the project to the European Commission has been postponed until 2001 in order that the final decisions of the internal reform may be taken into account.

Consolidation of the EMCDDA's IT environment

In 2000, new equipment (e.g. PCs, servers), miscellaneous software packages and licenses were purchased and maintenance contracts for IT services set up or renewed. Part of this investment relates to maintaining an up-to-date IT environment necessary for the daily work of EMCDDA staff who continued to receive permanent technical assistance from the internal helpdesk.

The other part relates to building the necessary IT environment for the Centre's various information systems and databases (e.g. EDDRA, Reitox site). This included the integration of a high availability firewall system to ensure security in the exchange of data between the EMCDDA and the Internet. A dedicated telecommunication line (256Kbps bandwidth) between the EMCDDA and the TESTA II network (a trans-European data communication network that links the European institutions, agencies and the Member States) was also installed. Simultaneously, the capacity of the current telecommunication line that links the EMCDDA to the Internet has been increased to a bandwidth of 256Kbps. Increasing the capacity of the Internet connection has enhanced access to the EMCDDA public web site and to the Reitox web site (both hosted at the Centre) for external and internal users alike. The web site on Phare's multi-beneficiary drugs programme (http://www.fad.phare.org) was transferred to the IT environment of the Centre.

In April, the Court of Auditors of the European institutions carried out a first audit on the information technology (IT) environment as well as on the budgetary and accounting software system (SI2) of the EMCDDA. The Centre's budgetary and accounting software system (SI2) has since been set up to enable the EMCDDA financial controller in Brussels (European Commission) to consult the database via a special telecommunication line.

In November, an information technology strategy working group was set up to discuss the role and positioning of IT in the overall EMCDDA strategy. The group is composed of some of the Centre's staff as well as external participants (e.g. representatives from the European Commission and the NFPs).

Project advice and participation

IT team members continued to play an important role as technical advisers and/or project leaders for many EMCDDA projects involving software development, or as consultants on projects concerning IT infrastructure. These projects include:

- the exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA) information system (see Chapter 2);
- the information system on training activities in the field of demand reduction (ISTRA);
- the Evaluation Instrument Bank (EIB) (see Chapter 2);
- the budgetary and financial system (SI2);
- the EMCDDA public web site;
- the Reitox web site;
- the EMCDDA intranet;
- the web interface for the Centre's library catalogue;
- the 'Virtual library' system;
- the development of a legal database on drugs (ELDD);
- the Centre's mail management system (Adonis);
- TESTA and TESTA II;
- the flexitime system (Teleponto);
- the inventory information system (ELS);
- the preparation of the epidemiology information system;
- IDA II;
- the European web site and network for qualitative research (http://www.qed.org.uk).

Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 2000
Information strategies and communication resources

Date	Place	Event
Media relations		
11 October	Brussels	Launch of the 2000 *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union*, European Commission Spokesman's Service.

Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 2000
Information strategies and communication resources

Date	Place	Event
Documentation		
16–17 October	Thessaloniki	Eurolib interim meeting, Cedefop
9–11 November	Prague	Elisad 12th annual meeting: 'Linking together', National Institute of Public Health

Publications and web site

20 January	Luxembourg	Meeting with ERIN on web site project
5 July	Dublin	Working visit to the EU agency, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
13 September	Luxembourg	Meeting with ERIN on web site project
17–20 October	Frankfurt	Frankfurt Book Fair
5–7 December	London	Online Information 2000

Information technology

12–13 January	Brussels	IDA–TESTA user group meeting and IDA inter-service group meeting
16–17 February	Brussels	IDA–TESTA tutorial and workshop on MPLS tag-switching technology
18 February	Brussels	SI2: CSS steering committee meeting
23–28 February	Hannover	CeBIT Fair — European exhibition for IT professionals
14–16 June	Brussels	Feasibility study meeting on SI2 in the context of TESTA II
27–29 June	Brussels	TESTA meeting and SI2 CSS steering committee meeting
17–18 July	Brussels	Preparation of IDA EMCDDA–Reitox II project
27 July	Luxembourg	SI2: information exchange on business objects
25–29 September	Brussels	SI2: training course in business objects
9–10 November	Brussels	SI2: steering committee meeting
21 November	Lisbon	Information technology strategy working group meeting
23 November	Brussels	IDA meeting of national experts on portals

Articles published, 2000
Information strategies and communication resources

Media relations

Robertson, K., 'EU drugs agency presents new web site', *The Parliament Magazine*, No 17, January 2000, p. 16.

