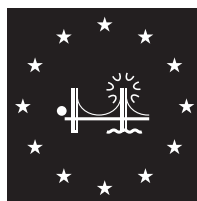


# General report of activities 1999



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

European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

This report is also available in French and German.  
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Information on the EMCDDA can be found on its website (<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, 2000

ISBN 92-9168-091-5

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Printed in Belgium

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# Foreword

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The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) has great pleasure in presenting its fifth 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 14 January 2000.

The report provides a retrospective account of the EMCDDA's activities and accomplishments in 1999 at the mid-point of its second three-year work programme (1998–2000) and five years after its establishment in Lisbon.

My particular congratulations go to Georges Estievenart, Executive Director of the EMCDDA, whose re-election for a second five-year term by the Centre's Management Board in July 1999 is a tribute to his commitment and his work. On behalf of the Management Board, I would like to thank him, his colleagues at the EMCDDA as well as the national focal point staff and members of the Scientific Committee for their contribution to the year's successes <sup>(1)</sup>.

1999 was a special year for the Centre in which reflection and evaluation took the front seat. In July, the director presented to the Management Board his proposed medium-term perspectives for the agency for the period 2000–04, which, together with the new European Union drugs strategy covering the same period, are the subject of ongoing discussions in the context of the EMCDDA's 2001–03 work programme. Also in 1999, at the request of the Management Board and the European Commission, the Centre became the first decentralised EU agency to undergo an external evaluation of its activities by private consultants. The results of this exercise, gathered at the end of the year and due in spring 2000, will help the Centre, its statutory bodies and the Reitox network take stock of progress and chart the optimal path in the new millennium.

**Franz J. Bindert**  
**Chairman of the EMCDDA Management Board**  
**January 2000**

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<sup>(1)</sup> Members of the EMCDDA Management Board and Scientific Committee and representatives of the national focal points (NFPs) of the Reitox network are listed on the Centre's website (<http://www.emcdda.org>).



# Introduction

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In 1999, as it reached the mid-point of its second three-year work programme (1998–2000), the EMCDDA consolidated existing, or embarked on new, activities under the programme's six priority objectives. These six objectives relate to the first two priority areas of activity defined by the Centre's founding regulation: the demand for drugs and the reduction of that demand; and national and Community strategies and policies <sup>(2)</sup>.

This brief introduction will not attempt to enumerate all the Centre's achievements in 1999, but will let the different chapters speak for themselves. It will, however, highlight what were among the most significant developments and occasions for the EMCDDA during the year and will describe, where relevant, the context in which these occurred.

One of the Centre's major successes of 1999 related to the joint action on new synthetic drugs, adopted in June 1997 by the Council of the European Union <sup>(3)</sup>. In January 1999, the EMCDDA and Europol presented preliminary data to the Council on a new synthetic drug, 4-MTA (4-methylthioamphetamine), which had triggered concerns late in 1998 following a number of deaths allegedly linked to the substance. Their initial findings led the German Presidency of the EU to refer the drug back to the two agencies in February for a formal risk-assessment procedure under the terms of the joint action. Four months later, a full assessment of the drug concluded that 4-MTA should be controlled in the EU, largely due to the high risk of overdose associated with it. By September, the EU Council of Justice and Home Affairs had adopted a decision to this effect, defining 4-MTA as a drug to be submitted to 'control measures and criminal penalties' in the 15 Member States <sup>(4)</sup>.

From start to finish the process had taken approximately six months, confirming the speed and effectiveness of the early-warning and risk-assessment mechanisms provided by the joint action. The experience also illustrated how the EMCDDA can successfully combine its data-collection and scientific-evaluation expertise to influence decision-making on drugs in Europe.

As always, a highpoint of the year was the launch of the EMCDDA's Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union which, in 1999, was held in Berlin. The report was presented to the German and European media on 22 November in cooperation with the German drugs coordinator, Christa Nickels, and the German Ministry of Health, in the presence of the chairman of the EMCDDA Management Board and members of the Centre's staff. The Spokesman's Service of the European Commission also announced the report simultaneously in

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<sup>(2)</sup> The annex to the EMCDDA's founding Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 of 8.2.1993 lists five priority areas. See the following website ([http://www.emcdda.org/about/ec\\_regulation.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/about/ec_regulation.shtml)).

<sup>(3)</sup> Joint Action 97/396/JHA of 16 June 1997 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning the information exchange, risk assessment and the control of new synthetic drugs (Official Journal L 167, 25.6.1997).

<sup>(4)</sup> Council decision of 13 September 1999 defining 4-MTA as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal penalties (Official Journal L 244, 16.9.1999).

Brussels, while other promotional activities were carried out by the Reitox national focal points<sup>(5)</sup>. As a result of these events, the report obtained record coverage in the media, which, in turn, boosted the Centre's visibility among its primary audiences, European and national decision-makers being at the fore.

Evaluation of drug prevention continued to be a pertinent issue for the agency in 1999 with work culminating in December in the second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention, 'Evaluation: a key tool for improving drug prevention', held in Strasbourg. The conference, jointly organised by the EMCDDA and the European Commission, aimed to promote a shift in ideology towards greater evaluation of drug-prevention initiatives. The Centre firmly believes that only when drug programmes are routinely evaluated can we be sure that money used to tackle the drugs problem is well spent. The conference adopted a set of recommendations to facilitate and promote an 'evaluation culture' in drug-prevention programmes and strategies in the EU Member States.

This leads me to one of the most significant political developments of the year for the EMCDDA: the drafting of the European Union drugs strategy 2000–04<sup>(6)</sup>. The Centre played an active role in the development of this strategy, notably in promoting the concept of evaluation and the importance of reliable and comparable information on drugs as a basis for sound political decision-making. It also hosted an informal drugs forum on the strategy in July in cooperation with the former European Commissioner responsible for justice and home affairs, Anita Gradin. I am pleased to report that the final strategy puts forward a number of new and significant elements in the areas of evaluation, information, research and coordination on drugs that are of immediate interest to the EMCDDA and directly linked to its work.

The European Parliament adopted a formal opinion on the strategy in November, following a report by its Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs (formerly the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs). The December European Council meeting in Helsinki then invited the European institutions and bodies concerned by the strategy to proceed rapidly with its implementation and to report on initial results by the end of 2002. The Centre looks forward to playing an active role over this period.

On the issue of reliable information on drugs, I would like to say a few words about the Centre's work in the area of epidemiology, where great strides are being made in developing instruments and standards relating to five key indicators of drug use and related problems in the EU. These indicators, which will be progressively implemented over the next five years, are designed to increase the quality and comparability of the data collected by the Centre and are currently one of the agency's prime initiatives.

In addition to improving data quality and comparability, increasing the policy-relevance of data collected is also essential. To this end, epidemiological work is underway to develop scientific analyses of how and why different drug-use patterns

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<sup>(5)</sup> Reitox, the European information network on drugs and drug addiction, consists of one national focal point from each European Union Member State, one from the European Commission and one observer focal point from Norway (see Chapter 3).

<sup>(6)</sup> The strategy follows on from the draft EU action plan to combat drugs (2000–04) first tabled by the European Commission in a communication to the Council of the EU and the Parliament on 26 May 1999 under the German Presidency of the EU. The plan succeeded the 'Post-1999 drugs strategy' (Doc. 7930/2/98 Rev 2. Cordroque 26 of 2.6.1998) endorsed at the European Council in Cardiff in June 1998 and the conclusions of the Vienna European Council in December 1998, which requested the Council, the European Commission and the Parliament to further develop this strategy into a comprehensive plan in the light of new possibilities offered by the Amsterdam Treaty.



and problems arise and what factors influence their evolution. This, in turn, will help achieve an understanding of the drug phenomenon that will help better define and assess different policy options. Examples include quantitative and qualitative analysis both of emerging and changing trends and of some of the social and economic aspects linked to drug availability, use, addiction and their consequences.

The Reitox network, as ever, was the Centre's backbone in 1999, playing a crucial role in its programmes via the execution of a number of 'core tasks'. These tasks included: promoting the five key epidemiological indicators at national level; providing essential input to the EMCDDA's Annual report; promoting mechanisms at national level under the joint action on new synthetic drugs; and actively publicising the Centre's demand-reduction database, EDDRA (Exchange on drug demand-reduction action). The national focal points also implemented the paper on 'The role and financing of the national focal points', adopted the previous year by the Centre's Management Board, and held their first internal Reitox meetings, chaired by the recently elected Reitox spokesperson (Portuguese Focal Point). EMCDDA-Reitox topic-focused meetings were also organised in 1999 to ensure adequate coverage of important issues.

In the area of information, the Centre further developed its on-line products in 1999, producing its first CD-ROM (European Union legal texts on drugs)<sup>(7)</sup> and launching a new-look website (<http://www.emcdda.org>), following a project to restructure and redesign the site to improve navigability and ease of access. An EMCDDA Intranet was also created during the year to enhance communication and information exchange inside the Centre. Meanwhile, in the area of documentation, the EMCDDA hosted the 11th annual meeting of the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD) in November which took as its theme 'Organising professional information on alcohol and drug abuse in Europe'. Furthermore, the Centre stepped up its media activities by preparing the ground for a formal media strategy and developing new contacts with the written and broadcast media across Europe.

Beyond the four walls of the EMCDDA headquarters, cooperation continued with the Centre's six priority international partners in 1999. It was a great pleasure for me to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in September with the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group) alongside the new Secretary-General of the organisation, Walter Schwimmer. This was the second MOU established by the Centre with a partner organisation, the first concluded in 1998 with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Meetings were held in the second half of the year with Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of the UNDCP, and with Christopher Lockett, Head of the Pompidou Group secretariat, to discuss implementation of these agreements. A similar MOU with the World Health Organisation (WHO) was also discussed by the Centre's Management Board and is scheduled for signature in 2000.

In 1999, the Centre's external relations once again involved cooperation and contacts with regions outside the European Union, notably with central and eastern Europe; the United States; and Latin America.

In the context of the forthcoming accession to the EU by a number of the central and east European countries (CEECs), the EMCDDA continued its cooperation with the Phare multi-beneficiary drugs programme as one of the priority objectives of its

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(7) A full list of EMCDDA publications and on-line products released in 1999 is given in Chapter 5. Full details and ordering information are available at the following address (<http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications.shtml>).

three-year work programme. In February 1999, the Phare project on drug information systems (DIS), which assisted the CEECs in developing an information network similar to Reitox (by setting up prototype national focal points in each participating country), completed its final phase. Following a decision by the European Commission and EMCDDA Management Board during the year, an eventual transfer of the DIS activities to the Centre was explored in 1999 that would allow closer ties between the EMCDDA and specialised drug information centres in the CEECs.

Cooperation with the United States was marked by the visit to the Centre in October of Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of the United States White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The purpose of the visit was to exchange views with the Management Board and staff of the EMCDDA and to discuss cooperation and exchange of information on drugs in general. The visit was Director McCaffrey's second to the Centre following his trip to Lisbon in July 1998 on the occasion of the first informal US-EU Drugs Forum.

As regards Latin America, the Centre contributed to the preparatory process of the 'Coordination and cooperation mechanism between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean — Comprehensive action plan on drugs' which was formally adopted at the European Union, Latin America and Caribbean Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June. In preparation for this event, the Centre published the proceedings of the October 1998 Euro-Ibero American Seminar: Cooperation on drugs and drug addiction policies and its final statement, the 'Declaration of Oporto' <sup>(8)</sup>.

No picture of 1999 could be complete without reference to the numerous visits paid to the Centre by many who have demonstrated sensitivity and commitment over the years to addressing the drugs problem. It was a considerable honour for me to receive an array of dignitaries from Heads of State to government representatives, ambassadors, parliamentarians and national drug coordinators. I also welcomed many scientists, researchers, experts and grassroots practitioners in the drugs field, all of whom make such a valuable contribution to the Centre's work.

In February, their Excellencies Presidents Jacques Chirac of France and Jorge Sampaio of Portugal visited the EMCDDA and pronounced statements on the importance of 'objective, reliable and comparable information' on drugs. President Chirac reiterated the 'vital importance' of the EMCDDA in developing the 'required knowledge-base for sound judgements', while President Sampaio complimented the EMCDDA's initiatives 'that are so crucial to political decision-making'. 'We need to know more to make better decisions', he said. In November, King Albert II of the Belgians and Queen Paola visited the Centre accompanied by President Jorge Sampaio and the First Lady of Portugal. During this royal and presidential visit, His Majesty King Albert applauded the fact that, thanks to the EMCDDA, EU Member States could now assess their national drugs situation in relation to that of other EU countries and obtain a Europe-wide picture of the phenomenon.

Although the scope of the agency's activities in 1999 is, of course, too vast to cover in depth here, I trust that this overview provides a flavour of the EMCDDA's achievements during the year and describes the backdrop against which its individual activities were undertaken. The Centre operated in 1999 with a budget of EUR 8 250 000 and, by the end of the year, employed 51 statutory staff members. The recognition that the Centre's work received in 1999 contributed greatly to increasing its visibility among its target audiences and I take this opportunity to thank all those who

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<sup>(8)</sup> Promoted by the President of the Portuguese Republic and organised under the patronage of the Vice-President of the European Commission in cooperation with the Portuguese government and with the support of the EMCDDA (8 and 9 October 1998, Porto, Portugal).

contributed to the results achieved. Much attention focused during the latter half of the year on the evaluation of the Centre by external consultants, an exercise designed to provide an in-depth analysis of the EMCDDA's programmes and operations. The results of this procedure, which are due in spring 2000, are much awaited and are expected to play a constructive role in the further development of our work and procedures in the years to come.

**Georges Estievenart**  
**Executive Director, EMCDDA**  
**January 2000**

# EMCDDA 1998–2000 work programme

## Priority areas as listed in annex to the EMCDDA founding Regulation (EEC) No 302/93

### Priority area 1: Demand and reduction of the demand for drugs

Consolidating and enhancing achievements

**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

## Tasks as listed in Article 2 of the EMCDDA founding regulation

### A. Collection and analysis of existing data

### B. Improvement of data-comparison methods

### C. Dissemination of data

### D. Cooperation with European and international bodies and organisations and with non-Community countries

### A. Collection and analysis of existing data

## Priority objectives as listed in the EMCDDA 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
- (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**

### Priority objective 3

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

### 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**

### 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 objective 6

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

# Chapter 1

## Epidemiology

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**In 1999, the EMCDDA's work in the field of epidemiology focused on the collection and analysis of existing data and on the improvement of data-comparison methods, in relation to priority objectives 1, 2, and 3 of the 1998–2000 work programme.**

**Major tasks included: synthesising epidemiological information for the EMCDDA's *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999*; developing tools and expert networks for carrying out more in-depth and policy-related data analysis and tracking and understanding emerging trends; developing five comparable key indicators of drug use and major health consequences in the EU; finalising a range of project reports; and cooperating with other institutions under priority objective 5.**

**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<sup>(9)</sup>**

**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**

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## Epidemiological information systems

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In 1999, the EMCDDA's work in this area included: collecting and synthesising data for the 1999 Annual report; strengthening expert networks to improve the collection, exchange and dissemination of both qualitative and quantitative information; and carrying out a range of projects to increase policy relevance through data analysis (including a study to improve data quality).

### Collecting and analysing data for decision-makers

In 1999, the Centre worked on a number of projects to develop and apply tools for the collection and analysis of drug-use data. These are outlined below.

#### Data collection and analysis for the EMCDDA's 1999 Annual report

Data collection and registration

Epidemiological data were collected from the national focal points (NFPs) using standard tables which were carefully checked and entered into databases. The data

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<sup>(9)</sup> Formerly Reitox 'specific projects'. For full description see Chapter 3.

were supplemented by information from published research and studies undertaken by the EMCDDA.

### Synthesis and analysis of data

The abovementioned statistical data were analysed by the Centre, along with the Reitox national reports<sup>(10)</sup> and supplementary information from EMCDDA studies and the wider scientific literature. These data, once synthesised, contributed to the 1999 Annual report, in particular to Chapter 2 (Prevalence, patterns and consequences of drug use), but also Chapter 1 (Developments in drug use, problems and responses) and parts of Chapter 3 (Established responses to drug misuse in the EU) namely: 'Cannabis: trends and responses' and 'Synthetic drugs: developments and responses'.

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

### Emerging trends in drug use

Following a feasibility study completed in 1998, 'Identifying, tracking and understanding emerging trends in drug use', three expert meetings were held in 1999 to explore its recommendations. The first meeting in October, involving 'frontline' drug workers from key cities, aimed to synthesise information on drug-use trends and to develop instruments for data collection. The second meeting in November looked at systems for testing the contents of products on the illicit drug market and understanding patterns of consumption. The third meeting in December developed practical ideas on networking. Dissemination and feedback through a website bulletin were also explored. A call for tender was launched in October for a feasibility study on monitoring the youth media as an information source on emerging drug trends (contractor: Gruppo Abele, Italy).

### Qualitative research on drug-use patterns

In 1999, the Centre's epidemiology department, in collaboration with its demand reduction department, continued to coordinate and support a network of qualitative researchers on drug-use patterns in the EU (see Chapter 2). Access to information on such research improved during the year, thanks to the further development of a website on the topic (<http://www.qed.org.uk>). A call for tender was launched in October to maintain, update and develop the website over the next two years (contractor: Jane Fountain, United Kingdom). An EMCDDA scientific monograph on qualitative research ('Understanding and responding to drug use: the role of qualitative research') and a new EMCDDA Insights publication ('Injecting drug use, risk behaviour and qualitative research') were under preparation at the end of the year. Bibliographic files with thorough documentation on European qualitative research on drugs — collected by EMCDDA projects conducted during 1996 to 1998 on this topic — were imported into the database of the EMCDDA's documentation centre.

