



## PRESS RELEASE

### Experts from EU and CA exchanging views regarding drug situation

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Today in Brussels, Belgium, the EU-Central Asia Drug Dialogue has begun under the chairmanship of the Czech Republic. The purpose of this Dialogue was to strengthen international cooperation, exchange views and support the proper development of drug policy.

CADAP Programme supported the participation in the Dialogue of delegations from 4 Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) among the representatives of relevant state institutions, whose activities include countering drug smuggling and developing state policy in the field of drugs – Ministries of Interior, General Prosecutors' Offices. The delegates presented reports on the situation in the countries of Central Asia.

EU side was represented by EU Member States and representatives of the EU institutions and agencies such as the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre of Drugs and Addictions, EUROPOL, the European External Action Service and General Secretariat of the Council of Europe. Particularly, the European Commission presented the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025 and its Action Plan 2021-2025 and EU agencies shared the information on recent development in the EU.

Expert dialogues on drugs are the fundamental part of the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025 that strongly supports information sharing on the strategies, aims and relevant initiatives through the dialogues on drugs with international partners, both at regional and bilateral level. Dialogues are typically based on multilateral partnership and cooperation with representatives of various regions or EU long-term partners. The goal is to address the experts from the countries outside of the EU and exchange views concerning the drug situation, both at regional and international level.

*Since its launch in 2003, the different phases of the EU-funded CADAP Programme have been supporting the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in implementing strategies and measures to reduce the demand for drugs, promoting prevention initiatives and improving the treatment offered by public institutions to drug users in the region. The new 7<sup>th</sup> phase, with a total budget of 6.8 million Euros, intends to continue targeting interventions in the development of integrated and evidence-based drug policies and to improve access to quality drug demand reduction initiatives to vulnerable groups, following a gender and human rights-based approach (HRBA).*



CADAP 7 is implemented by FIIAPP – Internacional and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies. A foundation of the Spanish public sector that manages international cooperation projects within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. FIIAPP is an actor of the Spanish and European cooperation whose work is based on peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and learning between public administrations of different countries.



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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and people beyond its borders.