Robertson, K., 'Presentation of the publications programme of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)', *European Union Publishers' Forum Newsletter*, No 1, 2000, pp. 8–9.

Robertson, K., 'Providing information you can count on: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction', *Frontier Free Europe*, No 3, 2000, Supplement, pp. 1–2, European Commission.

Chapter 6

Administration, finance and logistics

Further to the findings of the EMCDDA external evaluation carried out in the second half of 1999 ([3]) attention was focused on reform. This took the shape of a reform plan that was prepared by the EMCDDA Director and adopted by the EMCDDA Management Board in September 2000.

This plan aims to reform the EMCDDA internal structure and working methods. Among other measures, it defines the EMCDDA's approach to quality management, project-based planning and activity-based budgeting and management and outlines the EMCDDA's human resources policy for the coming years.

([3]) Management consultants Deloitte & Touche embarked on the external evaluation of the Centre in July 1999 following a call for tender launched by the European Commission earlier in the year.

EMCDDA staff

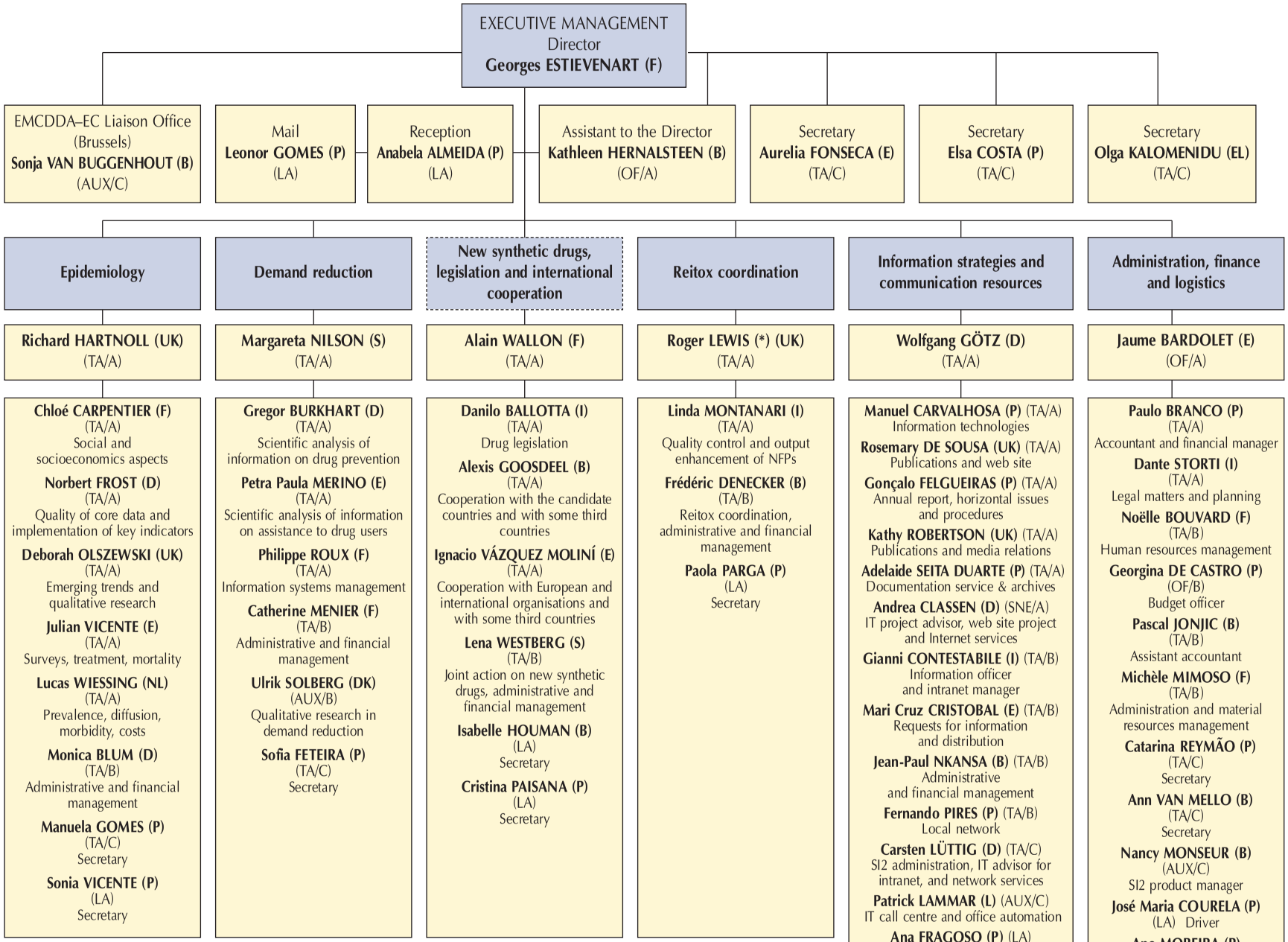
Three new posts were created under the 2000 budget: one post at A7/A6 level, one at B5/B4 level and one at C5/C4 level. At the end of 2000, a total of 52 statutory staff members (3 European Union officials, 44 temporary agents, 4 auxiliary agents and 1 seconded national expert) were employed at the EMCDDA along with 13 local agents. The table below indicates the nationality, status and grade of the staff members.

