



CADAP 7

Central Asia Drug Action Programme,
Phase 7

Quarterly Newsletter N3



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Visiting the "Clean Zone"

On October 27 CADAP team together with European Union Delegation representatives have visited "Clean zone", built in the previous CADAP Phase. Located in women colony N2, it is the unique facility in Central Asia for convicted women who made a choice to quit using psychoactive substances.

The centre is located in a separate building within the prison setting, which is equipped and supplied to carry out rehabilitation. With the support of CADAP, a living block with classrooms, a gym, a dining room, and a small sewing room have been refurbished and equipped. Also, a checkpoint and a greenhouse have been constructed. A video surveillance system, computers, sewing machines and furniture were provided for the Centre. Trained professionals from the public health system, social workers and psychologists work there with patients willing to stop using drugs.

Clients come to the Clean Zone subject to their agreement to give up all drug abuse and to undergo regular screening to confirm they remain free of drugs. According to Center's psychologist, beginning from the opening over 200 persons stopped using drugs and undergone course of therapy, including psychological support, labour therapy, mutual aid. Patients are being monitored even after the release and maintain close contacts with their curators.

Social rehabilitation and reintegration program for drug users launched by CADAP still exists in Kyrgyzstan. One of the priorities for CADAP 7 will be to support and further develop this approach.

CADAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEES CONTINUING IN CENTRAL ASIA

We continue the Technical Committees meetings to discuss the main developments within the action to date and agree on the way forward. Next meetings from the series have been conducted in Bishkek (December 13) Tashkent (September 23), Dushanbe (August 19) and Ashgabat (August 24). The action's main stakeholders were convened to the events, including the European Union Delegations and the Government authorities such as the Ministries of Foreign and Internal Affairs, Education, Justice, Health. The meetings resulted in forming and agreeing on a country work plans of the Programme for the upcoming year with specific outputs, activities and technical partnership arrangements. The Technical Committees continue to serve as a basis for monitoring progress towards project goals and a reference point for efficiency of cooperation and partnerships with the beneficiaries during the implementation phase.

"Being a platform for exchanging opinions and planning next steps, the technical committee targets the needs of a wide range of partners involved in combatting drug abuse and illicit trafficking: policy makers, law enforcement bodies and health specialists"



Mr. Khusan Yusupov, leading expert of international department of National Informational and Analytical Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers expressed gratitude to European Union and CADAP programme for continuous support that was provided to Uzbekistan during previous phases, especially for technical and expert and assured readiness for successful implementation of the Work Plan under the new phase”.

Mrs Abadan Berdiyeva, Head of Healthy Lifestyle department of the Information Center, Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan mentioned that “CADAP is being a long standing partner of CA countries in tackling illegal drug use and current 7th phase of the programme will be more efficient and beneficial to national partners taking into account the new challenges in the world”.



EU /CADAP MISSION TO TURKMENISTAN

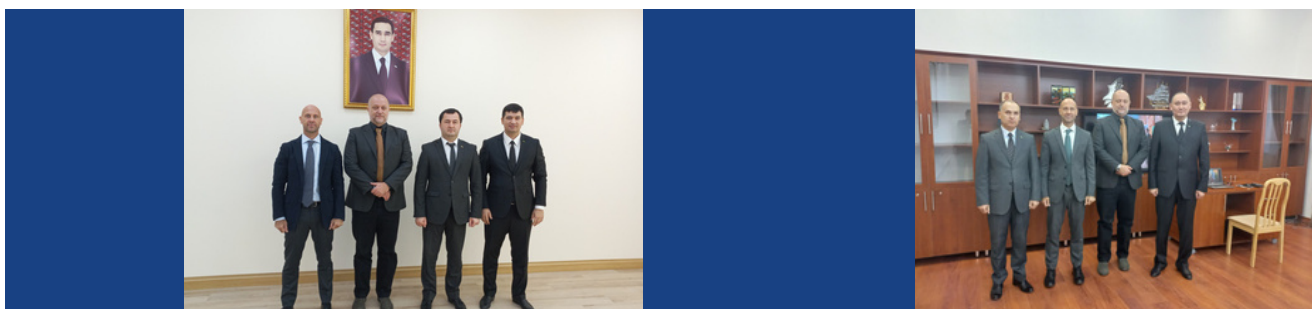
Between November 10 and November 17 EU Delegation Programme Manager Cosimo Lamberti and CADAP 7 Director Ernest Robello have undertaken working visit to Turkmenistan. The mission main goal was to meet CADAP beneficiaries and stakeholders, to update them on the progress made, to discuss country update on baseline situation, issues and challenges, to brief local media on EU-Central Asia new cooperation strategy and EU-funded projects.

