



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

European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

DrugNet Europe

Bimonthly Newsletter of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

March – April 1998 • Issue No. 10

ISSN 0873-5379

The second Three-year Work Programme of the EMCDDA (1998–2000), approved unanimously by the Management Board at the end of 1997, represents a major milestone in the Centre's development and provides the framework for its activities into the next millennium.

The underlying goal of the Programme is to build on, enhance and develop the achievements of the agency during its first Three-year Work Programme within the longer-term perspective of fulfilling the aims of its founding regulation: 'to provide the Community and its Member States with objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences'.* This goal will be achieved by focusing on six priority objectives.

The first objective is to consolidate and improve the Centre's epidemiological and demand-reduction information systems on the basis of agreed sets of core data. This relates to the agency's first task of collecting and analysing existing data. Basic instruments for data collection and for monitoring trends and patterns have already been established by the Centre, and include guidelines for *National Reports* and other more specialised tools in the fields of epidemiology and demand reduction. The priorities for the future are: to increase the capacity and improve the quality and accessibility of current information systems; to improve methods for analysing the information collected; and to set up and develop a mechanism to implement the Joint Action of 16 June 1997 on information exchange, risk assessment and the control of new synthetic drugs.

The second objective is to consolidate and enhance the REITOX network of Focal Points in the 15 Member States and the European Commission. Besides continuing to clarify the roles, rights and responsibilities of the Focal Points in relation both to the Centre and to the Member States, the priorities are to

EMCDDA, as well as guidelines for evaluating demand-reduction interventions and appropriate early-warning indicators for new synthetic drugs.

The fourth objective is to improve the quality of the *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union*, enhance the visibility of the work of the EMCDDA and the REITOX network, and improve the dissemination of the information collected and produced by the Centre.

The fifth objective is to develop structured co-operation with the Centre's international partners and third countries, and to ensure synergy and complementarity with EU programmes and activities.

The final objective, which falls under activities in the area of national and Community strategies and policies, is gradually to develop tools and methodologies for comparing interventions, legislation, strategies and policies in the EU (including cost-effectiveness evaluation). The first step is to develop an easily accessible and com-

parable database on existing instruments, including those in the field of new synthetic drugs.

Much has been achieved in the first three years of the Centre's existence. We hope, and indeed expect, that the second Three-year Work Programme will provide a stimulating and valuable framework in which to develop further the work of the Centre and its partners.

Richard Hartnoll

* Council Regulation (EEC) No. 302/93 outlines four tasks for the Centre: the collection and analysis of existing data; the improvement of data-comparison methods; the dissemination of data; and co-operation with European and international bodies and organisations and with non-Community countries.

CENTRE LOOKS TO THE NEXT MILLENNIUM



carry forward and develop selected core tasks and specific projects, including work on new synthetic drugs, and to improve the human and technical resources for communication and information exchange.

The third objective is to improve and develop reliable and comparable data-collection methods. These include establishing standards for key epidemiological indicators (drug-use prevalence in population surveys, estimates of the prevalence of problem drug use, treatment demand, drug-related deaths, mortality rates among drugs users, and drug-related infectious diseases), compliance with which should be recommended by the

*Centre offers Overview of
University Training Programmes
in Drug Demand Reduction*

An EMCDDA-commissioned 'Overview of University Training and Related Research in the Area of Demand Reduction' was completed in December 1997 within the framework of a project to set up a database on training facilities in demand reduction in the European Union.*

The aim of this inventory is to provide potential students with a comprehensive overview of training facilities in the EU; to offer training providers the possibility of networking and exchanging experiences; and to provide policy-makers with comparable information on the state of the art of training in the drugs field.

Sixty-one university training programmes were identified in the overview, the greatest number being offered by the United Kingdom (31 courses), with the Netherlands coming second (11 courses). These courses are available on several academic levels, the most prevalent being post-graduate.