### Early-warning system on new synthetic drugs

In cooperation with the EMCDDA's unit responsible for implementing the joint action on new synthetic drugs (see Chapter 4), the Centre's epidemiology department collected and analysed epidemiological and social data on the new synthetic drug 4-MTA (4-methylthioamphetamine). It also reviewed, together with the EMCDDA

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<sup>(10)</sup> 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.

Scientific Committee, risk-assessment guidelines for new synthetic drugs and approaches to weighting criteria. In addition, the department participated in the risk-assessment meeting on 4-MTA and in the preparation of a final risk-assessment report on the substance (see Chapter 4).

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

#### Incidence of problem drug use and time trends in indicators

The final report of a pilot study funded under the Centre's 1998 budget to analyse the incidence of problem drug use in four European cities was submitted to the EMCDDA in March. The study estimated the latency time between first drug use and first demand for treatment and examined factors affecting this period. The information collected was used to determine trends in incidence. Results from Amsterdam, London and Rome suggested that, on average, the delay before first treatment is long (5–7 years), but even longer in younger users, which may have significant implications for treatment services. Methodological issues were identified but will require further investigation in 2000 (contractor: University Tor Vergata, Italy).

#### Study on the incidence of problem drug use and the latency time to treatment in the European Union

In the context of the above, a new study was launched in December to improve methodological understanding of the issues of incidence and latency and to explore further sites. This study will build on the analyses carried out during the pilot study by paying particular attention to: comparability between sites; sources of error; problems of the back-calculation method; and interpretation of differences between sites and over time, including the effect of treatment availability (contractor: University Tor Vergata, Italy).

#### Geographical spread of drug use

The results of a pilot study, funded under the 1998 budget to apply geographical information systems (GIS) to drug data, were submitted to the EMCDDA in April. Goals outlined for the future were to develop an explanatory model, database and maps showing geographical diffusion of drug use and spatial distribution of indicators in the EU. Maps were developed showing both temporal and spatial diffusion of drug use in the west of Scotland from 1980 to 2000. At European level, GIS were used to display prevalence estimates of problem drug use and hepatitis in injecting drug users (IDUs). English and Italian regional examples revealed how mapping data requires careful interpretation. Italian data showed how the heroin epidemic in the 1990s later resulted in treatment demand following major trafficking routes (contractor: University of Keele, United Kingdom).

#### Research networks on modelling temporal and geographic spread

Funding from the European Commission's targeted socioeconomic research (TSER) programme (Directorate-General for Research) in 1999 enabled the Centre to establish two networks of researchers to estimate the diffusion of problem drug use using dynamic models. (These are part of a larger network on statistical and dynamic modelling which aims to: promote information exchange on new methods; improve the policy relevance of modelling; stimulate scientific publications; and develop proposals for in-depth studies.) The first of the two networks focuses on incidence and time trends in problem drug use, and the second on mapping and modelling the geographic spread of drug use. Two working-group meetings were held in December 1998 and June 1999, while a coordination meeting of the larger modelling network was held in Lisbon in September (coordinators: University Tor Vergata, Italy, and University of Keele, United Kingdom).



### Impact and costs of hepatitis and HIV in injecting drug users in the EU

The final report of a pilot study, funded under the 1998 budget to estimate the impact and costs of hepatitis B/C and HIV infection in injecting drug users in the EU, was submitted to the EMCDDA in November. A series of papers on the topic were also prepared and discussed at an expert meeting held in Bilthoven (the Netherlands) in June. In addition, the project produced an overview of modelling approaches and methods for economic assessments, including indirect and social costs, for estimating costs of drug use in general (contractor: National Institute of Public Health and the Environment/RIVM, the Netherlands).

### Macroeconomic analysis of heroin markets in the EU and the impact of substitution treatment

A call for tender was launched in October regarding a project to: develop a macro-economic model of heroin markets; test it with available data on consumption and consumption patterns; and analyse the possible effects of substitution treatment on price, consumption, consequences and heroin supply in the EU. The model should also lay a basis for examining the relative impact of other interventions (e.g. law enforcement) on the heroin market (contractor: Modus Vivendi, Belgium).

### Research network on modelling costs of drug use and cost-effectiveness of interventions

Funding from the European Commission's TSER programme enabled the Centre to establish a network of researchers to estimate the costs of problem drug use and the cost-effectiveness of interventions using dynamic models, as part of the larger network on statistical and dynamic modelling (see above). The network on costs consists of three working groups on: epidemiological and social issues; dynamic modelling; and economic issues (contractor: National Institute of Public Health and the Environment/RIVM, the Netherlands).

### Research network on economic analyses of drug markets and responses

Also with funding from the TSER programme, the EMCDDA created a working group for the analysis of drug markets using dynamic models, as part of the larger network on statistical and dynamic modelling. A literature review was compiled during 1999 and work in 2000 will aim to model the actors and mechanisms of drug markets at different levels. The working group is closely connected with two other studies on: local drug markets and drug availability; and macroeconomic analysis of heroin markets in the EU and the impact of substitution treatment. The group was also represented in the coordination meeting in Lisbon in September of the wider modelling network (contractor: University of York, United Kingdom).

### **Drugs and social exclusion, focusing on minorities**

Following a workshop on 'Drugs, social exclusion, migration and minorities' held at the EMCDDA in December 1998, a study to map available information in the EU on social exclusion and drugs, with a particular focus on minorities, began in 1999. This project will clarify concepts and definitions, and review, analyse and critically assess available information. It will also analyse relationships between social exclusion, minorities and drugs and identify key issues (contractors: Reitox national focal point, United Kingdom and University of Middlesex, United Kingdom).

### **Local drug markets and drug availability**

Local drug markets and drug availability are both the determinants and consequences of drug use and interact with drug demand and with responses to it at local level. The EMCDDA embarked on a pilot project in September studying local drug markets in Frankfurt and Milan. The first phase of the project focuses on conceptual and descriptive approaches of drug markets (actors, mechanisms, etc.), their consequences and public responses. The study is expected to lead to an analysis of different policy options (contractor: Max-Planck Institute, Germany).

### **Law-enforcement statistics as epidemiological indicators**

The reliability and comparability of law-enforcement statistics (e.g. arrests) is unknown, and their value as indirect indicators of drug trends is unclear. An examination of law-enforcement data sources in three countries (France, Portugal and the United Kingdom) was initiated by the EMCDDA in August to gain an insight into the context, recording practices and methodological characteristics of available law-enforcement data. An expert brainstorming workshop was held in December to discuss data comparability and reliability at EU level, and the use of law-enforcement statistics in an epidemiological framework.

### **Reviews of drug-traffic accidents and non-fatal emergencies**

The Centre completed two literature reviews in 1999. The first focused on drug use, impaired driving and traffic accidents, which led to a report and bibliography of 700 scientific publications, accessible via the Internet (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Ireland). The second looked at information on drug-related non-fatal emergencies and led to a report and an annotated bibliography on the subject (contractor: Institut Municipal d'Investigació Mèdica, Spain).

### **Quality assurance of epidemiological data**

An evaluation of the quality of epidemiological data submitted to the EMCDDA by the national focal points was completed in May (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Austria).

## **Reitox support projects**

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Following a decision of the EMCDDA Management Board that facilitating the implementation of five key epidemiological indicators should be a core task for the Reitox national focal points (see Chapter 3), the epidemiology department asked the NFPs to draw up work plans taking into account national circumstances and to provide initial progress reports. Progress in implementing the indicators will be monitored by the epidemiology department through regular follow-up. With regard to specific indicators, and building on work carried out under the 1998 Reitox work programme, the epidemiology department contributed to developing, testing and implementing standards on indicators of treatment demand and drug-related deaths, as well as to supporting the development of national prevalence estimates in order to improve their comparability.

## **Epidemiological key indicators**

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In 1999, the department focused on promoting the development and subsequent implementation of instruments and standards relating to five key epidemiological indicators by undertaking the following projects.

## Drug use in the general population

### Creation of a European Union databank of population surveys on drug use and a joint analysis of data collected

A call for tender was launched in October to set up a European databank of national population surveys on drug use in the EU Member States and to conduct a joint analysis of these data. The aim of the project is to draw up a comparative overview of drug-use prevalence and associated factors in the general population, using the variables and categories defined in the standard instruments produced by the EMCDDA for population surveys. The project will assess the methodological problems of such an overview, evaluate and develop the EMCDDA's standards, and produce proposals for new methodological studies (contractor: Quinx Research, the Netherlands).

### Preparation of a European manual on general population surveys on drug use

The objective of this project, launched at the end of 1999, will be to present, in a consistent and accessible form, the results of studies carried out by the EMCDDA in this area since 1996. It will assess and improve the quality and comparability of national surveys on drug use, including a standard set of common core items the 'European model questionnaire' (contractor: Quinx Research, the Netherlands).

## Prevalence estimates of problem drug use

### Project on the implementation of methods for estimating national prevalence of problem drug use in the EU Member States

Previous projects related to this indicator tested six methods for estimating the prevalence of problem drug use in the EU Member States. The 1999 project developed this work by: coordinating peer reviews and updating national estimates for the 1999 EMCDDA Annual report; coordinating work to improve methodology; and developing guidelines and providing advice to aid comparable implementation in the Member States (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Germany).

### Feasibility study on the implementation of longitudinal studies on changing patterns of use, health risks, careers and needs in young problem drug users

A call for tender was launched in September for a project to assess the feasibility of setting up comparative longitudinal studies of young, out-of-treatment drug users. This initiative is important to complement global prevalence estimates and data from known drug users regarding drug-use patterns, careers, health risks and health-care needs. The project will review ongoing and planned studies in the EU, compare available data and instruments, and aim to develop a common approach leading, if possible, to a research proposal for a collaborative EU study in 2000 (contractor: Reitox national focal point, the Netherlands).

### Research network on national and local prevalence estimation

With funding from the European Commission's TSER programme, the Centre created two networks for estimating the prevalence of problem drug use using dynamic models, as part of the larger expert network on statistical and dynamic modelling. The first network concentrates on prevalence estimation at national level and the second on estimates at the local level. Two meetings were held in March and May,

and the coordinators attended a coordination meeting of the wider modelling network in Lisbon in September (coordinators: Reitox focal point, Germany and the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom).

## **Demand for treatment by drug users**

### **Field trial of data collection**

This project, funded under the 1998 budget and undertaken in cooperation with the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group, produced a draft European protocol for collecting drug treatment data in April 1999. This built on previous studies of data availability and comparability in the Member States. The project field-tested the draft protocol in all EU countries during the spring and summer. An EMCDDA expert group on treatment demand, nominated by national focal points to participate in this project, met in October in Lisbon to discuss the results, purposes and uses of treatment information and to explore future perspectives. The draft protocol is expected to lead to a formal joint EMCDDA-Pompidou Group protocol to be published in the first half of 2000 (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Germany).

### **Coordinating implementation of the EMCDDA-Pompidou Group standard protocol on the treatment demand indicator in the EU Member States, collection and analysis of information on treatment demand**

Building on results of the abovementioned field trial, the German national focal point was contracted to coordinate the initial process of implementation of the EMCDDA-Pompidou Group standard protocol on treatment demand information in the EU Member States. Implementation began with an analysis of work plans from the national focal points and the development of a timetable for tasks to be carried out in the Member States. The joint protocol will be published by the EMCDDA in 2000 (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Germany).

## **Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users**

### **Test of the draft standards developed by EMCDDA projects on drug-related deaths, and developments of proposals to improve data quality and comparability**

Building on previous studies, standard guidelines for data collection on drug-related deaths were drawn up in May, coordinated by the Dutch national focal point and involving Eurostat and information exchange with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Focal points identified national experts, and data were collected in most Member States, following the EMCDDA guidelines for general mortality registries (GMR) and special registries (SR). An EMCDDA expert group on drug-related death statistics met in Lisbon in November to discuss the results of data collection and methodological problems. An ad hoc expert group was convened in July to consider guidelines for coding drug-related deaths using the 10th edition of the international classification of diseases (ICD-10) (contractor: Reitox national focal point, the Netherlands).

### **Coordinating implementation of the EMCDDA standard guidelines on the drug-related death indicator in the EU Member States, collection and analysis of information on drug-related deaths**

In December, the EMCDDA commissioned the Dutch national focal point to coordinate work on implementing the EU standard guidelines on statistics on drug-related deaths, including methodological studies of data quality and comparability.

Collaboration with Eurostat and the WHO will continue, especially in relation to the guidelines for the 10th edition of the international classification of diseases (ICD-10). In addition, the project will collect and analyse existing information on drug-related deaths in the Member States to produce a European overview of drug mortality (contractor: Reitox national focal point, the Netherlands).

### **Coordinating implementation, follow-up and analysis of cohort studies on mortality among drug users in European Union Member States**

Previous EMCDDA projects conducted during 1997 and 1998 produced a common protocol for mortality cohort studies and promoted the establishment of new cohorts in several countries. Most participants started or continued enrolment and follow-up of these cohorts. A basic retrospective analysis of most cohorts was carried out in the framework of this project, and results were reported in a meeting held in Rome in September (contractor: Osservatorio Epidemiologico Regione Lazio, Italy).

### **Mortality of drug users in the EU: coordinating implementation of new cohort studies, follow-up and analysis of existing cohorts and development of new methods and outputs**

A new project started at the end of 1999 to expand and continue the work of previous projects. The objectives are to: coordinate follow-up and analysis of existing cohorts; implement new cohorts in new sites; develop methodologies to measure outcomes other than mortality; and assess the influence of factors such as the type of treatment interventions. The methodological guidelines for mortality cohort studies produced in previous projects will be published by the EMCDDA in 2000 (contractor: Osservatorio Epidemiologico Regione Lazio, Italy).

## **Infectious diseases among injecting drug users (IDUs)**

### **Improving data quality for surveillance**

The final report of a project, funded under the 1998 budget on improving data quality for the surveillance of hepatitis B/C and HIV infection in injecting drug users, was received by the EMCDDA in November. An expert meeting was held in July in Glasgow to discuss possible options for surveillance. The project evaluated available data in all EU Member States and drew up recommendations to improve data for monitoring the spread of infectious diseases in injecting drug users using comparable methods and definitions (contractor: University of Glasgow, United Kingdom).

### **Project to improve collection of data on the key indicator 'hepatitis B and C and HIV in injecting drug users'**

As a follow-up to the above project, a new project began in December to start implementing the recommendations at the national level through the Reitox national focal points. The tasks of the project during the first phase are to: define the tasks for work at national level and develop draft guidelines; assist the NFPs in identifying key institutions, experts and data sources; assist in the formulation of national work plans and analysis of the data; and to improve the EMCDDA standard tables for collection of existing data (contractors: Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health/SCIEH, United Kingdom).

## Cooperation in the field of epidemiology

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### **Working with European and international partners**

In the field of epidemiology, cooperation was fostered throughout 1999 with a range of partners, including: services of the European Commission (Directorate-General for Research, Eurostat, health monitoring programme, etc.); the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP); the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe; Europol; EuroHIV (formerly the European Centre for the Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS); Unaid; the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); the United States White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); and the International Epidemiology Work Group (IEWG).

## Reports and output of projects, 1999

### Epidemiology

#### Collecting and analysing data for decision-makers

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

- 'Pilot project to estimate time trends and incidence of problem drug use in the European Union'
- 'Pilot project to develop a model of geographical spread of drug misuse in the European Union'
- 'First six-month progress report of the TSER-network on drug-use modelling'
- 'Project to analyse impact and costs of hepatitis B/C and HIV infection in injecting drug users in the EU'
- 'First 12-month progress report of the TSER-network on drug-use modelling'

#### Qualitative research on drug use patterns

Qualitative research website (<http://www.qed.org.uk>)

#### Epidemiological key indicators

Prevalence estimates of problem drug use

- 'Methodological guidelines to estimate the prevalence of problem drug use on the local level'
- 'Scientific review of the literature on estimating the prevalence of drug misuse on the local level'
- 'Study to obtain comparable national estimates of problem drug-use prevalence for all EU Member States'
- 'Methodological guidelines for estimating problem drug-use prevalence on the national level'

Demand for treatment by drug users

- 'The DRD Standard. Guidelines and protocols for extracting data on drug-related deaths from the registries of the Member States of the European Union. Version 1.0'
- 'Field trial of implementation of a standard protocol to collect information on treatment demand in the EU Member States'

Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users

- 'The Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI). Standard Protocol 1.1'
- 'Coordination of implementation, follow-up and analysis of cohort studies on mortality among drug users in European Union Member States'
- 'Testing draft standards developed by EMCDDA projects on drug-related deaths and developing proposals to improve data quality and comparability'

Infectious diseases among injecting drug users (IDUs)

- 'Project to improve data quality for surveillance of hepatitis B/C and HIV infection in injecting drug users in the EU'

#### Other projects

- 'Literature review on the relation between drug use, impaired driving and traffic accidents'
- 'Evaluation of the quality of epidemiological information provided to the EMCDDA' (information maps and national reports)
- 'Literature review and synthesis of scientific literature on drug-related non-fatal emergencies'

## Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 1999

### Epidemiology

Date	Place	Event
4–5 February	Munich	EMCDDA-German focal point project steering group meeting: field trial to implement a standard protocol to collect information on treatment demand in the EU Member States
15 February	Rome	EMCDDA-Osservatorio Epidemiologico expert meeting: project on cohort studies on mortality of drug users
11–12 March	EMCDDA	EMCDDA-German focal point expert meeting: national prevalence estimates of drug addiction
16–17 March	Amsterdam Rotterdam Utrecht	EMCDDA meetings with drug-information services: detecting, tracking and understanding emerging trends in drug use
7–8 May	Amsterdam	EMCDDA-Dutch focal point expert meeting: developing instruments and guidelines to improve quality and comparability of general population surveys on drugs in the EU
20–21 May	Maynooth (Ireland)	EMCDDA-University of Glasgow expert meeting: prevalence of problem drug use at local level (in the framework of the TSER-funded European network to develop policy-relevant models and socioeconomic analyses of drug use, consequences and interventions)
24–25 June	Bilthoven	EMCDDA-Dutch focal point/RIVM/University Tor Vergata expert meeting: impact and costs of hepatitis B/C and HIV in IDUs in the EU
28 June	Bilthoven	EMCDDA-University Tor Vergata expert meeting: time trends and incidence of problem drug use (TSER-funded as above)
2 July	Utrecht	EMCDDA-Dutch focal point expert meeting: drug-related deaths (testing the draft standards developed by the EMCDDA on drug-related deaths, and developing proposals to improve data quality and comparability)
12–13 July	Glasgow	EMCDDA-University of Glasgow/SCIEH expert meeting: project to improve data quality for the surveillance of hepatitis B/C and HIV infection in IDUs in the EU
19 July	Munich	EMCDDA-German focal point expert meeting: field trial to implement a standard protocol to collect information on treatment demand in the EU Member States
16–17 September	EMCDDA	Coordinators meeting: European network to develop policy-relevant models and socio-economic analyses of drug use, consequences and interventions



27–28 September	Rome	EMCDDA-Osservatorio Epidemiologico expert meeting: coordinating the implementation, follow-up and analysis of cohort studies on mortality among drug users in the EU Member States
13 October	London	EMCDDA-University of Middlesex: project meeting on drugs and social exclusion, focusing on minorities
18–19 October	EMCDDA	EMCDDA expert group meeting: treatment demand indicator
22 October	EMCDDA	EMCDDA expert (front-line) drug workers' meeting: collecting timely information on emerging trends
8–9 November	EMCDDA	EMCDDA expert group meeting: drug-related deaths
29 November	Vienna	EMCDDA national focal points meeting: drug market products
8 December	Paris	EMCDDA national focal points meeting: exploring systematic methods for collecting and analysing information collected from targeted networks/panels of key individuals in Europe
9 December	EMCDDA	EMCDDA-Max Planck Institute project meeting: local drug markets
13–14 December	EMCDDA	EMCDDA expert meeting: law enforcement indicators

## Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 1999

### Epidemiology

Date	Place	Event
19 January	Vienna	UNDCP-EMCDDA meeting: examining opportunities for collaboration
29 January	Barcelona	Lecture on drugs epidemiology, postgraduate programme 'Master en toxicodependencias', University of Barcelona
10–12 March	Berne	International symposium: heroin-assisted treatment for dependent drug users — state of the art and new research perspectives, University of Berne
21–25 March	Geneva	10th international conference on the reduction of drug-related harm, International Harm Reduction Association
19–21 April	Strasbourg	Seminar on road traffic and illicit drugs, Pompidou Group
28–30 April	Strasbourg	43rd meeting of the permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe (see Chapter 8)
28–30 April	Brussels	European socio-economic research conference, European Commission
4 May	Luxembourg	Fifth meeting of the Committee for the programme of Community action on health monitoring, European Commission
28–29 May	Milan	Third European seminar on HIV and hepatitis in prison, European network for AIDS and hepatitis in prisons, European Commission, WHO, German medical association
2–3 June	Vienna	Inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), UNDCP
7–8 June	Strasbourg	29th meeting of the experts in epidemiology of drug problems of the Pompidou Group
9–11 June	Vancouver	Sixth meeting of the International Epidemiology Work Group on drugs (IEWG) Parallel meeting of the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA); Community Epidemiology Work Group (CEWG) and Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (CCENDU)
26–28 August	Atlanta	Second annual meeting of the global research network on HIV prevention in drug-using populations, NIDA
29 August	Atlanta	HIV prevention conference, Centre for Disease Control
1 September		
30 August	Florence	15th International Epidemiological Association (IEA) international scientific meeting on 'epidemiology for sustainable health', satellite seminar on the 'epidemiology of drug use'.

1–2 September	Århus	European summer school on comparative social research on drugs and drug policy, comparative analysis of drug use, Nordic Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse
20–21 September	Vienna	Global programme on assessing the magnitude of drug abuse — practice, measures and resources, UNDCP
20–22 September	Vienna	10th annual conference on drug use and policy of the European Society for Social Drug Research
28–29 September	Vienna	Second inter-sessional working group to draft guidelines to facilitate reporting on the implementation of the global programme of action, UNDCP
14–15 October	The Hague	EMCDDA-Europol meeting: memorandum of understanding
19 October	Madrid	Fifth Conferencia nacional sobre SIDA y drogas, Plan Nacional sobre el SIDA and the Plan Nacional sobre Drogas, Spain
3–5 November	Viña del Mar (Chile)	International seminar on drug information systems: purposes, components and methodologies, Consejo Nacional para el Control de Estupefacientes
5–7 November	Naples	Fourth general meeting on drugs and HIV, ways of assumption, risks, prevention strategies, Change
10–12 November	Amsterdam	First international conference on nightlife, substance use and related health issues, Dutch focal point and John Moores University, Liverpool
11–13 November	Berlin	Workshop on HIV surveillance in hard-to-reach populations, Unaid
29–30 November	London	Fourth international hepatitis C conference, Mainliners

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### Epidemiology

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Wiessing, L. G., van Roosmalen, M. S., Koedijk, P., Bieleman, B. and Houweling, H., 'Silicones, hormones and HIV in transgender street prostitutes' (letter) in *AIDS* 1999; 13: 2315–2316.

# Chapter 2

## Demand reduction

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**In 1999, 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 main emphasis was placed on the further development of the Centre's Internet-based information systems on demand-reduction initiatives as well as on the promotion of the evaluation of these activities through the development of specific tools and training events. A major event of the year was the second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention, co-organised with the European Commission in Strasbourg in December. Furthermore, the EMCDDA strengthened the concept of evaluation highlighted in the new European Union drugs strategy (2000–04), approved at the Helsinki European Summit in December.**

**During the year, the Centre invested in expanding and consolidating the Reitox focal points' national networks in the area of demand reduction in order to improve the quality and the quantity of information gathered in this domain. It also finalised a study on the state of the art of substitution treatment with the collaboration of experts from each EU Member State. Finally, through participation in national and regional meetings, the Centre succeeded in raising the profile of its demand-reduction activities, which are increasingly recognised both by policy-makers and practitioners in the drugs field.**

## 1998–2000 work programme

### Demand reduction, activities in 1999

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#### 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

##### Demand-reduction information systems

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

##### Demand-reduction responses to new trends in synthetic drugs

#### Priority objective 2

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

##### Reitox project on networking in the field of drug demand reduction

#### Priority objective 3

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

##### Demand-reduction evaluation guidelines and instruments

#### 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 demand reduction

#### Other activities

##### Exploratory studies in the field of drug demand reduction

## Demand-reduction information systems

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### Updating comprehensive demand-reduction data on drugs

During the first half of the year, the demand reduction department analysed information submitted by the national focal points for inclusion in the Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999. This information was provided in the form of national reports on the state of the drugs problem in each EU country (see Chapter 3 and footnote 10) and via the EDDRA information system on demand-reduction activities (see below).

### Exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA)

Thanks to a decision taken in 1998 to render implementation of the EDDRA database a Reitox core task (see Chapter 3), significant progress was made in 1999 in developing this project Europe-wide. A first step was to update the technological features of the database in order to allow quick consultation and search possibilities. A new dynamic multilingual facility was also finalised in June allowing navigation in English, French and German.

In order to facilitate data collection on demand reduction in the EU Member States, while at the same time ensuring security, an EDDRA off-line editing software package was released in November. This software may now be offered by national 'EDDRA managers' (based at the national focal points and responsible for inputting country data into the system) to local project editors, offering them the possibility of on-screen editing.

EDDRA was rendered year 2000 (Y2K) compliant during the year and important technical improvements were made (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Luxembourg). The number of projects carried by EDDRA increased in 1999 to 150 and the managers committed to doubling this number by the end of 2000. The basis of a 2000 work plan was adopted by the national EDDRA managers in October. It is foreseen that, in the future, EDDRA will also offer information on transnational projects undertaken in the context of the EU's Community action programme on the prevention of drug dependence (1996–2000).

### Information system on training activities (ISTRA)

In 1999, the EMCDDA launched a study into non-university vocational training in demand reduction, complementing a 1998 study to compile an inventory of university training facilities in the field (contractor: Reitox national focal point, the Netherlands). The database resulting from this study is known as the information system on training activities (ISTRA).

ISTRA offers information and data on training in the field of drug demand reduction for students, teachers, planners and decision-makers in the European Union. The database contains information on 103 training programmes and 74 institutes that will be regularly updated and expanded to ensure maximum usefulness. For each training programme entry, information is provided on: the contents, duration and frequency of the programme; (e-mail) addresses of contact persons; selection criteria; and the substances addressed. In a second stage, the database will be accessible via the EMCDDA website (<http://www.emcdda.org>).

## Demand-reduction responses to new trends in synthetic drugs

### Study on demand-reduction activities related to synthetic drugs

In January 1999, the EMCDDA commissioned a study on 'Demand-reduction activities in the field of synthetic drugs', following up an earlier EMCDDA report on the topic published in 1997<sup>(1)</sup>. The new study was completed in September 1999 and made available as a working document on the EMCDDA website (contractor: Sozialpädagogisches Institut, Germany).

<sup>(1)</sup> EMCDDA *Insights* series No 1, *New trends in synthetic drugs in the European Union: epidemiology and demand-reduction responses*, Lisbon: EMCDDA, 1997. ISBN 92-9168-030-3. See the following website (<http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications.shtml>).

Information covering new and ongoing programmes in dance and 'techno' settings was collected for the study via the snowball-sampling technique using faxed questionnaires to a variety of networks<sup>(12)</sup>. Developments identified in this study as helping to reduce the demand for synthetic drugs included: an increase in the number of specific prevention projects; greater diversification of interventions; and progress in evaluation or, at least, the perceived need for evaluation. The study also revealed that the majority of interventions primarily continue to address drug-abstinent or casual consumers rather than high-risk consumption groups, and that the majority of activities still focus on information provision, regardless of the fact that scene-oriented and personal-communication approaches might prove more effective.

## Reitox project on networking in the field of drug demand reduction

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The aim of this project was to: examine the advantages and disadvantages experienced by networks already existing in the EU Member States; gauge the experience gained from networking activities; and make recommendations on how networking can be improved, rendered more efficient and further developed to the benefit of the national focal points (contractors: Reitox national focal points, Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden). One observation made during the project was that while networks were structures for facilitating cooperation, communication and exchange with national partners, networking was seen as an ongoing and permanent process of communication and cooperation with these partners.

## Demand-reduction evaluation guidelines and instruments

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### Guidelines for the evaluation of prevention

In May, the EMCDDA concluded a project on the 'Implementation of the guidelines for the evaluation of drug prevention'<sup>(13)</sup> (contractors: Centro de Estudios sobre la Promoción de la Salud/CEPS, Spain, and the Reitox national focal point, Germany).

The contractors distributed the guidelines to practitioners (largely by e-mail) and collected and processed the annexed feedback sheets. This exercise allowed the EMCDDA to trace the settings in which the guidelines were being used and to gauge the utility of this evaluation tool based on results of in-depth interviews with professionals.

Most respondents commented that the guidelines assisted professionals and were both effective and workable for the evaluation of prevention programmes. However, the guidelines were regarded as rather demanding and requiring specific expertise and training. The ultimate use of the evaluation guidelines will thus depend on training and human and financial resources available to professionals.

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<sup>(12)</sup> In this type of sampling, researchers orient themselves towards a target population, make contacts and interview respondents. At the end of each interview, interviewees are asked to assist in identifying new respondents. In this way, chains of respondents are created thus extending the sample. The method is well suited to research in hidden populations.

<sup>(13)</sup> The guidelines were published in English in the EMCDDA *Manuals* series in 1998. They are available as a working document in all 11 official EU languages.



## **Second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention**

The second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention, entitled 'Evaluation: a key tool for improving drug prevention', organised by the EMCDDA and the European Commission, was held from 2 to 4 December at the European Parliament building in Strasbourg.

The conference assessed developments in the area of evaluation since the first EMCDDA conference on the topic in March 1997 and promoted systematic evaluation as a means of improving prevention practice. Some 150 participants involved in the practical and strategic implementation of prevention evaluation in the EU, the central and east European countries (CEECs) and third countries attended the event. Conference sessions focused on how evaluation theory and knowledge can be implemented into daily practice via evaluation tools and instruments such as those developed by the EMCDDA (guidelines, evaluation instrument bank, EDDRA, etc.). The conference adopted a set of recommendations aimed at facilitating and promoting an 'evaluation culture' in drug-prevention programmes and strategies in the EU Member States. These will be presented to the European Commission, giving it the possibility to submit to the Council of the European Union draft recommendations on the evaluation of drug prevention.

### **Evaluation of outreach work**

In October, the EMCDDA launched a follow-up project to an earlier study on 'Outreach work among drug users in Europe', published in the EMCDDA Insights series in 1999 (see Chapter 5). The focus of the new study is to promote and improve the evaluation of outreach work activities. Pressure to evaluate the effectiveness of outreach work services calls for a greater degree of professionalism. Outreach work requires a specific type of evaluation due to its specific target groups, aims and interventions. As a result, existing EMCDDA evaluation tools will need to be adapted and complemented with new instruments. The new project therefore aims to: facilitate data-collection methods; develop evaluation guidelines and tools; and enhance training and cooperation possibilities (contractor: Centre for HIV/AIDS and Drugs Studies, United Kingdom).

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### **Cooperation with the WHO and the UNDCP in the field of the evaluation of treatment**

In 1997, cooperation between the EMCDDA, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) began with a project entitled the 'Evaluation of the treatment of substance use disorders'. The overall aim of the project is to increase the effectiveness, scope and impact of information dissemination in the area of treatment evaluation.

The specific tasks of this ongoing project include developing, publishing and disseminating training materials as a source of knowledge and guidance to policy-makers, researchers and professionals. These materials take the form of workbooks on key aspects of the evaluation of substance abuse. The EMCDDA provides technical and economic support for the preparation and testing of the workbooks.

Forty-five treatment centres throughout Europe participated in the project's feasibility phase in 1999. This entailed filling in a 'pre-workbook questionnaire' designed to collate data on the participant's background, professional activities and expectations. The questionnaires sent to the Centre revealed a high degree of knowledge and expertise in the field of treatment as well as a wide variety of activities under-

way in this area. Replies were received from clinicians, programme-planners and researchers as well as government planners and policy-makers. While respondents generally appeared to have extensive knowledge on substance use disorders and their treatment, they generally knew less about planning and implementing evaluation. It is hoped, therefore, that the workbooks will be a step towards making evaluation activities routine. Follow-up is planned six months and one year after receiving the workbooks. In 1999, evaluation studies of treatment services in selected European sites were underway with the support of the training materials.

### **Evaluation instrument bank**

The evaluation instrument bank (EIB) project, launched in 1997 to report on existing instruments for evaluating drug prevention, was extended in 1999 to include instruments for the evaluation of treatment (contractor: European Institute for the Investigation of Risk Factors for Children and Adolescents/Irefrea, Spain). The EIB was also further developed from a technical point of view (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Luxembourg). The final version is scheduled for completion early in 2000 and will be accessible on the EMCDDA's website.

The EIB provides data and comment on evaluation instruments and their use as well as on related studies, according to the specific case to be evaluated. It is designed to be a flexible and expandable tool that allows the continuous inclusion of different language versions of instruments or the adaptation of instruments to specific settings. At the end of 1999, the EIB contained some 35 prevention evaluation instruments and 150 treatment evaluation instruments (120 of the latter may be downloaded while 30 are copyright protected).

### **EDDRA and evaluation skills training**

The Reitox national focal points, in cooperation with the EMCDDA, organised national training courses in 1999 in order to commit professionals to the evaluation of prevention and help them improve skills required to implement EDDRA. The focal points selected and invited professionals from local or regional programmes, targeting those with a peer-leader function. In 1999, training sessions were carried out in Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland and involved approximately 1 000 participants. Training in the remaining EU Member States will follow in 2000. Focal point representatives were satisfied with the acceptance level of the training sessions as well as the increased visibility they brought to the focal points themselves.

## **Cooperation in the field of demand reduction**

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### **Phare project on technical assistance to drug demand reduction**

The EMCDDA continued to participate in the evaluation group of the Phare project on technical assistance to drug demand reduction within the Phare multi-beneficiary drugs programme. Following participation in meetings over two years and analysis of the documents produced, the project was evaluated on the basis of the following objectives: network strengthening; policy and strategy development; and capacity building. A final evaluation report was completed in December.

## Exploratory studies in the field of drug demand reduction

### Reviewing current practice in drug substitution treatment in the EU

In the framework of an EMCDDA study to identify practice in drug substitution treatment in the EU, experts and key informants met in Rome in March to assess progress and analyse results (contractors: Osservatorio Epidemiologico Regione Lazio, Italy, and the National Addiction Centre, United Kingdom). The meeting explored: the delivery of methadone and other substitution treatments; factors influencing the levels and quality of treatment provision; access to treatment; diversification of substitution drugs; use of primary care services; and drug substitution in prisons. The final report prepared by the contractors was finalised in June. The report considered issues such as: the extent of substitution treatment in Member States; legal controls and service development; prescribing practice; types of opiate substitution; integration of services; monitoring and evaluation. It concluded that, over the previous five years, there had been a major expansion in drug substitution treatment and a considerable convergence in models of drug service delivery. A broader range of accessible substitution treatment programmes has developed. However, given the extent of the current services across Europe, there has been very limited research and evaluation of the treatment process that would provide good data not just to confirm the benefits of treatment but also to indicate factors associated with good treatment.