Employees of the EMCDDA share the same status as their colleagues in other European Community agencies, being subject to the 'Staff regulations and rules applicable to officials and other servants of the European Communities.'

EMCDDA staff breakdown by nationality, status and grade

Nationality	EU officials			Temporary staff			Auxiliary staff			Seconded national experts			Local agents	Total
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C		
Belgium	1			1	3	2			2				2	11
Denmark								1						1
Germany				3	1	1				1				6
Greece						1								1
Spain	1			3	1	1								6
France				4	3									7
Ireland														0
Italy				3	1									4
Luxembourg									1					1
Netherlands				1										1
Austria														0
Portugal		1		4	1	4							11	21
Finland														0
Sweden				1	1									2
United Kingdom				4										4
Total	**2**	**1**	**0**	**24**	**11**	**9**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**13**	**65**

EMCDDA staff 2000



AUX: Auxiliary agent
LA: Local agent
OF: EC official
SNE: Seconded national expert
TA: Temporary agent
(*) Until April 2000.

Staff appear in alphabetical order by grade.

Finance

Key decisions

In 2000, key financial decisions taken by the EMCDDA Management Board included:

- a decision to offer the Director discharge on the implementation of the 1998 budget;
- the adoption of the 2000 budget of EUR 8 250 000;
- the adoption of the EMCDDA's 2001 preliminary draft budget of EUR 8 750 000.

EMCDDA 2000 budget

The budgetary figures for 2000 are presented in the tables below.

Budgetary provisions and appropriations, 2000

Title	Description	EUR
1.	**Expenditure relating to persons working with the office**	
	• Staff in active employment	3 777 000
	• Missions and duty travel	230 000
	• Other staff-related expenditure (socio-medical infrastructure, exchange of officials, etc.)	58 000
	Total under Title 1	**4 065 000**
2.	**Buildings, equipment and sundry operating expenditure**	
	• Investment in immovable property, rental of buildings and associated costs	175 000
	• Data processing	200 000
	• Movable property and associated costs	250 000
	• Current administrative expenditure	113 000
	• Postal charges and telecommunications	127 000
	• Statutory meetings	170 000
	Total under Title 2	**1 035 000**
3.	**Expenditure resulting from special functions carried out by the institution**	
	• Expenditure on formal and other meetings	235 000
	• Studies, surveys, consultations	470 000
	• Publishing	725 000
	• European network on drugs and drug addiction (Reitox)	1 720 000
	Total under Title 3	**3 150 000**
	Total core budget	**8 250 000**
4.	**Expenditure relating to other subsidies**	
	• EC financing of specific projects	**p.m.**
	• Phare financing for implementing pre-accession strategy	**p.m.**
10.	**Other expenses (reserve)**	**0**
	Total budget	**8 250 000**

Execution of the budget: Credit consumption, 2000 (Commitments)