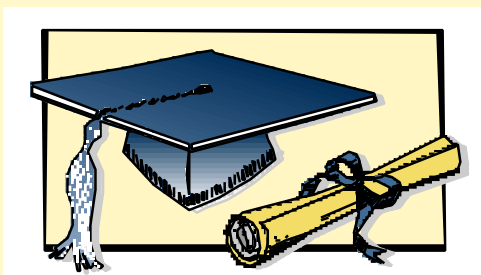
One common denominator between Member States is the multi-disciplinary nature of the courses on offer: the average programme is composed of elements from more than seven disciplines. Of the wide range of topics offered by the programmes, the most popular is treatment.

The findings of the study suggest that university training possibilities in the area of demand reduction are unevenly distributed across the Member States. Students from less privileged countries, however, may enter a programme offered by another Member State. The EMCDDA database on training facilities, to be available on the Internet in 1998, will help to point students in the right direction.

The above study will be followed by further investigations into training offers, addressing topics such as vocational training outside universities and a variety of continuous training possibilities.

Margareta Nilson

* Contractor, the Trimbos Institute (REITOX Focal Point for the Netherlands). The project follows on from an EMCDDA feasibility study carried out in 1993, 'Inventory of Post-graduate Training Programmes on Drugs in Europe'.



**PREPARATIONS FOR THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL
SESSION ON DRUGS**



The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) held its third inter-sessional meeting in Vienna from 3-5 December 1997 in preparation for the Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to the fight against drugs to be held in New York from 8-10 June 1998.* The topic of the meeting was alternative development.

'A Global Plan for the Elimination of Illicit Narcotic Crops', a paper submitted to the December meeting by UNDCP Executive Director Pino Arlacchi, is also under revision,

The European Union, the UNDCP, as well as the governments of Colombia and the USA, all submitted papers for discussion at the meeting on a wide range of topics relevant to alternative development. The debate focused on issues such as the commitment, political will and responsibility of all states to eliminate illicit crop production, and on national contexts for planning and implementing alternative development measures. It also touched on specific recommendations for improving implementation methodology.

*Preparatory meetings
for the Special Session*

26-27 March 1997 – First session of the Commission acting as preparatory body for the 1998 Special Session of the UN General Assembly.

7-9 July 1997 – First inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Precursor Control.

7-9 October 1997 – Second inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Judicial Cooperation and Money Laundering.

13-17 October 1997 – Open-ended inter-governmental meeting on the draft 'Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction'.

3-5 December 1997 – Third inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Alternative Development.

16-20 March 1998 – Second Session of the Commission acting as preparatory body for the 1998 Special Session of the UN General Assembly.

8-10 June 1998 – Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities.

On the basis of these papers and the analysis thereof, the CND Secretariat is finalising a draft paper for discussion and approval by the Commission at its next meeting in Vienna from 16-20 March 1998 in its capacity as preparatory body. The approved paper will then be submitted for endorsement to the Special Session of the General Assembly in June.

and a detailed version will be submitted for approval to the Commission in March for subsequent endorsement by the Special Session in June.

Juana Tomás
EMCDDA-UNDCP Liaison

* Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities. See *DrugNet Europe* No. 5, 7, 8.

Classical quantitative methods in drug epidemiology may give useful indications of the

risk factors of drug use and related problems by measuring cross-national differences in prevalence, patterns of use and some potential consequences, such as infectious diseases, overdoses and so on. However, it is important to interpret what these statistical figures really mean and to gain more in-

depth knowledge of the reasons for and processes of drug use, especially in its more problematic forms. As a result, qualitative methodology is increasingly being seen as a useful tool for understanding drug use, and for planning and evaluating policies and interventions targeted at drug users.



With this in mind, the EMCDDA commissioned a project in 1996 – ‘Inventory, Bibliography and Synthesis of Qualitative Research’ – to obtain a comprehensive picture of such research on drug use in the European Union. The resultant report provided a synthesis and critical assessment of this research in the EU, an inventory of researchers and current research projects, and an annotated bibliography. To complement these activities, a seminar on

‘Qualitative Research: Methodology, Practice and Policy’ was held in Bologna, Italy, from 2–4 July 1997

to discuss the synthesis.* This seminar brought together European qualitative researchers and assessed the potential policy implications of qualitative research.