### Assistance to drug users in prisons

In December 1999, the EMCDDA began a study on demand-reduction interventions in prisons. The objectives are: to obtain an overview of drug use in prisons and of the state of the art in assistance to drug users; to describe the roles of in-prison services and the involvement of local agencies in treatment; and to gauge the extent of drug-free and substitution treatment, prevention and general health care in this setting. The study, due for completion in August 2000, will specifically collect results of evaluation studies and define evaluation criteria for demand- and harm-reduction interventions in prisons in the EU (contractor: Oldenburg University, Germany).

### Qualitative research in the field of drug demand reduction

In January 1999, the EMCDDA embarked on a study on qualitative research in the field of drug demand reduction. The purpose of the study was: to inform policy-makers and practitioners about recent demand-reduction research; to promote this research; and to facilitate networking among researchers in the field. The project complements the EMCDDA's qualitative research study in the area of epidemiology launched in 1996 to analyse drug-use patterns. The results of the study were presented at an EMCDDA seminar in Lisbon from 7 to 9 October (contractor: Nordic Council for Alcohol and Drug Research/NAD, Finland).

The study and the seminar revealed that qualitative research in the field of demand reduction could be categorised at three levels, all of which have been approached to a differing degree:

- individual responses to drug demand-reduction activities (most commonly found);
- evaluation of single demand-reduction projects (less commonly found and few including the delivery of services); and
- studies of demand-reduction networks, systems, cooperation between services (rarely found).

The outcome of the study is an inventory which includes: an annotated bibliography; country profiles on the state of the art; recent and ongoing research and researchers interested in qualitative research; and a synthesis of key research findings. The inventory is published at the following website (<http://www.qed.org.uk>).

### **Roles, structures and cooperation in drug-demand reduction services**

At the end of 1999, as a follow-up to the abovementioned study on qualitative research, the EMCDDA embarked on a preliminary study to propose a research design for a study on roles, structures and cooperation in drug-demand reduction services in the health, social, educational and criminal justice sectors. The hypothesis behind this study is that inconsistencies, incoherence and rigid structures may be detrimental to effective drug demand-reduction strategies at national, regional and local levels, whereas formal and informal cooperation structures may improve the drug situation. Very little is known about the mechanisms of drug demand-reduction policy planning and implementation at national, regional and local levels. The study intends to shed light on this area, demonstrate examples of good practice, and improve information collection, analysis and dissemination (contractor: Rand Europe, the Netherlands).

#### **Reports and output of projects, 1999**

##### **Demand reduction**

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- 'Demand-reduction networking in Austria, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden'
- 'Reviewing current practice in drug substitution treatment in the European Union'
- 'Implementation of the guidelines for the evaluation of drug prevention'
- 'Outreach work among drug users in Europe'
- 'Demand-reduction activities in the field of synthetic drugs'

#### **Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 1999**

##### **Demand reduction**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Event</b>
26 March	EMCDDA	EDDRA managers meeting
3 September	EMCDDA	Third steering committee meeting of the EMCDDA/UNDCP/WHO project on costs and effects of treatment of substance use disorders
7–9 October	EMCDDA	Meeting on qualitative research in drug demand reduction
25–26 October	EMCDDA	EDDRA managers meeting
2–4 December	Strasbourg	EMCDDA/European Commission: Second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention

## Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 1999

### Demand reduction

Date	Place	Event
17–18 January	Helsinki	Brainstorming meeting on qualitative research in drug demand reduction, Nordic Council for Alcohol and Drug Research (NAD)
16 February	Madrid	Conference 'Jornadas sobre prevención de drogodependencias en el ámbito laboral', Plan Nacional sobre Drogas, Spain
26–27 February	Athens	World Psychiatric Association Congress
12 March	Luxembourg	Meeting of the coordinators of the third European Drug Prevention Week, European Commission
15–17 March	Vienna	UNDCP working group on a draft action plan on the Guiding principles of drug demand reduction
29–31 March	Tenerife	Annual conference of Sociodrogalcol
21 April	Bergen	Meeting of the Nordic Ministerial Council's civil servants' committee on narcotic drugs
9–12 May	Sundsvall	Private-sector conference on demand reduction in the workplace, International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNDCP
14–15 May	Ferrara	Seminar on the adaptation of the EMCDDA's 'Guidelines for evaluation of drug prevention' in Italy, European Commission's COST A-6 programme
15 May	Rome	Meeting of the International reference group, Centro Italiano di Solidarietà, Italy
20–21 May	Stockholm	Final meeting of the Reitox project on networking in the field of demand reduction
21–22 May	Milan	European Foundation of Drug Helplines (FESAT) evaluation meeting
13–16 June	Prague	Phare summer school on synthetic drugs
24–25 June	Halle	Conference, European Cities on Drug Policy
11–13 July	Helsinki	Seminar on best practices in drug prevention by law enforcement authorities
28–31 August	Nuuk	Annual Nordic drug prevention conference, City of Nuuk
15–17 September	Hamburg	New ways in European drug policy and addiction research, University of Hamburg
23–24 September	Madrid	Cooperation seminar between NIDA and the Spanish Plan Nacional sobre Drogas on the evaluation of preventive interventions in view of drug dependency and HIV/AIDS
27–29 September	Bilbao	Conference on safety and employability, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

4–6 October	Strasbourg	Seminar on drug misusing offenders in prison and after release, Pompidou Group
11–13 October	Erfurt	International seminar on alcohol prevention, Thüringer Koordinierungsstelle für Suchtprävention
11–13 October	Tampere	European conference on the promotion of mental health and social inclusion, Finnish Presidency
14–16 October	Ljubljana	Phare project on technical assistance to drug demand reduction, regional seminar
April–December	Belgium Germany Greece Spain Netherlands Portugal Finland	National EDDRA and evaluation training seminars

### Articles published, 1999

#### Demand reduction

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Burkhart, G., 'Comentario sobre reducción de la demanda en el medio laboral' in *Prevenlabor*, No 2, June 1999

Burkhart, G., 'Use of telematics from the viewpoint of an international organisation: the EMCDDA' in Peltoniemi, T., Tammi, T. (eds.), *Guidelines for telematic drug and alcohol prevention* (Helsinki: A-Clinic Foundation/Prevent Euro, 1999)

Burkhart, G., 'Evaluación de los programas de prevención, una necesidad posible' (<http://w3.arrakis.es/iea/boletin/opinion22.htm>), June 1999

Kinnunen, A., and Nilson, M., 'Recent trends in drug treatment in Europe' in *European Addiction Research*, Vol. 5, No 3, 1999

Nilson, M., 'Drug use among vulnerable groups of young people: comments' in *Education, Prevention and Policy*, Vol. 6, No 2, 1999, pp. 203–204

# Chapter 3

## Reitox coordination

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**The main work of the Reitox coordination department in 1999 corresponded to priority objectives 2 and 5 of the 1998–2000 work programme. The implementation during the year of the paper on ‘The role and financing of the national focal points’, adopted by the EMCDDA Management Board in 1998, significantly improved the morale and capacity of the national centres, several of which had previously suffered on account of insufficient resources. This, in turn, strengthened cooperation between the network and the EMCDDA, as recommended in the European Parliament’s ‘Schaffner Report’ in 1998<sup>(14)</sup>.**

**In 1999, the network worked towards two major long-term objectives: taking forward a network of national focal points which operates to the highest professional standards; and establishing an evaluation and quality-control package for the transmission of data and all other deliverables. A new Reitox staff member was recruited in 1999 to concentrate in 2000 on enhancing quality control and output and as well as communication with the national focal points and other EMCDDA departments.**

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<sup>(14)</sup> Document A4-0294/98. Report on the *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1997* of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (C4-0552/97). Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs, Rapporteur, Anne-Marie Schaffner.

## 1998–2000 work programme Reitox, activities in 1999

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### Priority objective 2

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

#### Core tasks

#### Support projects

### 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

#### Further involvement of the CEECs in the activities of the EMCDDA and Reitox

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

#### Networking, discussion and dissemination

## Core tasks

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In 1999, the Reitox national focal points undertook four core tasks<sup>(15)</sup>:

- the updating of national reports describing the drug situation in their country in 1998;
- active participation in, and contribution to, the electronic information system, Exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA) (see Chapter 2);
- participation, at national level, in the early-warning system on new synthetic drugs foreseen by the 1997 joint action on new synthetic drugs;
- active participation in the progressive implementation of five harmonised epidemiological key indicators.

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<sup>(15)</sup> In previous years, the core tasks have included the compilation of an 'information map', an instrument devised by the EMCDDA to record in detail the sources, availability, quality and flow of information in the different EU Member States. Documentation normally collected via the information map exercise was not gathered in 1999 due to the fact that guidelines for updating the information map were being revised in the context of a new national reporting process. In 2000, the NFPs will once again be required to update the country information maps on the basis of these new guidelines.



## National reports

The focal points drew up their national reports for 1998 and submitted them to the EMCDDA by the end of February. These provided the Centre with vital data, among others, for its Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999.

The national reports included three key themes as selected at a special Reitox session in November 1998. The themes were: trends and responses to old and new synthetic drugs; prevention and good practice in the European Drug Prevention Week; and 'cannabis revisited', prevention, treatment and medical and policy developments.

Some delays in the delivery of the national reports occurred, partly due to delays at the EMCDDA in finalising a set of guidelines for compiling the reports and partly due to the fact that the NFPs did not hold the complete set of 1998 data as early as February. As a result, the Management Board adopted a new reporting process in October harmonising national and EMCDDA reporting calendars. This took into account, on the one hand, the timespan required at national level for obtaining a complete set of data, and, on the other hand, the time required by the EMCDDA to analyse these data and to compile, edit and publish the final Annual report.

In preparation for the 2000 Annual report, the NFPs submitted their 1999 national reports to the EMCDDA in the period August–October (epidemiological data) and October–December (data on demand-reduction activities, new trends, policy and legislation changes, key-issues, etc.).

## Exchange on drug demand-reduction action (EDDRA)

This information system on drug demand-reduction activities is fed by 'EDDRA managers' at the 15 national focal points who input into the system data on demand-reduction projects in their country which fulfil particular operational and scientific criteria. As a result of their efforts in 1999, EDDRA carried information on over 150 projects by the end of the year (see Chapter 2).

## Joint action on new synthetic drugs

On 24 June, the EMCDDA released an urgent information briefing through the Reitox network concerning the effects of the new synthetic drug 4-MTA (see Chapter 4), a substance brought to its attention via the early-warning and risk-assessment mechanisms provided by the joint action on new synthetic drugs. This briefing urged the national focal points to disseminate accurate information on the risks of the drug to their national channels (including health services and the media) following misleading reports in the press. The substance was finally placed under control by a Council decision on 13 September.

## Harmonised epidemiological indicators

The national focal points are required to actively promote the progressive implementation within their Member State of the five key harmonised epidemiological indicators under development by the Centre since 1998 (see Chapter 1). The NFPs' first task was to draw up detailed work plans which included the establishment of a national group for each indicator. First priority was given to four indicators: national prevalence estimates of problem drug use; demand for treatment by drug users; drug use in the general population (population surveys); and drug-related deaths. Work plans related to these indicators were completed by the NFPs in mid-December. The

NFPs were also required to submit to the EMCDDA, by the end of 1999, progress reports regarding the implementation at national level of these four indicators. The work plan on the infectious diseases among injecting drug users indicator is expected to be delivered by the NFPs in the first half of 2000.

## Support projects

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The objectives of the Reitox support projects (formerly 'Reitox specific projects') are threefold: to support the work of the Reitox network and its core tasks (directly or indirectly); to introduce further initiatives into the work of the network by conducting more in-depth studies related to some core tasks; and to decentralise responsibility for the management of the core tasks to appropriate national focal points.

The number of these support projects undertaken per year depends on: EMCDDA Management Board priorities; discussions with the national focal points; the needs of individual departments to conduct more in-depth studies related to Reitox core tasks; financial resources; and the work of the Centre as a whole. The outcome of these support projects constitutes the groundwork for further and more in-depth implementation of the Reitox core tasks by the network.

With a view to complementing, assisting and deepening work related to some of the core tasks, support projects were undertaken in 1999 by NFPs specialised in those fields. They included:

- implementing the treatment-demand indicator;
- improving the comparability of indicators related to drug-related deaths;
- supporting the development of national prevalence estimates in order to improve their comparability;
- improving evaluation skills, using the EMCDDA's guidelines for the evaluation of prevention activities and its information system on demand-reduction activities (EDDRA) (see Chapter 2);
- consolidating EDDRA;
- developing networks in the field of demand reduction; and
- enhancing EMCDDA-Reitox collaboration in the evaluation exercise of the joint action on new synthetic drugs and its implementation by the NFPs at national level (see Chapter 4).

## Further involvement of the CEECs in the activities of the EMCDDA and Reitox

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See cluster groups below.

## Networking, discussion and dissemination

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### **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) I programme, was increasingly used in 1999 by the Reitox community (EMCDDA and national focal points) for disseminating and exchanging information and promoting understanding and transparency within the network. These actions were undertaken using electronic services such as the private Reitox community website which,

among others, allows: e-mail communication; transfer of minutes, documents, papers and data; agenda consulting; and participation in discussion groups.

During the year, the Reitox community prepared for the further development of the common electronic network, including the extension of services and the integration of new partners. Concrete steps in 2000 will be subject to the availability of funds under the IDA II project.

In 1999, the NFPs were requested to link their individual websites to the Centre's public website in an attempt to increase homogeneity and user-friendliness.

### **Drug demand-reduction networking**

The need to consolidate information networks in the field of drug demand reduction has arisen from difficulties experienced by the NFPs in accessing projects while preparing national reports and input to the EDDRA database. The EMCDDA embarked on a project to overcome these obstacles in September 1998, in cooperation with the national focal points of Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden (see Chapter 2). A final seminar on the project was hosted by the Swedish national focal point (coordinator) in May and a report presented at the Reitox meeting in November. By creating demand-reduction networks, the NFPs will be able to disseminate information to professionals for support in daily practice. At the same time, relevant information may be collected by the EMCDDA and the NFPs and shared with partners, thereby contributing to the future development of the European dimension of demand-reduction.

### **Cluster groups**

In addition to the three meetings of the national focal points held in Lisbon in 1999 (into which topic-focused workshops were programmed to ensure full coverage of important issues), the EMCDDA also set up Reitox 'cluster groups' (topic-focused groups comprising selected focal points). Cluster group meetings were attended by the Reitox coordination department and NFPs with a special interest in a particular subject. Larger single-issue meetings may also be instituted in the future, hosted by individual NFPs.

### **National networks: identity and diversity**

A cluster group comprising the EMCDDA and the national focal points of Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom was hosted by the Spanish focal point in Madrid in February. The aim of the meeting was to exchange views on how to respond to: different cultural identities; autonomous communities; local diversity in language; and national and regional parliaments and their descendant structures. The participants agreed that clear definitions and criteria were required to clarify expectations at local level. Feedback and dissemination were seen as an essential way of motivating local and national networks.

### **Central and eastern Europe: exploring the future**

A Reitox cluster group met in Munich in April to discuss common interests and collaboration with the central and east European countries (CEECs)<sup>(16)</sup>. The meeting

<sup>(16)</sup> The 13 CEECs are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Ten of these (all except Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYROM) are candidate countries for accession to the European Union. Other candidate countries are Cyprus, Malta and Turkey.

was attended by the national focal points of Germany, France, the Netherlands and Sweden and was hosted by the German focal point. These four NFPs were active participants in the Phare-DIS project (see Chapter 8) and assisted the CEECs in the drafting of their 1997 national reports. They were also the authors of three sub-regional reports now available at the following website (<http://www.fad.phare.org>).

The group considered that decision-making mechanisms and processes would need to be explained and clarified to potential Reitox members from this region prior to any assimilation into the network. In this respect, they supported the feasibility of future clustering between existing Reitox, and developing CEEC, focal points and/or local contact persons. The participants at the meeting felt that progress should be made as soon as possible in developing networks for the collection and dissemination of drug-related data in the CEECs and across Europe. Once a Reitox-style network has been established in the CEECs, dissemination of data and feedback on national reports would be of particular importance to national centres in the region.

### Dissemination of the EMCDDA's publications and products

In 1999, the national focal points continued to disseminate EMCDDA publications and products on request. Although such dissemination is not a Reitox core task, it was considered by the majority of NFPs in 1999 to be important for providing added value to their own national networks and partners.