Title	Description	Consumption of available credits (%)
1.	**Staff**	
	• Staff salaries, allowances, missions, etc.	98
2.	**Buildings, equipment and sundry operating expenditure**	99
3.	**Operating expenditure**	95
4.	**Expenditure relating to other subsidies**	0
	Total consumption (Titles 1, 2, 3 and 4)	**97**

EMCDDA balance sheet for the financial years 1999 and 1998: Assets

(1 000 EUR)

Assets	1999	1998
Fixed assets		
• Fixed assets	3 603	3 518
Subtotal	3 603	3 518
Stocks		
• Office equipment	17	29
Subtotal	17	29
Current assets		
• Commission subsidy	0	570
• Specific grants	265	0
• VAT to be recovered	3	4
• Sundry debtors	37	403
• Payments on specific subsidies	1	10
Subtotal	306	987
Cash accounts		
• Bank	4 276	3 230
• Imprest account	49	527
• Transfers in progress	– 20	– 47
Subtotal	4 305	3 710
Total assets	**8 231**	**8 244**

EMCDDA balance sheet for the financial years 1999 and 1998: Liabilities

(1 000 EUR)

Liabilities	1999	1998
Fixed capital		
• Own capital [4]	3 620	3 547
• Balance for the financial year	1 617	1 287
Subtotal	5 237	4 834
Current liabilities		
• Commission subsidy	0	570
• Specific grants	265	0
• VAT to be recovered	3	4
• Sundry account due	150	405
• Automatic carry-overs of appropriations	2 133	2 112
• Non-automatic carry-overs of appropriations	280	280
• Re-use accounts	163	39
Subtotal	2 994	3 410
Total liabilities	**8 231**	**8 244**

[4] The amount corresponds to that of fixed assets and stocks excluding the refurbishing of the building (about EUR 1 million).

Out-turn account
Revenue and expenditure for the financial years 1999 and 1998

(1 000 EUR)

	1999	1998
Revenue		
• EC subsidy	8 156	9 695
• Miscellaneous revenue	0	277
Total revenue	**8 156**	**9 972**
Expenditure		
• Title I: Staff expenditure		
— Payments	3 367	2 751
— Automatic carry-overs of appropriations	59	138
• Title II: Buildings, equipment and miscellaneous administrative expenditure		
— Payments	637	805
— Automatic carry-overs of appropriations	240	430
— Non-automatic carry-overs of appropriations	205	0
• Title III: Operating expenditure		
— Payments	1 569	1 305
— Automatic carry-overs of appropriations	1 833	1 544
— Non-automatic carry-overs of appropriations	75	280
Total revenue	**7 985**	**7 253**
Out-turn for the financial year		
• Budgetary out-turn	171	2 719
• Cancelled appropriations	159	137
• Balance carried over from the previous year	1 287	– 1 569
Balance for the financial year	**1 617**	**1 287**

Chapter 7

The EMCDDA and its statutory bodies

The EMCDDA's statutory bodies are the Management Board, the Bureau of the Management Board and the Scientific Committee, all of which met in 2000. A summary of the decisions adopted and major points discussed at their meetings are set out in the following pages.

Management Board

The Management Board is the main decision-making body of the EMCDDA. It meets at least once a year and consists of one representative of each Member State of the European Union, two representatives of the European Commission and two persons highly qualified in the field of drugs designated by the European Parliament.

In 2000, the Management Board met three times in Lisbon. Besides its usual agenda items — such as the adoption of the annual work programme and budget — it adopted the medium-term perspectives and objectives of the Centre and an internal reform plan, both of which were drawn up following the external evaluation of the EMCDDA. The committee met on all three occasions under the chairmanship of Franz J. Bindert (Germany).

Management Board meetings in 2000

At its 18th meeting in Lisbon on 12 to 14 January, the Management Board adopted, among others: the 2000 work programme; the *General report of activities 1999;* a budget of EUR 8.25 million for 2000; and a preliminary draft budget of EUR 8.75 million for 2001. In the context of the implementation of the legal information system, the Board also decided to launch a study on substitution treatment. The Board gave discharge to the Director for the implementation of the 1998 budget and decided to carry over EUR 279 564 from 1999 to 2000. It further adopted a document on relations with international organisations and mandated the Director to draw up a 'Code of good administrative behaviour for officials in their relations with the public'.

