

ANNEX WORK PROGRAMME

Cooperation between the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) in the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding

Background

This work programme was developed and agreed upon by both parties on 14 March 2007. While this work programme may be amended or replaced at any time, a formal progress review will take place by the end of 2009.

As previously agreed, the Memorandum of Understanding and its addendum were reviewed by the working parties. With the exception of the need for some minor editing to reflect the change in nomenclature (e.g. the change of name of UNDCP to UNODC), the document still provides a sound framework for cooperation between the two parties. However, it was concluded that the accompanying work programme now required some updating to better reflect current concerns and the ongoing activities of the organizations.

The review of the previous work programme also noted that there was clear evidence of improved cooperation between the two organizations which had resulted in both concrete actions and outputs.

This cooperation took three main forms:

- information exchange
- coordination of work
- joint project activities.

In order to improve further the level of cooperation, the work programme was revised as follows:

I. Activities in the field of Epidemiology

The main areas of focus for co-operation in the field of epidemiology are:

Collection and reporting of data on the drug situation: to support and facilitate the inclusion by Member States of European data in the Annual Reports Questionnaire (part II – extent, patterns and trends) and to share understanding and analysis of the drug situation as reported by the European Monitoring Centre On Drugs and Drug Addiction and United Nations Drug Control Programme in their respective publications.

Improving the quality and comparability of data: The two organizations will discuss the possibility of data sharing and comparability checks.

Harmonisation of reporting standards and international indicator development: (follow-up to Lisbon Consensus Document – Drug Information Systems Structure and Indicators, E/CN.7/2000/CRP.3). Cooperation is required in the following areas:

- the dissemination of methodological development of appropriate indicators and guidelines, tool-kits, and supporting documentation for data collection and reporting;
- networking, knowledge exchange and support for capacity building;
- the incorporation of data from drug testing laboratories to help facilitate a better understanding of patterns and trends in the drug situation; and
- sharing of expertise including the availability of technical experts.

Activities in support of reporting on the progress made in responding to the drug situation: in particular, the commitments outlined in the European Union Action Plan on Drugs (2005-2008), and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session Devoted to Countering the World Drug Problem Together.

Co-operation in other regions and with other international partners in supporting the development of drug epidemiological systems, networks and expertise. Coordination of assistance is required to ensure common approaches and adoption of sound methodologies and to make better use of available resources.

II. Activities in the field of Drug Demand Reduction

There is agreement on the importance to further develop the co-operation activities in the field of drug demand reduction responses. In this regard, a framework is provided by the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which highlights the importance of a comprehensive and evidence-based approach, and encourages the sharing of information on best practice strategies, as well as the Declaration of Commitment of UNGASS on HIV/AIDS and the EU Strategy and its related Action Plan.

It is agreed to jointly pursue activities in the field of drug demand reduction aiming at sharing experiences on accomplished progress and the ***identification and dissemination of good practices and effective strategies*** for prevention, treatment, and reducing the health and social consequences of the misuse of drugs, with regards to both interventions and their evaluation. In this context, it would be particularly important to review existing tools and products with a view to their joint dissemination, as well as to the joint identification and dissemination of good practices in the areas where gaps have been identified. The exchange of good practice examples on an ongoing basis should be strengthened.

The collaboration and exchange of information and methodological approaches in the area of ***monitoring of the availability, coverage and quality of interventions*** needs to be further developed. To help improve the quality and comparability of data the two organizations will discuss the possibility of data sharing and comparability checks on stored data. This would allow a better assessment of the extent to which intervention strategies are implemented by Member States. This information would also be relevant to the process of evaluating progress made in achieving the goals and targets of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session Devoted to Countering the World Drug Problem Together.

Information exchange. Acquired experiences and insights will continue to be shared between the two organisations, systematically and on an ongoing basis. Where possible, this will include participation in their relevant expert group meetings.

The ***cross-referencing*** of resources, materials and products in the websites of the two organisations will be improved.

III. Activities in the field of New Drug Trends, Synthetic Drugs and Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS)

The following themes are identified as areas of co-operation.

Raising general awareness and enhancing communication between the organizations on new drug trends, including drug combinations and consumption patterns, through regular exchange of relevant information, including bilateral meetings, where appropriate.

Further development of early warning systems for new drug trends, covering new consumption patterns, and toxicity and related health hazards. This will include bilateral meetings on mechanisms for sharing experiences in the field of early warning systems, and information gathered through such systems as well as cooperation in support of the EMCDDA's work on the information exchange on new psychoactive substances.

Improving the comparability and sensitivity of existing information systems to new drug trends, including the incorporation of data from drug testing laboratories, to facilitate a better understanding of changing drug patterns and trends, especially those related to Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS). Consideration will be given to closer collaboration between the two organization, for example, through mutual participation in technical meetings on relevant methodological issues, standards and reporting guidelines.

Developing mechanisms for exchange and reporting of standardised results on drug testing laboratories, to facilitate generation and collection of quality information on new drug trends, including composition and to further support the concept of early warning systems.

IV. Activities relating to Legal Information Systems

Cooperation on information exchange. The staff members of each organization responsible for legal information systems shall, when possible, cooperate directly to enhance the effectiveness and accuracy of their respective databases and websites. The European Monitoring Centre On Drugs and Drug Addiction and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime shall share relevant information, research on and copies of laws and regulations adopted to implement the international drug control treaties provided by Member States of the European Union, Norway and the candidate countries, including participation in technical meetings, as appropriate. The respective offices shall exchange information on implementation of national legislation, where available, as well as relevant evaluation tools and methodologies. The relevant offices shall inform each other of any developments in the legal field and prevent duplication of research and other activities as far as possible.

While aware of the obligations of parties to the drug control conventions regarding the reporting of laws and regulations, the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime will work to avoid duplication of reporting by the parties.

V. Activities relating to Drug Supply Reduction

The European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will explore possibilities on matters of common interest in the area of supply reduction for the purpose of realising their objectives and co-ordinating their respective activities.

Where appropriate, consultation shall be arranged at the required level between representatives of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to identify and agree the most effective way in which to organize particular activities in compliance with their respective mandates and competence, to develop cooperation on appropriate information exchange and to ensure participation in technical meetings.

In particular, specific collaboration shall take place in the following areas:

- **Information on seizures:** exchange of data sets: EMCDDA data tables; pre-publication of World Drug Report (in coordination with Research and Analysis Section); biannual Seizure Reports; exchange on methodological issues and standards.
- **Information on laboratories uncovered** exchange of data sets: EMCDDA data from National Reports; UNODC data from the ARQ; mainly upon request.
- **Information on supply reduction activities including measures against trafficking of precursors and drug related money laundering:** exchange of information on projects: measures taken by the UNODC; monitoring activities carried by the EMCDDA.
- **Information on drug purity/potency and price:** exchange of data sets: EMCDDA data tables; UNODC data from the ARQ; mainly upon request.

It was agreed that the exchange of data sets on drug law offences and other data from the criminal justice system will be followed-up at technical level.