In response to the conclusions of the study and the seminar, the EMCDDA is

backing the creation of a European network of qualitative researchers on drugs. A new project, started at the end of 1997, will organise and coordinate several working groups of qualitative researchers to analyse specific and relevant issues regarding drug use (i.e., risky forms of use, new trends, and so on) in terms of

drug users’ perceived reasons for use and detailed patterns of drug use at cross-national level. The aim is to provide the EMCDDA with documented analysis and interpretations of observed differences in prevalence, new trends and forms of use, and their consequences in different social contexts, including implications for public-health strategies and prevention.

In the second half of October 1998, a second seminar will be held in Lisbon to examine the results of the above-mentioned working groups and discuss proposals for further research.

Julian Vicente

For further information, please contact the EMCDDA Epidemiology Department quoting the reference ‘Qualitative Research Project’.

* See DrugNet Europe No. 7.

BOOKSHELF



Altered State:

The Story of Ecstasy Culture and Acid House

Altered State tracks the development of ecstasy culture from its roots in the US psychedelic underground and gay disco movements of the 1970s, through the frenzy of acid house and the illegal ‘raves’ of the 1980s, to the ultimate creation of a mass drug culture in 1990s Britain. Pulling together disparate threads of a tale populated by a cast of flamboyant characters, the book documents the responses to the dance-drug movement by the legal, political, medical and commercial establishments.

Drawing on a wealth of background research and original interviews with key figures on both sides of the law, *Altered State* critically examines the causes and contexts, ideologies and myths of ecstasy culture and sheds new light on the social history of this youth movement.

Published by: Serpent’s Tail, UK
Author: Matthew Collin (with contributions by John Godfrey)
Date: 1997
Language: English
Price: £10.99
ISBN: 1–85242–377–3

For further information, please contact: Serpent’s Tail, 4 Blackstock Mews, London N4, England, UK.
Tel: ++ 44 171 354 1949.

The EMCDDA is responsible for the selection of materials for the Bookshelf and for the text presented. However, responsibility for the content of these books and the opinions expressed therein lies with the authors themselves.

ESTIMATING

THE

PREVALENCE


OF PROBLEM

DRUG USE

Following the joint Scientific Seminar on 'Addiction Prevalence Estimation: Methods and Research Strategies', organised by the EMCDDA and the Pompidou Group in Strasbourg in June 1996, a number of activities have maintained the momentum this event created.

In addition to the publication of the Scientific Monograph *Estimating the Prevalence of Problem Drug Use in Europe*,* two important pilot studies were completed in December 1997. These were designed to test the feasibility of implementing Europe-wide standards on prevalence estimation, and of obtaining the first methodologically comparable estimates from European cities and countries. Moreover, in its 1997 Annual Report, the EMCDDA presented two tables which summarised the methods and results of existing national and local studies in Europe for the first time. It appeared that differences in prevalence between countries are relatively small, while much sharper between cities.

The first pilot study, aimed at estimating the prevalence of problem drug use at the national level, brought together experts from five countries (France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden) which had published national-level studies. The experts discussed in detail the respective methods that had been used in their country and the applicability of each method in the other four states. Four methods were found to be most generally applicable and resulted in new estimates, three using multipliers based on contacts with police and treatment services, and one integrating a range of data sources with a statistical model. Availability of data was the main constraint in applying methods in other countries.



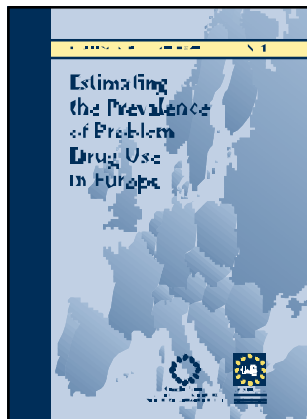
F • O • R • U • M
UNDCP Resource Books

In the context of the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly dedicated to the drug problem (June 1998), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is preparing a series of demand-reduction publications targeted at policy-makers. The purpose is to guide national authorities in the design, implementation, management and evaluation of demand-reduction programmes. A first publication, *Investing in Demand Reduction*, gives a general overview of what demand reduction is, as well as its components. Publications on comprehensive national responses and community responses are planned next. The UNDCP is also developing a lexicon of demand-reduction terms.