During the meetings with the Ministry of Interior and other national counterparts, information on the progress of the implementation of CADAP7 was briefly announced, a number of issues and proposals regarding bilateral and regional cooperation were touched upon. The current drug situation in the world and region has been discussed, taking into account the threats of international drug trafficking and the spread of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances of synthetic origin emanating from Afghanistan.

"Mr Geldimyrat Haldurdyev – Head of international relations - Ministry of Interior, expressed gratitude to the EU and CADAP for continuous support that was provided to Turkmenistan during previous phases, especially for technical and expert assistance and assured readiness for successful implementation of the Work Plan under the new phase.

During briefings with local media an overview of new EU-CA Cooperation strategy was given, current and emerging challenges in the region have been discussed and availability of European expertise emphasized in new emerging trends such as methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances use.

It should be noted that a wide range of activities is planned for Turkmenistan within CADAP 7 – development of a roadmap on drug control, technical support to policy and partners, improving data collection, production and dissemination of targeted studies, development of preventive and treatment programmes in accordance with EU standards.



MEETING WITH UZBEK NATIONAL INFORMATIONAL ANALYTICAL CENTER ON DRUG CONTROL

CADAP team, led by Programme Director Ernest Robello visited the National Information and Analytical Center for Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the invitation of Uzbek partners. We discussed cooperation plans for the next year, in particular, regarding procurement. In the light of the wide distribution in the world of new psychoactive substances and new modified formulas, the acquisition and supply of new analytical systems for the detection of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has the particular relevance. In particular, Uzbek partners are interested in technical specifications of the latest European models of analyzers, a review of which has been provided by CADAP experts.



BLOOD ANALYZER -INDISPENSABLE TREATMENT TOOL



One of the important CADAP components together along with Policy, Data collection and Prevention is Treatment, main goal of which is improving healthcare and social responses to tackling drug use by consolidating good practices and better-quality services for drug users. One of the examples of interventions is the procurement of blood analyzers for national health authorities.

The picture shows blood analyzers delivered to Tashkent branch of the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center of Narcology under the previous phase of CADAP. Hematology Analyzer Model XP-300 Series No. B2075 is used at admission and during inpatient treatment of narcological patients. The analyzer is useful for diagnosing the consequences of substance abuse, the dynamics of patient treatment, comorbidities. For example, in 2022 alone, blood tests in 1900 people suffering from narcological diseases including alcohol addiction were made by analyzer

ANTI-DRUG COMMITTEE MEETING IN DUSHANBE

On October 17, 2022, annual session of the Coordination Council on Prevention of Drug Use was conducted in Dushanbe, Tajikistan under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan Ms. Matlubakhon Sattoriyon. The event was organized with financial support of Central Asia Drug Action Programme and UNODC in Central Asia UNODC office in Dushanbe. During this session, Coordination Council members reported on the the situation in countering illicit movement of psychotropic substances, including the obstacles in separate registration of the users of psychotropic substances.

As the result of event, an Action Plan of the Coordination Council for 2023 was approved.



EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON DRUG RELATED DEATH

DRUG-INDUCED DEATHS

Characteristics



Number of deaths



On 3-4 November 2022, the EMCDDA has brought together European and international experts for a meeting on the key indicators of Drug-related deaths. The meeting provided a space for sharing and discussing new data, studies and experiences at regional, national and European level. Key beneficiary agency representatives from Central Asian countries took part at the meeting.

It also aimed to facilitate technical work around the collection and analysis of the different components of this indicator: overdose and toxicological information from special mortality registers; data from the general mortality registers; mortality cohort studies; as well as developments in responses.

MINI DUBLIN GROUP MEETINGS

On November 25 and 30, CADAP Director Ernest Robello presented an overview of the programme at the Regular Meetings of the Mini-Dublin Group 2022, which have been conducted online in Brussels and Astana respectively.