In addition to these decisions, the Management Board discussed the accession of the candidate countries and the EMCDDA media strategy.

At its 19th meeting of 3 March, the Management Board discussed in depth the report drawn up by external consultants on the EMCDDA's activities. The Management Board took several decisions to improve the working methods and the organisation of the Board. It requested the Director to present concrete proposals for the reorganisation of the internal structure and to conduct a fundamental analysis on ways of improving the use of the network as well as the organisation of and support for the national focal points. The Board also decided to set up a small working group to propose solutions for the internal and structural problems posed by the EMCDDA's forthcoming enlargement.

At its 20th meeting from 6 to 8 September, the Management Board adopted the new rules of procedure of the Board, the medium-term perspectives and objectives of the Centre, the internal reform plan and a document on the enlargement strategy.

In addition to these decisions, items discussed included: the 2001–03 work programme; the 2001 work programme; reporting to the UNDCP; and Iceland's interest in participating in the activities of the EMCDDA.

Bureau

The Bureau of the Management Board meets five to six weeks before each Management Board meeting to prepare the agenda for the latter in consultation with the Director. In accordance with Article 2 of the rules of procedure of the Management

Board, the Bureau may also, between any two meetings of the Board and in consultation with the Director, take decisions unanimously which are urgent or necessary for the management of the Centre, subject to ratification by the Board at its next meeting. In 2000, the Bureau met twice in Lisbon and five times in Brussels [5].

Bureau meetings in 2000

In the course of the year, issues discussed by the Bureau included: the external evaluation of the Centre and the work of the special EMCDDA steering group set up to accompany the evaluators; the limitations and suitability of the current EMCDDA headquarters; the launch of the 2000 Annual report; and the timetable for the production of the 2001 Annual report.

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is a consultative organ that assists the Management Board and the EMCDDA with its opinions and recommendations on scientific matters. The committee consists of one representative from each of the Member States of the European Union, although the Management Board may elect up to six other members. The committee is convened by its chairman at least once a year.

In 2000, the Scientific Committee met four times in Lisbon, holding two regular meetings and two extended meetings in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs. The committee met on all four occasions under the chairmanship of Desmond Corrigan (Ireland).

Scientific Committee meetings in 2000

At the 13th meeting of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, 16 to 17 March, in-depth discussions were held on the findings of two evaluation exercises carried out in 1999: the external evaluation of the EMCDDA; and a technical evaluation study on the mechanisms set up to implement the joint action on new synthetic drugs, undertaken by the Belgian national focal point.

As a follow-up to these two exercises, the committee delivered formal opinions with a number of operational recommendations for improving its work, including the development of task-specific subcommittees. Meetings also took place of the subcommittees on the quality indicators for epidemiological and demand-reduction studies. Among others, concrete scientific criteria for projects and reports were discussed and the importance of publication in scientific peer-review journals was stressed. The committee accepted the proposal from the steering group on new synthetic drugs that its name should be changed to 'subcommittee on risk assessment' for reasons of consistency. Furthermore, it discussed the findings of the subcommittee's meeting on the development of the *Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs* (see below). Updated information was presented at the meeting on GHB and ketamine and on the follow-up to the risk-assessment report on 4-MTA.

On 25 and 26 September, an enlarged EMCDDA Scientific Committee met to assess the risks of GHB and ketamine. These special risk-assessment meetings were

[5] 10 January (Brussels); 21 February (Brussels); 3 March (Lisbon); 29–30 June (Brussels); 28 July (Brussels); 6 September (Lisbon); 27 November (Brussels).

attended by Scientific Committee members, additional experts from the Member States, representatives of the European Commission, the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA) and Europol. The enlarged committee's tasks were to assess the health and social risks and possible consequences of prohibition of the substances. The meetings resulted in the adoption of the risk-assessment reports on GHB and ketamine. The reports were submitted on 13 October to the Council of the EU and the European Commission for further consideration in accordance with Article 5 of the joint action (see Chapter 4).