For further information, please contact Dr Cindy Fazey, Senior Inter-regional Adviser on Drug Demand Reduction, Policy Development and Methodology Branch, UNDCP, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. Tel: ++ 43 1 21345 4123. Fax: ++ 43 1 21345 5866. e-mail: cfazey@undcp.un.org.at

The aim now, in the follow-up to the pilot project, is to obtain comparable estimates from all 15 EU Member States.

The second pilot study, working on estimates at the local level, concentrated on capture-recapture, one of



the most sophisticated methods discussed at the Strasbourg seminar. This technique uses the relative size of overlap (persons appearing more than once) between three 'samples' of a drug-using population to estimate the total size of this population. In practice, existing data sources, such as drug treatments, police arrests and hospital data, are used as samples. A network of experts from seven European cities (plus two observers) participated in the

project, discussing the method and its application, and using standard guidelines on definitions and procedures to increase comparability. Six cities succeeded in calculating a comparable estimate using three-sample capture-recapture, while an innovative method (truncated Poisson modelling) was tested in the seventh. As a follow-up to this project, the network of local prevalence experts is now functioning as a 'help desk' to assist new capture-recapture studies, while a practical manual is being produced based on the guidelines drawn up in the project.** A literature review is also being carried out which will give a broader overview of prevalence estimation in Europe.

It is encouraging that, at least in parts of Europe, it is increasingly possible to present figures on the prevalence of problem drug use that are based on scientific work. This can be a highly politicised topic, and all too often prevalence estimates circulate that are the result of no more than mere guesswork. The EMCDDA foresees a second conference on the prevalence of problem drug use in 1999, designed to review the progress made in prevalence estimation since the Strasbourg seminar.

Lucas Wiessing

* See *DrugNet Europe* No. 9.

** Those interested in local prevalence studies should contact Gordon Hay, Centre for Drug Misuse Research, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QG, UK. Fax: ++ 44 141 339 5881. e-mail: gkua24@udcf.gla.ac.uk

EMCDDA STATUTORY BODIES

Management Board sets up REITOX working group

The creation of a working group to discuss the role of the REITOX National Focal Points – particularly their financing and their place in the framework of the Early-warning System on New Synthetic Drugs – was one of the key results of the 12th meeting of the EMCDDA's Management Board which took place in Lisbon from 8–9 January under the new chairmanship of Franz-Josef Bindert (Germany).

The new working group – composed of the EMCDDA Bureau members* and the Management Board representatives of Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom – will meet in Lisbon in the coming months to draw up a working paper for discussion and adoption at the next Management Board meeting to be held on 2–3 July.

As regards the 1997 *General Report of Activities*, the Board congratulated the Director on the quality of the *Report* and the speed with which it had been produced, and adopted the text with minor modifications. In the framework of ongoing discussions and an evaluation of the Centre's major publications, the Board suggested that, in future, the *General Report of Activities* be more concise, more accessible to a non-specialist readership, and that a clear distinction be drawn between it and the *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union*.

During discussions on the 1998 Work Programme, the problems of translation and publication of the *Annual Report* were raised. On this point, it was agreed that the original version of the *Report* (English) would not be launched

at European level, if the text and summaries in some languages had not been submitted in advance to the Member States. It was stressed that if the production time of the *Annual Report* were to be shortened, the quality of the *Report*, the top priority of the Centre, may be jeopardised. In this context, the crucial role of the National Focal Points in providing the EMCDDA with quality data on time for the *Report* was underlined.

Following brief discussions, the Board adopted the 1998 Work Programme, gave discharge to the Director for the implementation of the 1996 budget, adopted the 1998 budget of MECU 7.6 and adopted a preliminary draft budget for 1999 of MECU 8.0.

Finally, the Board touched briefly on the composition of the Scientific Committee, the confidentiality of documents related to the Early-warning System on New Synthetic Drugs and membership negotiations with Norway.

Kathleen Hernalsteen

* The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Management Board and the representative of the European Commission in consultation with the Director.