#### Reports and output of projects, 1999 Reitox

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- National focal point national reports for 1998
- National focal point reports on recent developments and trends, 1999
- National focal point reports on the implementation of the joint action on new synthetic drugs at national level, 1999
- National focal point reports on the implementation of the information system on demand-reduction activities, 1999
- National focal point work plans regarding the implementation of the epidemiological key indicators at national level, 1999

#### Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 1999 Reitox

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Date	Place	Event
4 February	Madrid	EMCDDA-Reitox cluster group meeting on national networks: identity and diversity
17 February	EMCDDA	EMCDDA-Reitox meeting on networking in the field of demand reduction
18–19 February	EMCDDA	16th meeting of the heads of the Reitox national focal points
26 March	EMCDDA	EMCDDA-Reitox 'EDDRA managers' meeting
22–23 April	Stockholm	EMCDDA-Reitox meeting on networking in the field of demand reduction

29 April	Munich	EMCDDA-Reitox cluster group meeting on central and eastern Europe
21–22 May	Stockholm	EMCDDA-Reitox meeting on networking in the field of demand reduction
21–22 June	EMCDDA	17th meeting of the heads of the Reitox national focal points
21–22 October	Lisbon	Pilot meeting on drug action planning evaluation framework
16–17 November	EMCDDA	18th meeting of the heads of the Reitox national focal points

### Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 1999 Reitox

Date	Place	Event
20 January	Vienna	UNDCP expert seminar
20 January	Vienna	Visit to the Austrian national focal point
20–21 January	Brussels	IDA project steering committee, Directorate-General for Enterprise
2 February	Brussels	Visit to the Belgian national focal point
3 February	London	Visit to the UK national focal point
4 February	Madrid	Visit to the Spanish national focal point
15 March	Brussels	IDA project: brainstorming on Reitox-IDA project extension, EC focal point and Belgian national focal point
16 March	Utrecht	Visit to the Dutch national focal point
17 March	Luxembourg	Visit to the Luxembourg national focal point
15–16 April	Rome	Visit to the Italian national focal point
26 April	Utrecht	Visit to the Dutch national focal point
27 April	Paris	Visit to the French national focal point
28 April	Munich	Visit to the German national focal point
27 May	Brussels	Reitox-IDA II project, Directorate-General for Enterprise
10–11 June	London	Programme committee for the 11th International Conference on Drug-related Harm
12 July	Dublin	Visit to the Irish national focal point
13 July	London	Feasibility meeting on drug action planning evaluation framework, Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour
14 July	London	International Conference on Heroin and Public Health, Release
22 July	Rome	Meeting to discuss the structure of new Italian national focal point
4 August	Lisbon	Visit to Portuguese national focal point
10 September	Brussels	Reitox-IDA II project, Directorate-General for Enterprise
21 September	Vienna	Meeting with head of the Austrian national focal point
11 October	Athens	Visit to the Greek national focal point

## Articles written or papers delivered, 1999

### Reitox

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The following papers were presented at events during the year:

'Studying local and national drug markets', UNDCP expert seminar, 20 January, Vienna

'Heroin, where next?', Release International Conference on Heroin and Public Health, 14 July, London

'Outreach and qualitative research', expert seminar on qualitative research in demand reduction in Europe, 7 October, EMCDDA

'Mobilising live networks', 11th annual meeting of the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD), 4 November, EMCDDA

# Chapter 4

## National and Community strategies

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**In 1999, the EMCDDA embarked on the second priority area listed in the annex to its founding regulation, namely 'national and Community strategies and policies'. During the year, in the field of national strategies, the Centre focused on drug-related legislation in the EU Member States, and the cross-country comparison thereof, as well as on policy developments in preparation for the *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999*.**

**Complementing the above, in the field of Community strategies, the Centre continued to focus on the legal vacuum regarding synthetic drugs in the EU. This was achieved under the terms of the joint action concerning the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new synthetic drugs, adopted by the Council of the European Union in June 1997, and took the form of specific case studies on new substances appearing on the European market. 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.**

**The major achievements carried out in this area relate to priority objectives 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the 1998–2000 work programme. Work carried out in 1999 was undertaken by the section of the EMCDDA attached to the director's office responsible for new synthetic drugs, international cooperation and legal information (for international cooperation see Chapter 8).**

## 1998–2000 work programme

### National and Community strategies, activities in 1999

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#### 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

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### 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 the collection and exchange of information on any new synthetic substance appearing on the European market. In 1999, the mechanisms and processes previously set up to implement the joint action were further developed and consolidated. During the year, an information collection and exchange system was established via the respective networks of the EMCDDA and Europol: the Reitox national focal points and the Europol national units.

Early in January 1999, the EMCDDA and Europol prepared a joint progress report, which provided preliminary information on the new synthetic drug 4-MTA (4-methylthioamphetamine) which had been collected and exchanged under Article 3 of the joint action (information exchange). Europol had covered the production and trafficking aspects of the drug while the EMCDDA had looked at use



and the possible health and social risks of the substance. The report had been triggered by large seizures of the drug in the second half of 1998 and by a number of deaths allegedly linked to the substance.

On 22 January, the joint report was submitted to the chairman of the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) of the Council of the EU, the Council Secretariat and the European Commission for consideration. In February, the German Presidency of the EU formally referred the case of 4-MTA to the EMCDDA and Europol for risk assessment under Article 4 of the agreement.

### Risk assessment

The joint action assigns the EMCDDA and Europol a key role in the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs under the auspices of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee. In 1999, a working methodology and 'Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs', adopted in Autumn 1998, were further developed (and published in July, see Chapter 5).

The Scientific Committee's steering group — established in November 1997 to prepare the risk-assessment procedure — met five times in 1999 (see Chapter 7). The 'Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs' were examined and further developed at these meetings and progress was made on measures to improve future risk-assessment procedures. With regard to the latter, a technical evaluation meeting, composed of scientific experts, met on 29 November 1999 to assist the EMCDDA in compiling a shortlist of laboratories for toxicity testing within the European Union. This move stemmed from proposals from the risk-assessment meeting on MBDB (N-methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-butanamine) of 9 and 10 November 1998 that an inventory of suitable laboratories with recognised expertise in toxicity testing be drawn up for the purpose of providing standard toxicity data when a new synthetic drug is notified for risk assessment.

On 19 April, a high-level expert group on the pharmacotoxicology of 4-MTA met at the EMCDDA. Discussions were based on the scientific literature on the substance and on its current incidences. A literature review on 4-MTA (compiled externally) and comments thereon, were submitted to the Scientific Committee on 17 and 18 May and to a special risk-assessment meeting on 18 and 19 May (see below). These were included in the technical annexes to the final risk-assessment report on 4-MTA in accordance with the 'Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs'.

From 18 to 19 May, a formal risk assessment of the drug was carried out by the EMCDDA Scientific Committee and experts in Lisbon (see Chapter 7). This special risk-assessment session examined the health and social risks of the substance and the possible consequences of prohibition. The result was the formal adoption on 19 May of the 'Report on the risk assessment of 4-MTA in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs', released as an EMCDDA publication in October (see Chapter 5). The report concluded that 4-MTA should be placed under control in the Member States largely due to the high risks of overdose associated with it.

### Control

The above 'Report on the risk assessment of 4-MTA' was forwarded to the German Presidency of the HDG of the Council, to the Secretary-General of the Council and to the European Commission on 24 May in accordance with Article 5 of the joint action (procedures for bringing specific new synthetic drugs under control). Following discussions at the meeting of the HDG on 18 June, the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council on 7 July calling for the drug to be subject to control measures.

Following the Commission's proposal, the EU Council of Justice and Home Affairs adopted, on 13 September, a decision defining 4-MTA as a substance 'to be made subject to control measures and criminal penalties' in the EU Member States (see footnote 4). Under this decision, and in accordance with their national laws, Member States were given a three-month time limit to introduce the necessary steps to submit 4-MTA to control measures and criminal penalties as provided under the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

The speed and effectiveness of the mechanisms provided under the two-year-old joint action were confirmed in 1999 during the risk assessment of 4-MTA which was concluded within a matter of six months and involved all three stages of the joint action (information exchange, risk assessment and control).

This was the second such exercise undertaken to date by the EMCDDA, the first involving MBDB. (A 'Report on the risk assessment of MBDB in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs' was released as an EMCDDA publication in June 1999. See Chapter 5.) Since no consensus on MBDB was reached by the HDG of the Council of the EU in December 1998, the group decided in April 1999 to introduce a six-month monitoring of the market for MBDB and its hazardous effects. On 17 November 1999, an EMCDDA-Europol progress report on the monitoring of MBDB was presented to the HDG. The group subsequently decided not to ask Member States to submit the substance to common control measures at EU level and to inform Coreper on this advice.

## Joint action on new synthetic drugs and the Reitox network

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In 1999, the national focal points of the Reitox network promoted mechanisms at national level for information collection and exchange and the detection of new substances within the EU. The EMCDDA requested information from Reitox on 4-MTA, GHB (Gamma-hydroxybutyrate) and Ketamine as well as updated information on MBDB. It also launched a technical evaluation study of the mechanisms set up to implement the joint action on new synthetic drugs (contractor: Reitox national focal point, Belgium). On 24 June, the EMCDDA released an urgent information briefing through the Reitox network on the effects of the new synthetic drug 4-MTA (see Chapter 3).

## Cooperation in the field of new synthetic drugs and legal information

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### Cooperation in the field of new synthetic drugs

Practical cooperation between the EMCDDA, Europol, the European Commission's Drugs Coordination Unit and the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) was consolidated in 1999. The common instruments and interfaces between the EMCDDA and Europol were also developed in the framework of the joint action.

### Cooperation in the field of legal information

During 1999, the EMCDDA and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in applying their memorandum of understanding signed in March 1998, closely collaborated to improve the collection and exchange of legal data and texts received by EU Member States.

## Collecting and analysing drug-related legal information

### Legal information system on drugs

In 1999, the EMCDDA launched a procedure to set up a legal information system on drugs based on close cooperation with the EU Member States and with the UNDCP.

In June, the EMCDDA Management Board approved the creation of the legal information system. This system is designed to enable the EMCDDA, in accordance with its mandate, to provide up-to-date and comparable information on national drug laws, regulations and their application in the EU Member States in the context of specific issues.

The first phase of the project will be to collect and store the texts of key drug laws while, the second phase will focus on analysis and comparison. The system will offer the possibility for on-line consultation of the latest texts of drug laws and will present comparable data to allow analysis of legal and judicial approaches to the drug phenomenon in the EU.

The decision to set up such a system reflects the needs of national and European decision-makers and professionals to dispose of 'objective, reliable and comparable information' in the area of national and Community strategies and policies (priority area 2 of the EMCDDA's founding regulation).

The system is composed of three elements:

- a database;
- a network of legal contact persons;
- analysis of the application of the law.

#### Database

The legal database is designed to contain the legal texts on drugs in force in the EU Member States as well as general information on drug laws. The database aims to collect, store and classify the countries' basic drugs legislation in an electronic inventory allowing easy access and cross-country comparison. Possibilities for rapid retrieval of specific subjects or of specific articles of a law will be incorporated into the navigational structure of the system. The main objective of this database is to facilitate the monitoring and analysis of legal responses to the drug phenomenon. Access will be offered via the Internet.

#### Network of legal contact persons

To ensure the regular updating of data contained in the legal database, and to exchange information on new strategies and policy interventions, the EMCDDA Management Board was requested to nominate in late 1999 a 'legal contact person' or representative in each EU Member State. Collaboration between the EMCDDA and these national legal specialists will allow the Centre to keep up to date with drug legislation and drug strategies in the EU.

#### Analysis of the application of the law

The EMCDDA is examining ways in which drug laws are enforced in practice and underlines the importance of comparative cross-country analysis of this application. In December, a study on the 'prosecution of drug misusers' was launched by the Centre. The objective of this study is to look at the link between the law and legal

system of a country and action taken by the police and judicial authorities towards drug offenders. This study will explore the feasibility of creating a group of indicators in the penal policy domain through available data or topics collected by a majority of Member States. Results are due in 2000.

### **CD-ROM: European Union legal texts on drugs**

European Union legal texts on drugs, the EMCDDA's first CD-ROM, was published at the end of 1999 (see Chapter 5). The CD-ROM contains over 200 key legal texts issued by the European Union institutions in relation to the drugs phenomenon, including regulations, directives, decisions, joint actions, as well as conclusions of the European Council meetings and action plans on drug issues.

Produced in response to the growing interest in drug legislation and policies in Europe, the CD-ROM provides the European Union Member States, their EU partners, other institutions, practitioners in the drugs field and the general public with a practical overview of Community strategies and policies on drugs and related legislation passed since the late 1980s. Presented in an accessible and user-friendly format, this specialised product provides a wealth of useful information for all those interested in the drug situation in the European Union.

### **Study on public expenditure**

In response to frequent requests, and in order to meet the requirements indicated in priority area 2 of the Centre's founding regulation, the EMCDDA launched in December 1999 a comparative study to analyse public expenditure on drugs in the EU countries (contractor: Pierre Kopp, France).

The purpose of this study is to establish the costs borne by each Member State in implementing national drugs policy. It will distinguish between direct and indirect expenditure and encompass the different areas of national expenditure (prevention, treatment, law enforcement). Furthermore, the study will compare the total 'drug budget' amounts with other standard macroeconomic aggregates (e.g. 'drug budget'/GNP and 'drug budget'/total public expenditure).

The results will be compiled in a report offering a comparative overview of public expenditure in the EU Member States relating to drugs. The EMCDDA will consider the publication of this report in 2001.

## **Reports and output of projects, 1999**

### **National and Community strategies**

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#### **New synthetic drugs**

- 'EMCDDA-Europol progress report on 4-MTA' in accordance with Article 3 of the joint action on new synthetic drugs of 16 June 1997
- 'EMCDDA-Europol progress report on the monitoring of MBDB'
- Mallaret, M., 'Review of the pharmacotoxicological data on 4-MTA'
- 'Report on the risk assessment of 4-MTA in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs'
- 'Evaluation of the mechanisms set up for the implementation of the joint action on new synthetic drugs', Reitox national focal point, Belgium

### Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 1999

#### National and Community strategies

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Date	Place	Event
<b>New synthetic drugs</b>		
19 April	EMCDDA	High-level expert and steering group meeting on new synthetic drugs (4-MTA)
17 May	EMCDDA	Steering group meeting on new synthetic drugs
18–19 May	EMCDDA	Special risk-assessment meeting (extended EMCDDA Scientific Committee)
19 May	EMCDDA	Steering group meeting on new synthetic drugs
29 November	EMCDDA	Technical evaluation meeting on toxicity-testing laboratories
30 November	EMCDDA	Steering group and expert meeting on new synthetic drugs
7 December	EMCDDA	Steering group meeting on new synthetic drugs

### Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 1999

#### National and Community strategies

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Date	Place	Event
<b>New synthetic drugs</b>		
January–December	Brussels	Meetings of the Horizontal Drugs Group under the German and Finnish Presidencies (see Chapter 8)
11 January	The Hague	EMCDDA-Europol meeting on 4-MTA in accordance with Article 3 of the joint action on new synthetic drugs
14 June	Brussels	Information and discussion meeting on anti-fraud and research and technology activities, Directorate-General for Enterprise
25–26 October	Biarritz	First European meeting on drug abuse and dependence

### Legal information

11 February	London	'Meeting the challenge: drug facts and legal responses', Release
19 February	Vienna	Meeting with the UNDCP legal section on an exchange of legal data on drugs
9 March	Madrid	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Spain
17–19 March	Vienna	Meeting with the UNDCP legal section on an exchange of legal data on drugs
13 April	London	Meeting with members of the EMCDDA Management Board, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom
16 April	Lisbon	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Portugal
4 May	Paris	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, France
5 May	Brussels	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Belgium
6 May	Dublin	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Ireland
12 May	Copenhagen	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Denmark
17 May	Stockholm	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Sweden
18 May	Helsinki	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Finland
21 May	Bonn	Meeting with member of the EMCDDA Management Board, Germany
6–8 September	Rome	Seminar on risk analysis of transnational traffic, Italian Ministry of the Interior
6–10 December	Vienna	Expert working group on improving inter-sectoral impact in drug-abuse offender case work, UNDCP

### Articles written or papers delivered, 1999 National and Community strategies

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#### Legal information

Ballotta, D., 'Established scenes and developing trends in drug use: the need for a new collective response', in *Interpol and technology in partnership: fighting drugs*, National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), 1999, pp. 34–36

Ballotta, D., 'Offence, a punishment for drug consumption in the EU', paper presented to the UK Home Office, October 1999

# Chapter 5

## Information strategies and communication resources

**The information strategies and communication resources department encompasses publications, media relations, web dissemination, documentation and information technology (IT). In 1999, the EMCDDA's work in these fields corresponded primarily to priority objective 4 of the 1998–2000 work programme.**

**Major results included the publication of the fourth *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union* and its launch to the media and general public in November. This was followed by the launch of a completely redesigned and restructured EMCDDA website at the 'Online Information 99' exhibition in London in early December.**

**Other key achievements in 1999 included three publications on the results of work undertaken in relation to the 1997 joint action on new synthetic drugs; the inauguration of the EMCDDA's Intranet; and consolidation of the EMCDDA's information-technology environment.**

## **1998–2000 work programme**

### **Information strategies and communication resources, activities in 1999**

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#### **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

**EMCDDA publications**  
**Media relations**  
**EMCDDA public website**  
**EMCDDA Intranet**  
**Documentation**  
**Information technology**

## EMCDDA publications

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### **Production of the Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999**

The Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999 was launched by the EMCDDA on 22 November at a press conference at the Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung in Berlin. The report is available in all 11 official EU languages. Targeted primarily at policy-makers, the 1999 Annual report assembles new data and information from 1998 while updating findings from previous years. The topics covered in the volume include: developments in drug use, problems and responses; prevalence, patterns and consequences of drug use; and established responses to drug misuse in the EU. At the time of the launch, all 11 language versions of the Annual report were downloadable from the EMCDDA's website ([http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications\\_annrep\\_99.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications_annrep_99.shtml)).

At the same time, the Centre published a 96-page Extended annual report in English only which includes a selective glossary, references and sources of information as well as a list of recent EMCDDA publications. The Extended annual report was also downloadable as were files of the overall trends in all 11 EU languages.

### **Production of other EMCDDA publications**

In addition to the Annual report, the EMCDDA produces: an annual General report of activities; a bimonthly newsletter, DrugNet Europe; and three specialised series (the Scientific Monograph series; the Insights series; and the Manuals series). The Centre also produces individual titles on an ad hoc basis (see table below). In late 1999, the EMCDDA produced its first CD-ROM, European Union legal texts on drugs (see Chapter 4).



## **Cooperation with the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (EUR-OP)**

In 1999, the EMCDDA strengthened its relations with the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities and the Centre's publications staff paid regular working visits to EUR-OP's headquarters in Luxembourg. EUR-OP is now responsible for the design, production and distribution of all EMCDDA publications except for DrugNet Europe which is still produced and distributed locally. To facilitate communication between the two organisations and to increase the speed with which the EMCDDA responds to requests for its publications, the Centre was granted access to EUR-OP's on-line stock control and distribution system, Gescom, in September.

Among issues discussed by the EMCDDA and EUR-OP in the second half of the year was the drawing up of a specific contract for the EMCDDA's publications and the development of an EMCDDA 'graphic chart' to harmonise and streamline the agency's visual identity. This project will be pursued in 2000 if funds permit.