The 14th meeting of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee took place on 11 to 12 December and examined, discussed and adopted an opinion on the EMCDDA's 2001 and 2001–03 (draft) work programmes. The Scientific Committee strongly endorsed the view that the EMCDDA continue to be promoted as a 'centre of excellence' among drug experts, researchers and practitioners by producing information of a high scientific standard. The Scientific Committee also examined, discussed and formally approved the recommended draft technical tools and guidelines for the implementation of the five key epidemiological indicators by Member States. One of the recommendations of the committee was that these indicators be implemented on a widespread basis within the EU. Among the other items discussed at the meeting were the medium-term perspectives for the Centre and the EMCDDA internal reform plan and its effects on the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee also commented on the Centre's 2000 Annual report. Finally, the committee received updated information on the follow-up of the risk-assessment reports on GHB and ketamine.

Subcommittee on risk assessment meetings

The Scientific Committee's subcommittee on risk assessment — set up in 1997 to prepare the risk-assessment procedure under the joint action on new synthetic drugs — met five times in 2000 (see also Chapter 4) [6].

On 16 March, the subcommittee on risk assessment further developed its *Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs*. In this area, progress was made on the process of weighting and scoring criteria via the use of a scoring table. The subcommittee recommended that MDMA be used as the reference substance to validate this scoring instrument. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Centre commission a study to prepare the relevant technical annexes to the guidelines on MDMA. The outcome of the action on compiling a shortlist of laboratories for toxicity testing within the EU, which had been proposed at the risk-assessment meeting on MBDB of 9 and 10 November 1998, was also presented.

On 13 and 14 July, a technical expert meeting on the pharmacotoxicology of GHB and ketamine was held at the EMCDDA and attended by experts and members of the subcommittee on risk assessment. A scientific literature review on the substances was presented.

The meeting on 24 September prepared the extended Scientific Committee meetings on GHB and ketamine, whereas the meeting on 26 September finalised the risk-assessment reports on GHB and ketamine in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs.

[6] 16 March, 13 and 14 July, 24 and 26 September.

Chapter 8

The EMCDDA and its partners

Since its creation, the EMCDDA has developed partnerships with a wide range of organisations, both within the European Union and further afield. In 2000, the Centre furthered existing cooperation while establishing links with new bodies and regions.

The Executive Director, Georges Estievenart, signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organisation of American States (CICAD-OAS). These were in addition to those already signed and implemented with the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and Council of Europe's Pompidou Group. Contacts were also taken up with Europol, Interpol and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), with a view to agreeing the contents of other MOUs.

The Centre received many visits from authorities in third countries such as from Bolivia, Japan and Mexico, and from other international bodies, such as the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). It was a special honour for the EMCDDA to receive the visit of their Royal Highnesses the then Hereditary Grand Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg.

In the margins of the ministerial conference of the Pompidou Group, ministers from various candidate countries, such as Hungary, Poland and Turkey visited the Centre. These visits allowed for deeper discussion on the future participation of candidate countries in the Centre's activities.

Overview of how the activities described in this chapter relate to the priority objectives of the 1998–2000 work programme

Priority objective 5

Developing structured cooperation with the EMCDDA's international partners and ensuring synergies and complementarity with EU programmes and activities, avoiding any duplication of work

Cooperation with European Union institutions and bodies

Cooperation with European and international partners

Cooperation with central and east European countries (CEECs)

Developing cooperation with third countries

Cooperation with European Union institutions and bodies

European Parliament

In 2000, the EMCDDA followed discussions in the European Parliament regarding the EU drug phenomenon. In October, the Centre presented the EMCDDA reform plan and medium-term perspectives to the Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs which were positively received. A special presentation was also made of the 2000 Annual report prior to its official launch on 11 October.

Council of the European Union

In 2000, the EMCDDA participated as an expert body, along with Europol, in all meetings of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HWPD) of the Council of the European Union. During the Portuguese Presidency, the Centre played an active role, alongside the Commission and Europol, in the preparation of the EU action plan on drugs (2000–04). The EMCDDA was involved in several meetings, in particular on the prevention of drug-related crime, organised in Portugal under the auspices of the Presidency of the EU. The Centre was also present in the Lisbon high-level meeting for the launch of the 'Coordination and cooperation mechanism between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean' in the framework of the action plan endorsed by the Rio Summit of June 1999.