NEW CALLS

FOR

EXPRESSIONS

OF

INTEREST

In the course of March 1998, the EMCDDA will be publishing two calls for expressions of interest in the *Official Journal of the European Communities** to identify a list of potential contractors able to assist the EMCDDA in:

- implementing its 1998–2000 Work Programme;
- consolidating its information technology and data communications infrastructure.

Individuals as well as private and public organisations wishing to be considered for inclusion on the list of potential contractors are invited to submit an application according to the rules set out in the published notice. For each one of the areas identified in this notice, the EMCDDA will draw up a list of potential contractors.

The National Focal Points of the REITOX network and the international partner organisations of the EMCDDA (the Pompidou Group, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the World

Health Organisation, the World Customs Organisation, Interpol and Europol) will automatically be added to the lists of potential contractors in relation to the Work Programme.

When a specific contract is to be drawn up in a particular area, the EMCDDA will send an invitation to tender to all, or some, of the candidates on the list concerned, selected on the basis of the special criteria identified for the contract in question.

Dante Storti

* Official Journal 'S' series (calls for tender).

Official Journal
of the European Communities

Reitox Focal Points meet in Lisbon

The 13th meeting of the heads of the REITOX Focal Points was held at the EMCDDA from 5–6 February. It allowed the EMCDDA to report back to the national centres on the outcome of the 1997 Work Programme, including studies and reports completed, the progress of the translation revisions of the *Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union* and the dissemination of the Centre's other publications.

One of the main items on the agenda was the 1998 Work Programme and its related 'REITOX Core Tasks', a set of permanent tasks undertaken by all Focal Points on a continuous basis (such as updating *National Reports* and *Information Maps*). Also discussed were the specific 'REITOX Projects' for 1998 (a set of *ad hoc* projects defined in the Work Programme and executed by interested National Focal Points as short-term contracts). In 1998, these will cover key indicators on treatment demand

and drug-related deaths; linguistic equivalents; the long-term consolidation of the information sources of the EDDRA system; and the shared 'virtual library'.

Finally, the meeting discussed the implementation of the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs, examining in particular the difference between the Focal Points' tasks, as defined in the Joint Action, and improving the overall monitoring of new trends and patterns of drug use as described in the 'Feasibility Study on Detecting, Tracking and Understanding Emerging Trends in Drug Use'.*

An EMCDDA Management Board working group held a joint session with the Focal Points on the second day in which observations were made, wishes expressed and complaints concerning the REITOX activities

aired.** The 13th REITOX meeting concluded with a free-item discussion during which operational aspects of the network were briefly discussed in the presence of some eight National Focal Points. The next REITOX meeting is scheduled to take place in Lisbon on 22–23 June 1998.

Frédéric Denecker



* Compiled by Paul Griffiths (NAC, UK) and Richard Hartnoll (EMCDDA).

** The Management Board meeting of 8–9 January 1998 (see page 5) set up a working group to analyse and discuss the role of the National Focal Points, their financing and their part in the Early-warning System on New Synthetic Drugs.

Workbooks on the Evaluation of Treatment

Since 1995, the World Health Organisation's Programme on Substance Abuse has been developing a series of workbooks on different aspects of evaluating treatment. The workbooks aim to enable programme-planners, managers and decision-makers in treatment services and systems to put evaluation into practice and to increase resource allocation and the effectiveness of treatment.

The EMCDDA has recently begun co-operating with the WHO in the feasibility phase of this project, which aims not only to test the workbooks, but also

to provide training and consultation and to co-ordinate evaluation studies in selected sites. The workbooks include 14 case studies from different countries and settings which cover various types of evaluation and examine the



advantages and limits of each approach. A resource book listing evaluation instruments is also being prepared.

The basic reasoning behind the project is that improved attitudes, knowledge and evaluation skills will lead to an increase in the number, quality and scope of evaluation activities in drug-treatment services. Furthermore, the results of different forms of evaluation are intended to be used in the decision-making process (funding, policy, treatment process and content) which, in turn, will improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of services provided to those in need of treatment.