The participants shared the current information on bilateral and multilateral activities in the field of countering illicit drug trafficking and drug demand reduction.

The Dublin Group is an international mechanism with the aim of combating illicit drug production and trafficking with members from the European Union, Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway, the United States, the European Commission, the European External Action Service and UNODC.

LISBON ADDICTIONS 2022



CADAP Coordinator Antonio González participated in the European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies that took place in Lisbon (Portugal) from 23-25 November under the name "Lisbon Addictions 2022". He attended sessions on global approaches and trends in drug policy, treatment, and prevention. He also met and exchanged views with key speakers representing international institutions and organisations such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and representatives of the EU Member States' agencies on drugs and addictive behaviours.

Lisbon Addictions is an international congress showcasing leading addiction research in the specialist areas of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and other addictive behaviours. It addresses new challenges and covers developing fields such as new psychoactive substances, online sales and gambling, cannabis legalisation and alcohol pricing.

MEETING WITH INL

On December 20, CADAP Kyrgyzstan team welcomed in CADAP office Mr. Charles Hardaway, Head of INL in the Kyrgyz Republic. We've shared opinions on the current drug situation in the world, emerging trends and threats, discussed our working plans, possible ways of contact and mutual counter-drugs efforts.



SUPPORT OF HIV RESEARCH IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

CADAP supported the initiative of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic to conduct an integrated biobehavioral study on the spread of HIV infection among labor migrants in the Kyrgyz Republic. Kyrgyzstan is a source of economic migration, mainly to Russia and Kazakhstan. Low socioeconomic status, limited access to various services, lack of risk awareness and stress associated with being away from family and not being integrated in the country of destination contribute to migrants' vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

One of the key contributions from the CADAP programme will be assisting in the oversight, monitoring and quality assurance of data collection within the study.

This study is necessary to study the dynamics of the spread of HIV infection, risk factors, behavior patterns among labor migrants and sex workers, assess and subsequently predict the epidemiological situation and timely planning of preventive measures

EXHIBITION OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PROJECTS



On October 17 in Dushanbe, CADAP team took part in exhibition of international projects timed to Border Security conference. The Conference was aimed at promoting bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and international cooperation to improve border and customs controls in order to prevent and detect the movement of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons and materials, and to take measures on border security and management, and information-sharing in accordance with international humanitarian law, international human rights.

"SAVE THE SNOW LEOPARD" INTERNATIONAL RUN

On October 9, Bishkek hosted the Snow Leopard Run - charity international half marathon, a significant part of the proceeds from which will go to the Global Program for the Conservation of the Snow Leopard and its Ecosystems. More than 5,000 people from Kyrgyzstan and other countries took part in the race. The friendly CADAP team could not miss such an event and also participated in the race. Our colleagues successfully performed in the 21.1 km and 5 km races, having won over themselves. This wonderful event further strengthened our team spirit and commitment to a healthy lifestyle



Vision

In line with the EU Drugs Strategy 2021–2025, and the Joint Communication on “The EU and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership”, CADAP 7 reflects the continuity of the EU long-term engagement with Central Asian partners to help further strengthen their drug demand reduction national plans and continue cooperating in the development of integrated and balanced drug policies. With a 42-month implementation period, the overall objective of CADAP 7 is to contribute to the reduction of drug use and its associated risks and harms. CADAP gives support to Central Asian governments in the development of integrated and evidence-based drug policies and to improve access to quality drug demand reduction interventions to vulnerable groups including a gender and human rights-based approach (HRBA).



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Mission

01

•Enhance the incorporation of an evidence-based approach and mainstream the Agenda 2030 into national and regional drug policies

02

•Strengthen National Information Systems to produce objective, reliable, gender sensitive, scientific standards-based information on drug situation based on EU good practices and international standards

03

•Improve evidence-based prevention programmes, both in their formulation and implementation, including a focus on young people, women and vulnerable groups

04

•Increase and improve healthcare and social responses to tackling drug use by consolidating good practices and better-quality services for drug users

05

•Increase efficiency and effectiveness of the programme by implementing a systematic gender and HRBA to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the targeted interventions