### **Participation in the European Publishers' Forum**

In 1999, the EMCDDA participated in the two meetings of the European Publishers' Forum on 30 April in Brussels and on 14 October at the Frankfurt Book Fair (see below). Among the issues discussed at the Brussels meeting were: the current status of EU publishing; the dichotomy between commercial publishing and public-information publishing; and the merits of priced versus free publications. The Frankfurt meeting took the form of a question-and-answer session on various aspects of publishing in Europe.

The forum, set up in 1996, is a joint initiative of the Federation of European Publishers, the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Information Society and EUR-OP. The forum's primary aims are: to promote the wider distribution of information produced within the EU institutions, both among these institutions and to the broader public; to promote the wider distribution of issues of concern to European citizens and of information about Europe to a broad audience; and to promote contacts among European institutions and European publishers.

As a result of its participation at these events, the Centre has already received requests from commercial publishers for the rights to republish some of its material for the commercial market.

### **Participation in international exhibitions and fairs**

#### **Frankfurt Book Fair**

From 13 to 15 October, the EMCDDA attended the Frankfurt Book Fair, the largest international trade fair for the publishing world. The Centre participated at the EUR-OP stand where it displayed its latest publications. The Centre's work generated much interest from other publishers attending the fair.

#### **'Online Information 99'**

From 7 to 9 December, the EMCDDA attended 'Online Information 99' — an annual international conference and exhibition for electronic information professionals held in London — where it launched its new public website on 7 December (see below). The Centre was among several EU services exhibiting both on-line and

paper products at the European Union stand. The EMCDDA distributed a news release in the conference press packs (which carried the Centre's logo) publicising the aims and objectives of its on-line activities. The EMCDDA work station at the stand received many visitors including: representatives of drug-related organisations; pharmacists; pharmacologists; academics; librarians; the media and educational professionals.

## **EMCDDA publications, 1999**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Languages</b>
Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999	All 11 EU languages
Extended annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999	English
General report of activities 1998	English, French, German
DrugNet Europe, issues 15–20	English, French, German, Portuguese
Outreach work among drug users in Europe: concepts, practice and terminology, Insights series No 2	English
Euro-Ibero American seminar: cooperation on drugs and drug addiction policies, conference proceedings	English, Portuguese, Spanish
Guidelines for the risk assessment of new synthetic drugs	English
Report on the risk assessment of MBDB in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs	English
Report on the risk assessment of 4-MTA in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs	English
European Union legal texts on drugs, CD-ROM	English

**Further details on all EMCDDA publications and details of how to order are available on the EMCDDA website (<http://www.emcdda.org/publications/publications.shtml>).**

## Media relations

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In 1999, the EMCDDA took steps to consolidate and enhance its relations with the media, to record the results of these contacts, and to analyse how to improve communication with journalists via the provision of media-friendly information.

### Contacts with the media

Throughout 1999, the EMCDDA received a constant stream of enquiries into all aspects of its work from the written and electronic media in the EU and increasingly from central and eastern Europe and the United States. This interest resulted in several radio and television interviews as well as articles in daily, weekly and monthly journals.

As well as playing a responsive role, the Centre was also proactive, seeking to boost media interest in its work via the frequent dissemination of news releases on its activities — the style and content of which were improved during the year (see below). During 1999, the Centre's database of media contacts was extensively overhauled and currently holds approximately 1 200 contacts. The Centre is now looking to increase its contacts with the youth press and specialised scientific media.

### EMCDDA media strategy

In the second half of the year, the EMCDDA commissioned an external expert to analyse its media relations work from 1996–99 and to propose elements for a comprehensive media strategy (contractor: John Wright, United Kingdom).

The analysis examined: the role of the EMCDDA as an information provider for journalists; the information provided by the EMCDDA; the Centre's media contacts; the effectiveness and impact of the Centre's press releases; the effectiveness and impact of the press launches of the EMCDDA's Annual report; and the press coverage of the 1998 Annual report. The analysis was completed in November for submission to the EMCDDA Management Board and the Reitox network for comments early in 2000.

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### Impact of the EMCDDA Annual report on the media, decision-making and public opinion

In October 1999, the Centre contracted an 'Analysis of the presentation and impact of the 1998 Annual report'. The final report covers, and offers recommendations on, issues such as: design; topicality and usefulness; areas covered; language; and the report's impact on the media, decision-making and public opinion (contractor: Alison Roberts, Portugal).

### News events

The EMCDDA increased the number of its news events in 1999 marking major visits or the release of key reports.

#### Informal press session with the Presidents of France and Portugal

The first news event of 1999 concluded the visit to the Centre on 4 February of Presidents Jacques Chirac of France and Jorge Sampaio of Portugal and took the form of an informal press session. The visit was of particular relevance to the EMCDDA in the run-up to the French and Portuguese Presidencies of the Council of the European Union in 2000.

## Joint EMCDDA-ONDCP news conference

A formal news conference opened the visit to Lisbon of Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of the United States White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) on 28 October. Director McCaffrey cited the Centre's scientific work as 'an example of how the ONDCP could benefit from Europe's experience in the drugs field'.

## Media day launching the EMCDDA 1999 Annual report

On 22 November, the EMCDDA held a media day to launch its 1999 Annual report. An informal question-and-answer session took place prior to the official press conference in Berlin where selected journalists from each EU Member State and some central and east European countries (CEECs) exchanged views with the Centre's executive director and scientific staff.

The official press conference was held at the Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung and was co-organised by the EMCDDA and the German Ministry for Health. Some 55 German and international journalists from both the written and broadcast media attended the event and heard presentations by the chairman of the EMCDDA Management Board and the Centre's Executive Director. A statement from the German drugs coordinator, Christa Nickels, was delivered in absentia.

A parallel session was held at the Spokesman's Service at the European Commission in Brussels where over 250 journalists received EMCDDA press packs containing press releases and the report in 11 EU languages.

The EMCDDA distributed two news releases in all 11 languages to the 1 200 journalists included in its media database prior to the launch. The Reitox national focal points and European Commission offices in the Member States were also invited to further disseminate these communications and to follow up media contacts and coverage nationally.

## Press reception for Royal and Presidential visit

On 23 November, King Albert II of the Belgians and Queen Paola, and the President and First Lady of Portugal visited the EMCDDA. A press reception unit was set up for the Belgian and Portuguese journalists accompanying the visit where press packs were distributed along with copies of the 1999 Annual report. Interviews were given to a number of newspaper and broadcast journalists on the Centre's activities.

## EMCDDA news events, 1999

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Date	Event
4 February	Visit to the EMCDDA of His Excellency President Jacques Chirac of France and His Excellency President Jorge Sampaio of Portugal
28 October	Visit to the EMCDDA of Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of the United States White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

22 November	Media day launching the 1999 Annual report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing for selected EU and CEEC journalists on the Annual report, Berlin</li> <li>• Official news conference launching the 1999 Annual report, Berlin</li> <li>• Parallel presentation of the 1999 Annual report to the EU press corps, Spokesman's Service, Brussels</li> </ul>
23 November	Press reception on the occasion of the visit of the King of the Belgians and Queen Paola, and the President and First Lady of Portugal

### News releases

In 1999, the EMCDDA produced 14 news releases, nearly doubling the total number issued the previous year. Recommendations for improving the text and presentation of the Centre's news releases were given in a proposed media strategy drawn up in November (see above) and were to be implemented the same month.

#### **EMCDDA news releases, 1999**

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Date	Title
4 February	'Presidents Chirac and Sampaio to visit the EMCDDA' (English, French, Portuguese)
12 February	'EMCDDA welcomes German drugs coordinator to Lisbon' (English, German)
26 June	'New draft European action plan to combat drugs: Promising news for the EMCDDA, says director' (English)
1 July	'EMCDDA Management Board re-elects director for five-year term' (English)
15 July	'Commissioner Gradin to meet national drug coordinators at EMCDDA' (English)
16 July	'EMCDDA informal drugs forum on draft European action plan to combat drugs: Gradin highlights role of national drug coordinators' (English)
15 September	'Council decides new drug 4-MTA should be placed under control' (English, German, Portuguese)

28 September	'EMCDDA and Pompidou Group to unite against drugs' (English)
26 October	'ONDCP-EMCDDA encounter on drugs' (English, Portuguese)
8 November	'EU to step up use of the Internet to spread drugs awareness' (English)
17 November	'Spotlight on the EU drugs problem: Annual report of the EU drugs agency' (11 EU languages)
22 November	'1999 Annual report on the EU drug problem: 3–5 million in the EU could have tried heroin. Over 40 million might have tried cannabis' (11 EU languages)
29 November	'How to make Europeans healthier ... save money on drug treatment ... cut drug crime: Second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention' (English and French)
7 December	'EU steps up use of the Internet to spread drugs awareness' (adapted for 'Online Information 99' conference packs) (English)

### News reviews

In addition to the fortnightly press reviews compiled by an external contractor (see documentation 'user services' below), the Centre also produces its own news reviews recording the results of specific EMCDDA events.

In March 1999, the Centre distributed its 1998 Annual report news review (covering the launch of the 1998 report) which carried the 110 articles traced. The exercise was repeated following the launch of the 1999 Annual report and the final review included over 500 articles. During the year, the Centre also compiled quarterly press reviews.

### Articles published

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

As a member of the scientific committee of the Spanish journal *Revista Proyecto Hombre* since 1997, the EMCDDA continued to provide regular input to this drug-specialised quarterly. Early in 1999, it established a similar agreement with a second Spanish quarterly journal launched in 1998 entitled *Trastornos Adictivos*. As a member of the publication's consultative committee, the Centre provided regular articles on its latest findings and achievements<sup>(17)</sup>.

<sup>(17)</sup> *Proyecto Hombre* is published by the Spanish NGO *Asociación Proyecto Hombre*, ISSN 1136-3177. *Trastornos Adictivos* is published by the *Sociedad Española de Toxicomanías*, ISSN: 1575-0973.

In October 1999, the EMCDDA published a special supplement on its work in *EUROP News* (3/1999), the quarterly newspaper of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. This supplement was published in all 11 EU languages and was distributed to 300 000 readers worldwide, including 6 000 journalists. The supplement is available on-line (<http://europ.eu.int/opnews/399/en/r3.htm>).

## EMCDDA public website

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The EMCDDA's public website (<http://www.emcdda.org>) is a key component of the Centre's strategy to disseminate reliable, comparable data on the European drugs phenomenon as broadly as possible. The site complements the EMCDDA's printed publications programme by providing fast, easily accessible and comprehensive information on all aspects of the Centre's activities, products and partners.

Prior to 1999, the website was fully designed, edited and maintained in-house by members of the information department. Reflecting its status as an increasingly important communication and marketing tool, a project was launched in 1999 for the extensive redesign and restructure of the site in order to enhance its visual appeal, navigability and speed of access (contractor: ERIN, Luxembourg).

The new site, which was launched in December at the 'Online Information 99' exhibition and conference (see above), provides users with rapid access to:

- detailed information on all aspects of the EMCDDA's history, mandate, activities and products;
- up-to-date data on drug use in Europe;
- downloadable publications in all 11 EU languages plus full ordering details for all printed and electronic products;
- free access to the Centre's specialised databases;
- links to the Reitox national focal points and to other European and international drug-information centres;
- all EMCDDA news releases;
- e-mail contacts to all staff members;
- links to a host of drug-related organisations and sites at European and international level; and
- a full search facility.

Continually updated, the site also announces job vacancies and calls for tender and highlights issues of current interest. The site will be further developed, with emphasis placed on the increased use of available technology, the addition of information in other EU languages and the progressive integration of further specialised databases. The Centre welcomes feedback on the new site from its users.

## EMCDDA Intranet

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In 1999, the Centre established an internal information (institutional and non-institutional) network (Intranet), exclusively for its staff members. Regularly updated, it helps staff with their research needs via: specialised news and discussion groups; provision of useful EU information; press reviews; and administrative information. It also provides staff members with on-line access to the EMCDDA's library catalogue.

## Documentation

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### **Implementing phase for a distributed documentary database (‘Virtual library’)**

The ‘Virtual library’ is a pan-European distributed documentary database providing a selection of documents from existing national databases in a comparable and standardised format. The library allows bibliographic searches of different sources to be made on one common database, and prevents duplication and overlap of information among the EMCDDA and its Reitox partners.

During 1999, the management of the project was transferred from Toxibase (France) to the EMCDDA. As a result:

- the database was migrated to an EMCDDA server;
- following a study to identify the best configuration for the database, a new search engine was installed and a new documentary format created;
- a call for tender for an external evaluation of the project was launched to define how the library could best be developed (contractor: Bureau van Dijk, Paris); and
- following the evaluation’s recommendations, a work programme was established to revise the project strategy and enlarge the number of national centres participating.

The Reitox ‘Virtual library’ is now available on the EMCDDA public website ([http://www.emcdda.org/databases/databases\\_virtlib.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/databases/databases_virtlib.shtml)) with references selected from the EMCDDA, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

### **Other activities in the field of documentation**

#### **Development of the library catalogue**

During 1999, the EMCDDA’s internal library catalogue, Bibliodatabase, was further developed both to improve the quality of the service available to users and to reinforce cooperation with the scientific departments.

Two specialised bibliographies — ‘Literature review on the relation between drug use, impaired driving and traffic accidents’ and ‘Bibliographic database on European qualitative research on drugs (QED)’ — prepared by the epidemiology department and currently containing 1 400 records in a common format, were added to the bibliodatabase in a new chapter, ‘Thematic bibliographies’. A third bibliography, ‘Scientific literature on drug-related non-fatal emergencies’, will be added in 2000.

In addition, a new software package was introduced to help better manage the structured lists of key words used in indexing. This package can also be used in future to manage a detailed multilingual thesaurus of specialised terms.

The full library catalogue is available to staff members via the EMCDDA’s Intranet allowing for on-line consultation and borrowing. In addition, two of its chapters — ‘EMCDDA reports’ and ‘Thematic bibliographies’ — are to be made available to the general public via the Centre’s public website during 2000.



## User services

During 1999, the EMCDDA's documentation and information centre developed the following information services for the staff of the Centre:

- a fortnightly press review tracking media coverage of the Centre and its work and providing key articles on drug-related matters collected globally (contractor: Courrier International, France);
- a new Intranet providing the staff with links to:
  - internal and European Commission institutional and administrative information;
  - details of major visits to the EMCDDA and major meetings organised by or attended by its staff;
  - specialised newsgroups with information collected from the European institutions and major EMCDDA partner organisations; and
- the EMCDDA serials catalogue, available via the Centre's website ([http://www.emcdda.org/databases/databases\\_serials.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/databases/databases_serials.shtml)) containing the most relevant periodical titles held by the documentation centre.

## Information technology (IT)

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### 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) I programme, was increasingly used in 1999 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 the year, the Reitox community prepared for the further development of the common electronic network, including the extension of services and the integration of new partners. Concrete steps in 2000 will be subject to the availability of funds under the IDA II project.

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### Other activities in the field of information technology

#### Consolidation of the EMCDDA's IT environment

To ensure that all members of staff have up-to-date electronic equipment, the EMCDDA acquired new computers and printers in 1999. It also purchased new hardware to increase the capacity of its local area network (LAN), including additional servers and network switches.

To ensure the smooth operation of the Centre's electronic information services, the EMCDDA also upgraded its servers over the year. In addition, it has increased the capacity of the data communications line connecting the EMCDDA to the Internet. Since the Centre hosts both the public EMCDDA website and the private Reitox website, increasing the capacity of the Internet connection has enhanced access to these services for both external and internal users.

One of the major information-technology (IT) tasks in 1999 was to check all IT hardware and software to ensure that they were year 2000 (Y2K) compliant. Where they were not, they were either replaced, or updates, upgrades or patches were applied. Simultaneously, the settings on every personal computer (PC) in the Centre were checked and, where necessary, standardised.

Being connected to the Internet always increases the risk of exposing the IT infrastructure to security problems. To minimise this risk, security rules were established by the IT team. An in-house security policy was drawn up which every member of staff was required to sign in order to gain access to the local area network as well as to the Internet. The security policy clearly states what a user is, and is not, permitted to do.

Due to the high risk of infecting the network with viruses when exchanging data over the Internet, virus checkers have been installed on every PC. These are regularly updated. In addition, a special PC was installed to check all incoming e-mails for viruses.

To improve the system of sending press releases to the EMCDDA's media contacts, a new fax server was installed which is now scalable and well integrated into the existing server infrastructure.

### Participation in projects

Apart from reinforcing the Centre's telematics infrastructure, members of the IT team have also acted as technical advisers 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) (see Chapter 2);
- the evaluation instrument bank (EIB) (see Chapter 2);
- the budgetary and financial system (SI2) (see Chapter 6);
- the EMCDDA public website;
- the Reitox website;
- the EMCDDA Intranet;
- the web interface for the Centre's library catalogue;
- the automatic distribution of e-mails into newsgroups;
- the migration of the 'Virtual library' from Toxibase to the EMCDDA;
- preparation for the creation of a legal database on drugs;
- 'Year 2000' (Y2K) compliance of the Centre's IT infrastructure;
- the Centre's mail management system (Adonis);
- TESTA;
- IDA II; and
- the European website and network for qualitative research (<http://www.qed.org.uk>).