The final versions of the workbooks are scheduled for completion by 1999. The EMCDDA will participate in publishing and disseminating these studies in the EU.

Petra Paula Merino

Those planning, or already involved in, evaluating treatment services and interested in the work of the EMCDDA and the WHO in this area should send their contact details by e-mail to the Demand-Reduction Department of the EMCDDA (Petra.Paula.Merino@emcdda.org).



DRUGS-LEX

Harmonisation of the Member States' Laws on Drugs

Since the late 1980s, the question of whether and how to harmonise drug laws in the European Union has been examined on many occasions by the EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament. One such occasion was the European Council meeting in Madrid in December 1995, which invited the European Union institutions 'to consider if the harmonisation of Member States' laws could contribute to a reduction in the consumption of drugs and unlawful trafficking'.

A number of studies and analyses have been compiled over recent years, including a comprehensive report presented to the EU Council of Ministers by the European Commission in July 1996, all of which have underlined the cultural, juridical and political difficulties posed by the eventual harmonisation of drug laws. Although the Commission report defined such harmonisation as unfeasible in the short term, it nevertheless stressed the need to deepen co-operation between the European Union and the law-enforcement services in its Member States.

On 17 December 1996, the European Union Council of Ministers adopted a Joint Action calling for the harmonisation of the laws and practices within the Member States, and for more convergent legislation to make up legal ground in several fields, such as synthetic drugs, where a legal vacuum exists.

EMCDDA PUBLICATIONS



1997 Annual Report translations: progress report

Following a decision of the EMCDDA Management Board, the *1997 Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in the European Union*, officially presented in its original language (English) on 4 November 1997, will be published in the remaining EU languages. These translations have been prepared by the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union in Luxembourg and fully revised by the National Focal Points to ensure that the technical content of the text is respected. The Danish, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Swedish versions are currently being laid out by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, while the remaining language versions are being finalised. Given that the layout and printing of a document of this length (144 pages) take approximately two months, the reports are expected to be published between April and June this year.

The 'Summary and Highlights' of the *1997 Annual Report* will be available in Dutch, Finnish, Italian and Swedish in March.

Gonçalo Felgueiras

Coming soon...

- Scientific Monograph No. 2 – *Evaluating Drug Prevention in the European Union*
- *1997 General Report of Activities*



Nearly one year later, on 3 November 1997, the European Parliament gave its opinion in this area when its Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs approved a text forming the basis of a European Parliament recommendation on the Harmonisation of the Member States' Laws on Drugs. The proposal, presented to the plenary assembly in Strasbourg on 15 January 1998, stimulated a lively debate, particularly around the more sensitive issues such as: revising the UN Drug Conventions; promoting the decriminalisation of illegal drug consumption; regulating the trade in cannabis; and prescribing methadone and heroin. Due to disagreements in some of the

major subject areas presented, the motion was postponed and the document returned to the Committee where discussions will resume.

The differences within the European Parliament concerning this topic reflect the situation throughout Europe, where many debates and roundtables focus on drug policies and their effectiveness in different countries. The results of the current debate on harmonisation are yet to emerge, as differences remain on the political approach to take to combat the drug phenomenon, not only between countries, but also within national frontiers.

Danilo Ballotta

A Glimpse at a National Focal Point SWEDEN

The National Focal Point of Sweden is hosted by the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), a government agency operating under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs since 1992. The two main tasks of the NIPH are to promote health and to prevent disease. The Institute reports to the Minister of Health and Social Affairs.

The National Focal Point (technically the Alcohol and Drug Programme at the NIPH) is a cross-sectional unit of 20 people working on issues ranging from alcohol, narcotics and benzodiazepines, to anabolic steroids and gambling addiction. Work focuses on preventing the recruitment of drug abusers, with particular emphasis on activities directed at young people.



A Swedish national plan of action issued in 1995 to help prevent alcohol-related harm and drug abuse has led to a long-term drug-prevention strategy and a concrete action programme. All the central agencies in Sweden adhere to this and a national steering group of representatives from a broad spectrum of fields acts as the main policy-making body. The focus of the programme is to influence public attitudes and habits and to support and encourage activities, particularly at local level – in municipalities, housing estates, workplaces and schools – where such approaches are considered most effective.