At the request of the French Presidency of the EU, the EMCDDA presented to the HWPD the state of achievement of draft definitions and guidelines drawn up by the Centre for the implementation in Member States of the five key epidemiological indicators. The EMCDDA also participated in the ad hoc meetings of the HWPD to study the French proposal to network the existing structures, including the Reitox national focal points, in order to obtain better information-collection and evaluation of new trends and behaviours of drug use and their associated risks. On the same subject, the Centre participated actively in the European seminar held in Paris on 23 to 24 November under the auspices of the French Presidency. As requested by the Centre's regulation, a draft proposal of the

EMCDDA three-year work programme 2001–03 was sent to the Council, as well as to the Commission, to seek their opinion before adoption by the Centre's Management Board.

European Commission

Cooperation with various sections of the European Commission was intensified, in particular with the Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs.

Cooperation is highlighted throughout this report under the respective activity area.

Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs: cooperation in the preparation and launch of the 2000 Annual report.

Spokesman's Service of the European Commission: hosting of the 2000 Annual report press launch and news conference (see Chapter 5).

Directorate-General for Enterprise: interchange of data between administrators (IDA) programme (see Chapter 5).

Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection: programme for the prevention of drug dependence (see Chapter 2).

Directorate-General for Research: the EMCDDA received funding from the European Commission's targeted socioeconomic research (TSER) programme for a number of projects in the field of epidemiology (see Chapter 1).

Eurostat: The EMCDDA cooperated closely on the topic of drug-related deaths (see Chapter 1).

European Union agencies

The EMCDDA participated in several meetings of the EU decentralised agencies, and contributed to discussions on the impact of the future participation of the candidate CEECs on their work.

Cooperation with European and international partners

Council of Europe cooperation group to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking (Pompidou Group)

Following the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed on 28 September 1999 between the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group) and the Centre, the EMCDDA participated in the 45th, 46th and 47th permanent correspondents meetings. The EMCDDA also participated in the ministerial conference in Sintra on 12 to 13 October 2000. On this occasion the EMCDDA submitted a written contribution to the participants' pack — 'Reviewing legal aspects of substitution treatment at international level'. In addition to these activities, other joint projects are under discussion including one on the specific problems of women and drugs, and a study on social costs.

United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

The EMCDDA attended the last Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) held in Vienna 6 to 10 March 2000. A meeting, attended by representatives from most of the international organisations and interested countries, was held prior to this at EMCDDA headquarters with a view to identifying a core set of harmonised indicators in the epidemiology field. The results of this meeting were submitted to the CND in the so-called 'Lisbon consensus document'. A number of interesting joint topics were identified, among them, the future establishment of a joint legal information system, the identification of criteria to avoid overlap and duplication of work in the compilation of national reports, and the implementation of the main elements of the abovementioned document.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

In late March, the memorandum of understanding between both organisations was signed through an exchange of letters between Mr Marc Danzon, Director of WHO regional office for Europe and Mr Georges Estievenart, EMCDDA Executive Director. Preliminary discussions have taken place to identify joint projects for its future implementation. Among the different possibilities is a joint project related to drug abuse in prisons.

European Police Office (Europol)

Cooperation between the EMCDDA and Europol was enhanced in 2000 due to their shared role in the joint action on new synthetic drugs (see Chapter 4).

International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)

Preliminary discussions between officials from both organisations resulted in the drafting of a memorandum of understanding. A document identifying possible activities to be jointly developed was also drawn up and was due to be approved by the Management Board in early 2001, prior to final approval by the Interpol General Assembly. The EMCDDA attended as an observer the last Interpol General Assembly held in Rhodes from 30 October to 4 November.

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

The EMCDDA attended as an observer the 28th CICAD regular meeting held in Port-of-Spain from 24 to 26 October, following the signing of the memorandum of understanding agreed by both organisations through an exchange of letters in July. The EMCDDA also attended the 27th CICAD regular meeting held in Washington from 1 to 3 May 2000. In the margins of this meeting, members of CICAD who participated in the preparation of the 'Lisbon consensus document' met with EMCDDA staff to discuss the general content of the future memorandum of understanding.

Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)

The EMCDDA took part in several meetings of FATF and attended a technical workshop on estimating drug trafficking proceeds.