### Major meetings organised by the EMCDDA, 1999 Information strategies and communication resources

Date	Place	Event
<b>Documentation</b>		
4–6 November	Lisbon	11th annual meeting of the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD)

## Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 1999

### Information strategies and communication resources

Date	Place	Event
<b>Documentation</b>		
20–22 January	Paris	EMCDDA-Toxibase meeting on the Reitox 'Virtual library'
4 June	Lausanne	EMCDDA-ELISAD preparatory meeting for the 11th annual meeting of the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs
<b>Publications</b>		
18–19 March	Luxembourg	EMCDDA-EUR-OP meeting on the 1998 Annual report and other publications issues, EUR-OP
30 April	Brussels	Seventh meeting of the European Union Publishers' Forum
26–28 July	Luxembourg	EMCDDA-EUR-OP meetings on general publications issues, EUR-OP
7–8 September	London and Brighton	EMCDDA-UK focal point meeting on the production of the 1999 Annual report
9–10 September	Luxembourg	EMCDDA-EUR-OP meeting on the graphic presentation of EMCDDA publications and press preparations for 'Online Information 99', EUR-OP
21–23 September	Luxembourg	Preparatory meeting for EU participating services in 'Online Information 99', EUR-OP
13–15 October	Frankfurt	Frankfurt Book Fair, EUR-OP
14 October	Frankfurt	Eighth meeting of the European Publishers' Forum
<b>Media relations</b>		
22 November	Berlin	EMCDDA-German Ministry of Health: launch of the Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999
6–9 December	London	'Online Information 99', organised by Learned Information, United Kingdom
<b>Website</b>		
6–9 December	London	'Online Information 99'
28 July	Luxembourg	Project meeting ERIN
22 September	Luxembourg	Project meeting ERIN
<b>Information technology</b>		
18–24 March	Hanover	CEBIT 99 international computer workshop
22 April	Brussels	Tutorial on TESTA statistics, Global One
4 May	Brussels	TESTA user group meeting, Directorate-General for Enterprise of the European Commission
6–9 May	Turin	Technical meeting on SI2, European Training Foundation (decentralised EU agency)
17 May	Brussels	Third meeting of the inter-agency steering committee: SI2 common support service

26–27 May	Brussels	Preparatory meeting for the IDA II-Reitox project, Directorate-General for Enterprise
9–11 June	Paris	Conference on new Intranet and Internet tools and applications, Online Information, France
3–4 July	Luxembourg	Visit to the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union in the context of the EDDRA project
9 September	Luxembourg	Meeting on Internet environment and tools, ERIN
10 September	Luxembourg	Technical coordination meeting of the EDDRA project, Luxembourg national focal point
10 September	Brussels	Final meeting of the IDA-Reitox project, Directorate-General for Enterprise
<b>Other</b>		
19–23 March	Luxembourg	Meeting of the Management Board of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union
10–12 May	Brussels	EMCDDA-European Commission Drugs Coordination Unit: meeting on the dissemination of information, Brussels
1 October	Luxembourg	Meeting of the Management Board of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union

## Articles published, 1999

### Information strategies and communication resources

#### Media relations

'OEDT: Para ponerle al corriente sobre el fenómeno de las drogas en Europa', *Trastornos Adictivos*, Journal of the Sociedad Española de Toxicomanías, Vol. 1. No 1, 1999, p. 66.

Robertson, K., 'Detecting and controlling new synthetic drugs', feature article for Interpol's website (<http://193.123.144.14/interpol-pr>), January 1999

Robertson, K., 'EMCDDA: Putting you in the picture on drugs in Europe', *SALIS News*, International Newsletter of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Librarians and Information Specialists, Vol. 18, January 1999, pp. 4–5.

Robertson, K., 'EMCDDA: The hub of drug information in Europe', Special feature on Drugs, *EISS News*, Newsletter of the European Institute of Social Services (EISS), No 18, February 1999, pp. 15–17.

Robertson, K., 'Informe Annual 1998', *Revista Proyecto Hombre*, No 29, March 1999, pp. 25–26.

Robertson, K., 'What difference does the European Union make to the drug problem in Europe?', *Social Work in Europe*, Vol. 6, No 2, pp. 33–38.

Special supplement on the EMCDDA, *EUR-OP News*, No 3, Autumn 1999.

# Chapter 6

## Administration, finance and logistics

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**Following the re-examination of the EMCDDA's administrative structure and financial procedures in 1998, attention was focused in 1999 on evaluation.**

**This took the form of an external evaluation of the EMCDDA and its activities in the latter half of the year, aimed at providing a broad-based description and analysis of the agency, its *modus operandi* and achievements <sup>(18)</sup>.**

**The results of this procedure, which were being drawn up at the end of the year and which are due for completion in spring 2000, are expected to play a major role in the Centre's work and decision-making processes in the coming years.**

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<sup>(18)</sup> Management consultants Deloitte & Touche embarked on the external evaluation of the Centre in July 1999 following a call for tender launched by the EMCDDA and the European Commission earlier in the year.

## Administration

### EMCDDA staff

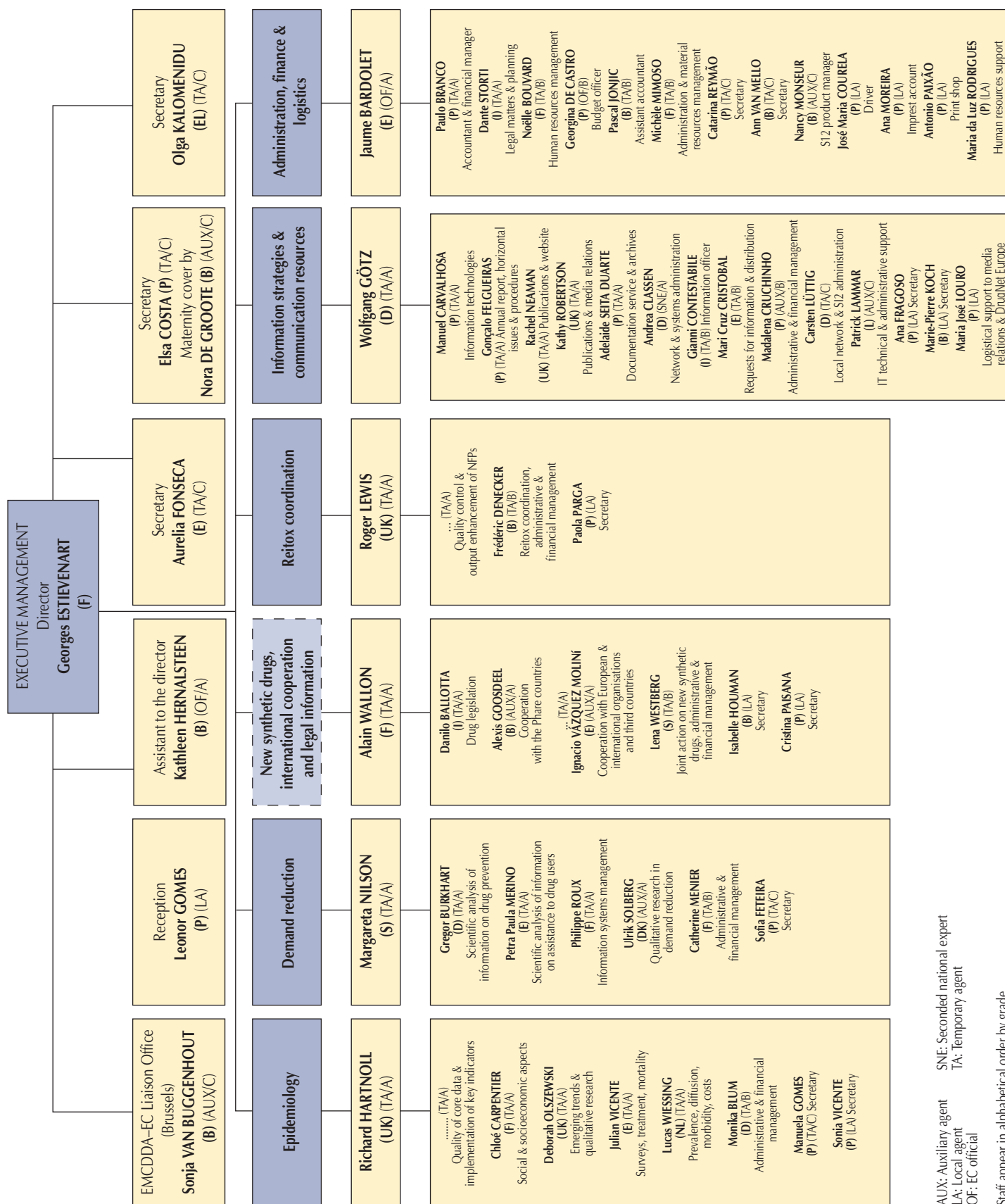
Five new posts were created under the 1999 budget: three posts at A7/A6 level and two posts at B5/B4 level. At the end of 1999, a total of 51 statutory staff members (3 European Union officials, 38 temporary agents, 9 auxiliary agents and 1 seconded national expert) were employed at the EMCDDA along with 11 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 official			Temporary staff			Auxiliary staff			Seconded national expert			Total
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
Belgium	1				2	1	1		3				8
Denmark							1						1
Germany				2	1	1				1			5
Greece						1							1
Spain	1			2	1	1	1						6
France				4	3								7
Ireland													0
Italy				2	1								3
Luxembourg									1				1
Netherlands				1									1
Austria													0
Portugal		1		4		4		1	1				11
Finland													0
Sweden				1	1								2
United Kingdom				5									5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>

## EMCDDA staff 1999



AUX: Auxiliary agent  
LA: Local agent  
OF: EC official

SNE: Seconded national expert

TA: Temporary agent

Staff appear in alphabetical order by grade.

### Key decisions

In 1999, key financial decisions taken by the EMCDDA Management Board included:

- decision to give the director discharge on the implementation of the 1997 budget;
- adoption of the 1999 budget broken down into EUR 7 800 000 in EU annual funding (budget line B3-441) and EUR 255 600 in a European Commission financial contribution relating to the Centre's participation in a specific project under the EC targeted socioeconomic research (TSER) programme;
- adoption of the EMCDDA's 2000 preliminary draft budget of EUR 8 800 000;
- decision to adopt a supplementary and amending 1999 budget in order to include the EUR 450 000 transferred by the European Parliament on 22 April from budget line B5-900 (reserve for decentralised agencies) to budget line B3-441 (EU annual funding for the EMCDDA budget) bringing the total budget for 1999 to EUR 8 505 600.

### EMCDDA 1999 budget

The budgetary figures for 1999 are presented in the tables below.

#### Budgetary provisions and appropriations, 1999

Title	Description	EUR
<b>1. Staff</b>		
	• Staff salaries, allowances, insurance, training	3 376 000
	• Missions	200 000
	• Other staff-related expenditure (socio-medical infrastructure, exchange of officials, etc.)	84 000
	<b>Total under Title 1</b>	<b>3 660 000</b>
<b>2. Buildings, equipment and sundry operating expenditure</b>		
	• Investment in property, letting of property and incidental costs	175 500
	• Information technology	120 000
	• Goods, furniture and incidental costs	286 000
	• Standard administrative functioning	102 000
	• Postage and telecommunications	106 500
	• Statutory meetings	185 000
	<b>Total under Title 2</b>	<b>975 000</b>
<b>3. Operating expenditure</b>		
	• Costs of convening meetings	350 000
	• Studies, surveys, consultations and training	735 000
	• Publications	740 000
	• Support for the Reitox network	1 790 000
	<b>Total under Title 3</b>	<b>3 615 000</b>
	<b>Total core budget</b>	<b>8 250 000</b>
<b>4. Expenditure relating to other subsidies</b>		
	• EC financing of specific projects	255 600
<b>10. Other expenses (reserve)</b>		<b>0</b>
	<b>Total budget</b>	<b>8 505 600</b>



### Execution of the budget: Credit consumption, 1999 (Commitments)

Title	Description	% consumption of available credits
<b>1. Staff</b>		
	• Staff salaries, allowances, missions, etc.	97
<b>2. Buildings, equipment and sundry operating expenditure</b>		91
<b>3. Operating expenditure</b>		94
<b>4. Expenditure relating to other subsidies</b>		100
	<b>Total consumption (Titles 1, 2, 3 and 4)</b>	<b>95</b>

### EMCDDA balance sheet for the financial years 1998 and 1997: Assets

	(1 000 EUR)	
	1998	1997
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
• Fixed assets	3 518	3 409
Subtotal	3 518	3 409
<b>Stocks</b>		
• Office equipment	29	12
Subtotal	29	12
<b>Current assets</b>		
• Commission subsidy	570	2 668
• Sundry debtors	403	207
• Payments on specific subsidies <sup>(19)</sup>	10	0
• VAT to be recovered	4	172
Subtotal	987	3 047
<b>Cash accounts</b>		
• Bank	3 230	1 209
• Imprest account	527	800
• Transfers in progress	- 47	- 1 820
• Cash accounts	0	1
Subtotal	3 710	190
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8 244</b>	<b>6 658</b>

### EMCDDA balance sheet for the financial years 1998 and 1997: Liabilities

	(1 000 EUR)	
	1998	1997
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Fixed capital</b>		
• Own capital <sup>(20)</sup>	3 547	3 421
• Balance for the financial year	1 287	- 1 569
Subtotal	4 834	1 852
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
• Commission subsidy	570	2 668
• Non-automatic carry-overs of appropriations	280	0
• Automatic carry-overs of appropriations	2 112	1 930
• Sundry accounts due	405	21
• VAT	4	172
• VAT re-use accounts	39	15
Subtotal	3 410	4 806
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>8 244</b>	<b>6 658</b>

<sup>(19)</sup> Appropriations allocated on the basis of specific subsidies (various seminars).

<sup>(20)</sup> 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 1998 and 1997**

	(1 000 EUR)	
	1998	1997
<b>Revenue</b>		
• Commission subsidy	9 695	3 632
• Miscellaneous revenue	154	90
• Bank interest	123	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>9 972</b>	<b>3 722</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
• Title I: Staff		
— Payments	2 751	2 517
— Appropriations carried forward	138	6
• Title II: Buildings, equipment and sundry operating expenditure		
— Payments	805	884
— Appropriations carried forward	430	43
• Title III: Operating expenditure		
— Payments	1 305	829
— Appropriations carried forward	1 544	1 881
— Non-automatic carry-overs	280	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>7 253</b>	<b>6 160</b>
<b>Out-turn for the financial year</b>	<b>2 719</b>	<b>- 2 438</b>
• Balance carried over from the previous year	- 1 569	885
• Adjustment to out-turn from previous year <sup>(21)</sup>	0	- 81
• Appropriations carried forward and cancelled	137	92
• Exchange-rate differences	0	- 27
<b>Balance for the financial year</b>	<b>1 287</b>	<b>- 1 569</b>

## Logistics

In June, the Bureau of the EMCDDA Management Board requested the Centre to analyse, in consultation with an architect, its real-estate requirements as have arisen out of insufficient workspace and inadequate infrastructure at EMCDDA headquarters. In October, the Centre was advised on how to meet these needs. Various options were analysed.

<sup>(21)</sup> Amount included in the subsidies to be received under the financial year 1997 but subsequently not collected.

# 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 1999.**

**A summary of the decisions adopted and major points discussed at their meetings are set out in the following pages.**

## Management Board

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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 1999, 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 re-elected the EMCDDA's Director, Georges Estievenart for a second five-year term. The Committee met on all three occasions under the chairmanship of Franz J. Bindert (Germany).

### Management Board meetings in 1999

At its 15th meeting in Lisbon on 14 and 15 January, the Management Board adopted, among others: the 1999 work programme; the General report of activities 1998; a budget of EUR 7.8 million for 1999; and a preliminary draft budget of EUR 8.8 million for 2000. In the context of the EU pre-accession strategy and in the framework of collaboration between the EMCDDA and the European Commission, the Board also assigned the Centre a more active role in cooperation with the central and east European countries (CEECs).

In addition to these decisions, the Management Board discussed: the proposed creation of an EMCDDA legal information system on drugs; relations between the Centre and international organisations; and negotiations concerning the participation of Norway in the EMCDDA's activities. The chairman presented to the meeting the agency's newly published Report on the risk assessment of MBDB in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs.

At its 16th meeting from 30 June to 2 July, the Management Board: re-elected the director for a second five-year term (from 23 December 1999); decided to launch the first phase of the EMCDDA legal information system on drugs; and agreed to conclude memoranda of understanding with the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Furthermore, the Board adopted draft resolutions on: the ongoing negotiations with Norway, and with third countries in general; and the EMCDDA's participation in the European Commission's Phare multi-beneficiary drugs programme. A supplementary budget of EUR 450 000 for 1999 was adopted at the meeting (see Chapter 6).

In addition to these decisions, items discussed included: relations between the EMCDDA and international organisations; implementation of the Centre's five harmonised key epidemiological indicators; and the evaluation of the EMCDDA by external consultants. The Board also heard: the Director's proposed medium-term perspectives for the agency (2000–04); a presentation on a pilot project to estimate time trends and the incidence of the drug use problem in the EU; and the findings of a study on concepts, practice and terminology in outreach work among drug users in Europe. The chairman presented to the meeting the agency's newly published Report on the risk assessment of 4-MTA in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs.

At its 17th meeting on 28 and 29 October, the Management Board adopted a decision to launch a study on the prosecution of drug users and discussed, among others, the draft 2000 work programme and the EMCDDA's medium-term perspectives (2000–04).

## Bureau

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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 Council Regulation (EEC) No 302/93, 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 1999, the Bureau met five times in Lisbon and once in Brussels <sup>(22)</sup>.

### Bureau meetings in 1999

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 1999 Annual report; and the timetable for the production of the 2000 Annual report.

In March, the Bureau prepared a meeting between the EMCDDA, the then chairperson of the European Parliament's Committee for Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs (now the Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights and Home Affairs) and selected Members of the European Parliament on the activities of the Centre and the Reitox focal points.

## Scientific Committee

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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 1999, the Scientific Committee met three times in Lisbon, holding two regular meetings and one extended meeting in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs. The Committee met on all three occasions under the chairmanship of Desmond Corrigan (Ireland).

### Scientific Committee meetings in 1999

The 11th meeting of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, on 17 and 18 May, discussed implementation of the 1999 work programme and the contribution of the Scientific Committee to the EMCDDA's 1999 Annual report. It also created two sub-committees (composed of Scientific Committee members) responsible for assisting and advising the EMCDDA in improving the quality of epidemiological and demand-reduction data and studies. Furthermore, it discussed the findings of the steering group meeting of 17 May on 4-MTA and on the follow-up to the risk-assessment report on MBDB (see below).