The main objectives of the NIPH in the field of drugs are to lead and coordinate drug-prevention work in Sweden; to compile and disseminate basic facts and new information about alcohol and drugs; and to monitor trends in narcotic consumption (epidemiological studies are carried out regularly and data from other agencies are used in the reports). The Institute also supports drug-prevention activities carried out by regional and local authorities and voluntary organisations as well as undertaking a variety of support evaluation studies. The health consequences of drug abuse are more serious for those with inadequate social support and, consequently, the NIPH pays special attention to such groups.

The NIPH initiates and supports research within its fields of competence and all its activities are based on scientific understanding and well-documented experience. Research data are evaluated and implemented at the national level and incentives to stimulate research in the area of prevention are being developed.

As one of the new EU Member States, the Swedish Focal Point was nominated co-ordinator in 1996 of a so-called REITOX 'Catch-up Project' the aim of which was to accelerate the process of integration between the old and new Member State Focal Points. This was a very useful process in terms of 'learning by doing', and rapidly introduced the Focal Point to the pros and cons of participating in an international network.

For further information, please contact Ylva Arnhof, Director of the Alcohol and Drug Programme and Head of the Focal Point in Sweden, Box 27848, SV-115 93, Stockholm, Sweden.
Tel: ++ 46 8 5661 3505. Fax: ++ 46 8 5661 3545.
e-mail: Ylva.Arnhof@reitox.net or Ylva.Arnhof@fhinst.se

EMCDDA Calendar

- 3 March – Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament, Lisbon.
- 4 March – Liaison meeting with DG XII of the European Commission, Lisbon.
- 5 March – EMCDDA/Europol Drugs Unit, Early-warning System on New Synthetic Drugs, Lisbon.
- 11–13 March – Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna.
- 16–20 March – Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting as preparatory body for the UN Special Session on Drugs, Vienna.
- 27 March – Management Board Working Group on the National Focal Points, Lisbon.
- 27–30 March – Meeting on population surveys, Amsterdam.
- 29–31 March – Participation in a seminar on outreach work, Amsterdam.

Selected EU Meetings

- 2 March – European Parliament meeting on drugs policy, Brussels.
- 5 March – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.
- 16–18 March – Phare Programme meetings, Amsterdam.
- 6–8 April – UK Presidency Conference on 'Drugs and their Impact on Crime: Europe's Response', Wilton Park, UK.
- 22 April – Horizontal Drugs Group, Brussels.
- 30 April – Health Council, Luxembourg.

E · M · C · D · D · A NOTICEBOARD



Photographic competition

The deadline for the EMCDDA's Photographic Competition has been extended from 1 March 1998 to 1 May 1998. To obtain an application form, please contact the EMCDDA Information Department or send an e-mail to info@emcdda.org

Mailing lists

The EMCDDA would like to inform its partners that *DrugNet Europe* is now available in printed form in English, French, German and Portuguese. The *General Report of Activities*, to be published at the end of March, will be available in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish. In order to help us update our mailing list, please let us know which language version of these publications you would like to receive and in which quantities. We would also welcome notifications of changes of address.

Please contact: Isabelle Houman, EMCDDA, Rua da Cruz de Santa Apolónia 23–25, P-1100 Lisbon, Portugal.
Tel: ++ 351 1 811 3000. Fax: ++ 351 1 813 1711. e-mail: info@emcdda.org

Official Publisher: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

Proprietor: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Rua da Cruz de Santa Apolónia, 23-25, P-1100 Lisbon ·
Director: Georges Estievenart · Editor: Kathy Robertson · Printing: Cromotipo, Artes Gráficas, Lda, Rua Passos Manuel, 78 A-B, P-1150
Lisbon · Graphic Design and Layout: Carlos Luís, Design de Comunicação, Rua João Gomes Abreu, N13-1E3q, 2810 Feijó ·
ISSN - 0873-5379 DrugNet Europe · Printed and edited in Portugal · AO-AA-98-002-EN-C Printed on chlorine-free paper.