Dublin Group

The Dublin Group is a flexible and informal consultative and coordinating body that deals with world problems, regional problems and problems specific to a particular country or countries involving the illegal traffic in and the demand for nar-

cotics. In addition to the EU Member States, the participants are Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway and the United States. At the Dublin Group's meeting of 29 and 30 June in Brussels, the EMCDDA was invited to present an overview of the Centre's activities. The Presidency invited the EMCDDA to attend future Dublin Group meetings where specific topics related to the Centre's activities were to be addressed.

Cooperation with central and east European countries (CEECs)

Enhanced pre-accession strategy

Under the terms of the enhanced pre-accession strategy preparing for adhesion to the EU, the European Council of Luxembourg decided to allow the candidate countries to participate in selected Community programmes and European agencies. Priority was given to the EMCDDA and the Copenhagen-based European Environment Agency.

During the year, the EMCDDA together with the Commission drew up the technical proposal of a technical assistance project to be funded by the Phare programme, with the aim of preparing the candidate CEECs to take part in the activities of the Centre. This project is expected to start in February 2001.

For this purpose, a modification to the founding regulation of the EMCDDA, allowing the Centre to provide technical assistance to the candidate countries and to the countries eligible for the Phare programme, was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 28 September. It had been approved by the European Parliament in June.

Various official visits have been paid to the EMCDDA in 2000, showing the marked interest of the candidate countries concerning the activities of the Centre. By the end of 2000, initial contact had been established with all candidate countries in light of their future participation in the activities of the EMCDDA, and some of them had already formally expressed their interest in participating in the work of the Centre (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).

Developing cooperation with third countries

On 28 September, the Council of the EU approved the agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Norway on the participation of Norway in the activities of the EMCDDA. The participation of Norway is expected to commence in January 2001.

Some 40 delegates from third countries visited the EMCDDA headquarters in the margins of the second high-level meeting of the 'Coordination and cooperation mechanism in the field of drugs between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean' held in Lisbon on 22 and 23 May.

On 28 February, the EMCDDA was invited to present its activities at the Mediterranean Forum held under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency in Cascais.

Major visits to the EMCDDA, 2000

Date	Visit
15 March	Visit of Sergio Medinaceli, Vice-Minister of Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Bolivian Republic
20 March	Visit of HE the Ambassador of Estonia in Portugal, Mr P. Lettens
7 April	Visit of the Chancellor of the Embassy of Poland in Portugal, Ms M. Ziembinska
10 April	Visit of HE the Ambassador of Slovakia in Portugal, Mr P. Hrmo
13 April	Visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia, Mr P. Casky
18 April	Visit of their Royal Highnesses the then Hereditary Grand Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg
19 May	Visit of José Antonio González Fernández, Minister of Health of the United States of Mexico
23 May	Visit of delegates participating in the second high-level meeting of the EU–Latin America–Caribbean Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism in the field of drugs
21 June	Visit of Mr P. Rakowski, Polish Ministry of Interior
21 September	Visit of the International Narcotic Control Board
12 October	Visit of Mr T. Deutsch, Minister of Youth and Sports, President of the Hungarian Committee for the Coordination of Drugs Affairs
13 October	Visit of Mr K. Tronczynski, Minister of Health of Poland
	Visit of Mr R. Muscat, Permanent Correspondent of the Republic of Malta to the Pompidou Group
	Visit of a high-level delegation from Turkey, headed by HE the Ambassador of Turkey in Portugal

Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 2000

Date	Place	Event
6–10 March	Vienna	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, United Nations Drugs Control Programme
30–31 March	Strasbourg	45th meeting of permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group
1–3 May	Washington	27th regular meeting of CICAD
29–30 June	Brussels	Dublin Group meeting
11–12 September	Strasbourg	46th meeting of permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group
11 October	Sintra	47th meeting of permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group
12–13 October	Sintra	Ministerial Conference, Council of Europe's Pompidou Group
24–26 October	Port of Spain	28th regular meeting of CICAD
30 October–4 November	Rhodes	Interpol General Assembly

Practical information

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
Rua da Cruz de Santa Apolónia 23–25
P-1149-045 Lisboa

Tel. (351) 218 11 30 00

Fax (351) 218 13 17 11

E-mail: info@emcdda.org

Web site: **http://www.emcdda.org**

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

General report of activities 2000

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2001 — 71 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 92-9168-108-3