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<sup>(22)</sup> 15 March; 7 May; 30 June; 16 September (Brussels); 28 October; 6 December.

On 18 and 19 May, an enlarged EMCDDA Scientific Committee met to assess the risks of 4-MTA. This special risk-assessment meeting was 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 (EMA) and Europol. The enlarged Committee's tasks were to assess the health and social risks of the substance and the possible consequences of prohibition. The meeting resulted in the formal adoption on 19 May of a 'Report on the risk assessment of 4-MTA in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs'. This report, presented to the Council of the EU and the European Commission on 24 May concluded that 4-MTA should be placed under control in the Member States largely due to the high risks of overdose associated with the drug.

At the 12th meeting of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee on 6 and 7 December, the members adopted a favourable opinion on the EMCDDA's 2000 draft work programme and discussed the proposed medium-term perspectives for the EMCDDA (2000–04). Updated information was presented on MBDB, 4-MTA, Ketamine and GHB as were the findings of a technical evaluation meeting held on 29 November to prepare a short list of toxicity-testing laboratories within the EU (see Chapter 4). Furthermore, the meeting heard the findings of the two subcommittees on the quality indicators for epidemiological and demand-reduction studies.

### **Steering group meetings**

The Scientific Committee's steering group — set up in 1997 to prepare the risk-assessment procedure under the joint action on new synthetic drugs — met five times in 1999 (see also Chapter 4).

On 19 April, a high-level expert meeting on the pharmacotoxicology of 4-MTA was held at the EMCDDA and attended by experts and steering group members. A scientific literature review on the substance and its incidence was presented.

The meeting on 17 May prepared the extended Scientific Committee meeting on 4-MTA. Discussions also centred on progress regarding measures to improve future risk-assessment cases as stated in the report on MBDB. The meeting heard a progress report on the establishment of an inventory of toxicity-testing laboratories within the EU for providing relevant data on new synthetic drugs. Also discussed was the importance of rapidly disseminating harm-reduction information to (potential) users through the early-warning system on new synthetic drugs, provided under the joint action, once a new substance has been detected. The meeting on 19 May finalised the 'Report on the risk assessment of 4-MTA in the framework of the joint action on new synthetic drugs'.

The steering group meetings of 30 November (also attended by external experts) and 7 December focused on improving risk-assessment methodology (further developing the risk-assessment guidelines) through criteria for allocating scores and weighting evidence.

# Chapter

# 8

## The EMCDDA and its partners

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**Since its creation, the EMCDDA has developed partnerships with a wide range of organisations, both within the European Union and further afield. In addition to its contacts with the European institutions and agencies, it has established contacts with six international partners: the Council of Europe's cooperation group to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking (Pompidou Group); the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP); the World Health Organisation (WHO); the European Police Office (Europol); the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol); and the World Customs Organisation (WCO).**

**The EMCDDA participates as an observer in the meetings of the permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group, those of the UNDCP's Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and in Interpol's General Assembly. The Pompidou Group, UNDCP and the WHO also participate as observers in the Centre's Management Board meetings.**

**In 1999, the Centre furthered existing cooperation while establishing links with new bodies and regions. Work in this area was largely undertaken by a new section attached to the director's office responsible for new synthetic drugs, international cooperation and legal information. However, all departments were involved in these contacts to a certain degree.**

## **1998–2000 work programme**

### **The EMCDDA and its partners, activities in 1999**

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#### **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**

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### **European Parliament**

Early in 1999, the EMCDDA followed discussions in the European Parliament regarding the EU drug phenomenon, in general, and the development of the European Union drugs strategy (2000–04), in particular. The discussions took place in the Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs (the former Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs).

During its plenary session from 15 to 19 November, the Parliament adopted a formal opinion on the strategy, following the conclusion of a report on the subject by the new Committee (Final A5-0063/1999. Rapporteur: Marietta Giannakou-Koutsikou). This report, welcoming the strategy, underlines the lack of, but need for, comparable data on drugs in the EU, based on common definitions and concepts. It calls for an EMCDDA budget commensurate to its tasks and for an annual examination of the Centre's progress in implementing a global drug information system. The agency is complimented in the text on its achievements in the field of new synthetic drugs and the evaluation of drug prevention.

### **Council of the European Union**

In 1999, the EMCDDA participated as a permanent observer in the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) of the Council of the European Union. This participation largely related to: implementation of the 1997 joint action on new synthetic drugs; development of the European Union drugs strategy (2000–04); and the European Union's international relations. The Centre also attended as an observer a number of meetings of the Council's 'Illegal Drugs Trafficking Working Party' established in the context of the third pillar of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union (cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs).

### **European Commission**

#### **Informal drugs forum**

An informal drugs forum, organised by the EMCDDA in cooperation with former European Commissioner responsible for justice and home affairs, Anita Gradin, was



held in Lisbon on 16 July to discuss the European Union drugs strategy (2000–04). Mrs Gradin stressed the important role of the EU Member States' national drug coordinators in the implementation of the strategy 'in view of their unique overview of individual national drug strategies and policies'. Mrs Gradin also commented on the importance of reliable and comparable information on drugs. She applauded efforts made by the EMCDDA to bridge the differences between existing information systems in the Member States, which had contributed to a much-improved overview of the drug situation in the EU.

### **Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs**

In preparation for the Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 1999, the Drugs Coordination Unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs provided the EMCDDA with details regarding EU action in the field of drugs. At the invitation of the Unit, the EMCDDA also contributed to the drafting of the European Union drugs strategy (2000–04).

### **Directorate-General for Enterprise**

For details on the interchange of data between administrations (IDA) programme, see Chapter 5.

### **Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection**

The EMCDDA cooperated with the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection in the organisation of the second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention, held under the auspices of the EMCDDA and the European Commission from 2 to 4 December in Strasbourg (see Chapter 2). Furthermore, the directorate-general nominated a Commission 'EDDRA manager' who participated in the Centre's EDDRA coordination meetings with a view to introducing EU-evaluated projects into the database. In the area of epidemiology, the Centre presented information on its five key indicators at the 'fifth meeting of the Committee for the programme of Community action on health monitoring' organised by the directorate-general on 4 May in Luxembourg (see Chapter 1).

### **Directorate-General for Transport**

The EMCDDA maintained contacts with the Directorate-General for Transport on the topic of drugs and driving.

### **Directorate-General for Research**

In 1999, 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). The Centre also participated in information exchange in the framework of the Commission's fifth framework programme (1998–2002), which defines the EU's strategic priorities for research, technological development and demonstration activities.

### **Eurostat**

The EMCDDA cooperated closely with Eurostat 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 CEEC candidate countries on their work (see footnote 16). Cooperation was enhanced with the London-based European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) in the framework of the joint action on synthetic drugs.

## Cooperation with European and international partners

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

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) formally establishing cooperation between the EMCDDA and the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group) was concluded in Strasbourg on 28 September. The agreement was signed by the recently appointed Secretary-General of the organisation, Walter Schwimmer, and EMCDDA Executive Director, Georges Estievenart. The MOU will help enhance the exchange of information and expertise between the two bodies and improve the coordination and planning of their respective work programmes, avoiding duplication of effort. Head of the Pompidou Group secretariat, Christopher Lockett, discussed implementation of the MOU with the EMCDDA director on 9 November during a visit to the Centre.

The EMCDDA participated as an observer in the 43rd and 44th meetings of the permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group (28 to 30 April and 4 to 5 November) in Strasbourg. The Pompidou Group participated in the Management Board meetings of the EMCDDA as well as in the second European Conference on the Evaluation of Drug Prevention organised by the EMCDDA and the European Commission in Strasbourg from 2 to 4 December.

### **United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)**

UNDCP Executive Director, Pino Arlacchi, visited the EMCDDA on 30 September to discuss implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two bodies on 13 March 1998. The talks covered cooperation in areas such as: harmonised indicators; exchange of legal information; new synthetic drugs; and national reporting. Mr Arlacchi applauded the EMCDDA's ongoing work in the development of the five epidemiological indicators of drug trends in the EU and stated that Europe was in a privileged position to create 'the nucleus for a standard setting for measuring drug demand'.

The EMCDDA participated as an observer in 1999 in the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

### **World Health Organisation (WHO)**

A draft memorandum of understanding between the EMCDDA and the WHO was prepared in 1999. Signature of this agreement, likely to take place in March 2000, would boost cooperation between the organisations with the aim of: improving the collection and analysis of data; developing and promoting data-comparison methods; and intensifying the dissemination of information.

In 1999, the Centre continued its cooperation with the WHO on the project 'Evaluation of the treatment of substance use disorders' (see Chapter 2).

### **European Police Office (Europol)**

Cooperation between the EMCDDA and Europol increased in 1999 due to their shared role in the joint action on new synthetic drugs (see Chapter 4) <sup>(23)</sup>. An annual meeting between the two bodies in the framework of the joint action was held at Europol headquarters on 15 October in The Hague.

At the meeting, the agencies identified areas of work in the field of data collection and the development of harmonised indicators. As regards law-enforcement indicators, a first division of labour was established. On the one hand, Europol would focus on seizures and price/purity indicators while the EMCDDA would continue to act as an 'EU clearing house' for all drug-related indicators and statistical data produced by other international organisations and bodies. A draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two agencies was discussed at the meeting. Europol's legal service will analyse the feasibility of the potential agreement. In the meantime, cooperation instruments already created under the joint action on new synthetic drugs will be strengthened.

### **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)**

The EMCDDA and Interpol increased cooperation in 1999, which could pave the way for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two bodies in the course of 2000.

### **World Customs Organisation (WCO)**

As in previous years, the WCO contributed to the EMCDDA's 1999 Annual report.

### **Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**

The EMCDDA attended CICAD's 25th and 26th regular meetings held from 3 to 7 May in Washington DC (US) and from 4 to 7 October in Montevideo (Uruguay). The central focus of these meetings was the multilateral evaluation mechanism (MEM), an evaluation mechanism established by CICAD to strengthen mutual confidence, dialogue and cooperation between countries in the Americas. The MEM was formally adopted in Uruguay and the first round of country-evaluation initiatives should begin in 2000.

Jean Fournier, Deputy Solicitor-General of Canada and President of CICAD's multilateral evaluation mechanism working party visited the EMCDDA on 27 September and presented progress on the development of the MEM. Developing a framework for greater EMCDDA-CICAD collaboration was also discussed. This will be further developed in 2000.

### **Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)**

The EMCDDA took part in meetings of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Centre participated in meetings on 'Estimating the magnitude of drugs proceeds' in Oporto (Portugal) and The Hague (the Netherlands) on 28 September and 5 November respectively. The EMCDDA presented the state of the art in data collection on drug consumption in the EU. Further cooperation will be established with the FATF in partnership with Europol and the Pompidou Group.

<sup>(23)</sup> The joint action grants equal responsibility to the EMCDDA and Europol for establishing an early-warning system to collect and exchange information on the production, traffic and use of new synthetic drugs, taking into account the respective mandates of the two bodies.

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## Cooperation with central and east European countries (CEECs)

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### Phare multi-beneficiary drugs programme

#### Phare project on drug information systems

Cooperation between the EMCDDA and the central and east European countries (CEECs) has, in recent years, taken place in the framework of the Phare project on drug information systems (Phare-DIS) which completed its third and final phase in March 1999. The final seminar of the Phare-DIS project was held at the EMCDDA from 15 to 16 February. Discussions focused on the progress achieved by the project since 1993 in developing drug-information systems in the CEECs. The project focused on building a human network of drug experts in the CEECs along with a supporting technical network.

The European Commission drew up a nine-month bridging contract (EUR 300 000) in the second half of 1999 with the Phare-DIS project to prepare a possible transfer of the project's activities to the EMCDDA. In the framework of its cooperation with the region, the EMCDDA assists the CEECs in applying its guidelines for the production of national reports. Bilateral feedback will be provided by the EMCDDA on the quality of the national reports, which will be synthesised and utilised in the EMCDDA's 2000 Annual report. The reports will provide the basis to assess future cooperation between the CEECs and the EMCDDA.

#### Phare project on technical assistance to drug demand reduction

The EMCDDA participated in the evaluation of the Phare project on technical assistance to drug demand reduction (see Chapter 2).

### Enhanced pre-accession strategy

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

During the year, the European Commission prepared a mandate for negotiation on behalf of the Council to which the EMCDDA provided comments and proposals at the request of the Commission in July. The EMCDDA also presented, at the Commission's request, a first estimate of the impact of the participation of the CEEC candidate countries on the work programme, budget and the human resources of the Centre.

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## Developing cooperation with third countries

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### Norway

A proposal to allow Norway to participate in the activities of the EMCDDA was transmitted to the Council of the EU and to the European Parliament in May 1999. This proposal foresees full participation of Norway in the Centre's work.

### Latin America

The European Union, Latin America and Caribbean Summit took place in Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June, with the participation of the Heads of State or

Government of the three regions. The EMCDDA and Europol participated in the preparatory process of the ‘Coordination and cooperation mechanism between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean — Comprehensive action plan on drugs’, formally adopted at the meeting. In general terms, the mechanism is designed to deepen political will and technical dialogue between the regions and to enhance and develop existing cooperation on drugs.

### United States

Director of the United States White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Barry R. McCaffrey, visited the EMCDDA on 28 October. On this occasion, Director McCaffrey met the EMCDDA’s Management Board where the drug situation and new policy developments in the US and in the EU were discussed. The visit was Director McCaffrey’s second to the Centre following his trip to Lisbon in July 1998 for the first informal US-EU Drugs Forum.

### Major visits to the EMCDDA, 1999

Date	Visit
<b>Cooperation with the European Union institutions and bodies</b>	
3 June	Visit of Klaus Ebermann, Director at the Secretariat-General of the European Commission
11 June	Visit of Matti Bäckman, Chairman of the Horizontal Drugs Group, Finnish Presidency
16 July	Visit of Anita Gradin, former European Commissioner for justice and home affairs, on the occasion of an informal drugs forum
<b>Cooperation with European and international partners</b>	
30 September	Visit of Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)
9 November	Visit of Christopher Lockett, Head of the Pompidou Group secretariat, and Klaus Fuchs, Principal Administrator
<b>Cooperation with the central and east European countries</b>	
15–16 February	Final seminar of the Phare project on drug information systems, hosted by the EMCDDA
13 December	Visit of Vladimir Shopov, Counsellor for justice and home affairs of the Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Communities
<b>Developing cooperation with third countries</b>	
23 February	Visit of David Beall, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
14 September	Visit of John Carnevale, Director, Office of Programmes, Budget, Research and Evaluation, United States White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
27 September	Visit of Jean Fournier, Deputy Solicitor-General of Canada and President of the CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism Working Party

28 October	Visit of Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of the United States White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
8 November	Visit of Walter Fanganiello Maierovitch, General Secretary, National Secretariat against Drugs, Brazil
9 November	Visit of Ambassador of Colombia to Portugal, Jorge Perdomo Martínez

#### **Other visits and meetings**

8 January	Visit of Nicole Maestracci, President of the French Mission Interministérielle de Lutte contre la Drogue et les Toxicomanies (MILDT)
4 February	Visit of Presidents Jacques Chirac of France and Jorge Sampaio of Portugal
11 February	Visit of Christa Nickels, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, Germany (German Drugs Coordinator)
7 April	Visit of the Committee on Hygiene and Health of the High Chamber (Senato) of the Italian Parliament
23 April	Visit of a delegation of the Swedish Ministry of Justice
10 May	Visit of Monika Knoche, Member of the German Parliament
26 May	Visit of Mike Trace, UK Deputy Drugs Coordinator
10 September	Visit of the Swedish Parliamentary Committee for Legal Affairs
16 September	Visit of a Norwegian delegation of NGOs, political, police and youth organisations
15 November	Visit of members of the Joint Committee on European Affairs of the Irish Parliament
17 November	UNDCP-EMCDDA working meeting on legal information systems
18 November	Visit of Ueli Löcher, Vice-Director, Swiss Federal Office for Public Health
23 November	Visit of their Majesties King Albert II of the Belgians and Queen Paola and President Jorge Sampaio and the First Lady of Portugal

#### **Major meetings attended by the EMCDDA, 1999**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Cooperation with the European Union institutions and bodies</b>		
January–December	Brussels	Meetings of the Horizontal Drugs Group of the Council of the European Union
19 February	Brussels	Meeting of the EU decentralised agencies
16 September	Brussels	Meeting of the EU decentralised agencies
<b>Cooperation with European and international partners</b>		
19 January	Vienna	UNDCP-EMCDDA working meeting
28–30 April	Strasbourg	43rd Meeting of the permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group

28 September	Oporto	FATF ad hoc working group: Estimating the magnitude of drugs proceeds
28–29 September	Strasbourg	Signature of the memorandum of understanding between the EMCDDA and the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group) Meeting between Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Walter Schwimmer, and EMCDDA Executive Director, Georges Estievenart
15 October	The Hague	Annual meeting of the EMCDDA and Europol
4–5 November	Strasbourg	44th Meeting of permanent correspondents of the Pompidou Group
5 November	The Hague	FATF ad hoc working group: Estimating the magnitude of drugs proceeds
6–10 December	Vienna	UNDCP expert working group on improving intersectoral impact in drug-abuse offenders casework (see Chapter 4)

### **Developing cooperation with third countries**

7–8 April	Panama	Second high-level preparatory experts meeting: Coordination and cooperation mechanism between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean — Comprehensive action plan on drugs
3–7 May	Washington	25th regular meeting of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
17–21 May	Madrid	First general assembly of the Ibero-American network of NGOs
4–7 October	Montevideo	26th regular meeting of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)





# Practical information

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European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

**General report of activities 1999**

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2000 — 87 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 92-9168-091-5