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Spotlight

EU Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan visiting the “Clean Zone”

On March 28, H.E. Ms. Marilyn Josefson, European Union Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic has visited the “Clean Zone” – unique facility in Central Asia for convicted women who remain abstinent from using drugs. Clean Zone, which is currently supported by CADAP and was built during the previous phase of the programme, is located at the women correctional colony N2 in Stepnoye village.

Within the framework of the visit a meeting with Kyrgyz authorities, prison management and personnel has been held.

“

This is an area that is developing very quickly both the **policy framework** and **drug patterns** in the region. Your experience is an unique and successful example for us to be shared not only in Kyrgyzstan but especially in other parts of Central Asia”, said Ms. Josefson.





As it was mentioned by Mr. Askat Egemberdiev, Head of State Penitentiary Service of Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, **drug addiction treatment** should include not only forceful methods, it is also necessary to take into account the influence of the environment, social and psychological support.



Thanks to expertise of European Union and CADAP professionalism, we created the Clean Zone, which improves the availability and variety of the treatment and rehabilitation facilities within the female prison”.



Clean Zone still be 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.

Social rehabilitation and reintegration programme for drug users launched by CADAP still exists in Kyrgyzstan.

In brief

Technical committees meetings in CA countries

We run the 3rd round of Technical Committees meetings **to review the progress of ongoing activities, obtain feedback from national partners and discuss future plans and priorities.** Meetings have been conducted in Dushanbe on January 26, Tashkent on February 22, Ashgabat on March 31 with involvement of main partners and stakeholders – EU Delegations, national beneficiaries, partner international organizations.

Tajikistan.

While welcoming the participants and guests, Mr. Cosimo Lamberti, EU representative, stressed the importance of partnership and cooperation of all institutions involved and highlighted CADAP Programme flexibility in terms of adopting to the new emerging trends. He mentioned that EU will keep supporting partners from Tajikistan during implementation of the Work Plan of CADAP Programme and in line with activities indicated in the National Drug Control Strategy of Tajikistan for 2021-2030. Mr. Bozorali Safaralizoda, representative from Drug Control Agency under

the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (DCA) expressed gratitude to EU for continuous support provided during current and previous phases of CADAP programme. It was mentioned that as the main Coordinating Agency DCA will implement planned activities for 2023 in close cooperation with the main international development partners, among which CADAP Programme is and added that for timely execution of the targeted goals immediate joint actions will be implemented in the upcoming months



Turkmenistan.

Mr. Yakyp Saparov, MFA representative opened the event and highlighted that Turkmenistan is the venue for major multilateral forums and meetings on drug issues. The Fifty-fifth Session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East was held in November 2022 in Ashgabat. He also emphasized that the 2nd CADAP Programme Steering Committee will take place on July 5, 2023 in Ashgabat. Ms. Renata Wrobel, Deputy Head of

the EUD to Turkmenistan mentioned the efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan in combating the drug trafficking and consumption inside the country and contributing to the overall regional stability. She stated that drug trafficking and drug abuse remain one of the main development challenges of the world and stressed the importance of the potential and the prospects of cooperation between CADAP and Turkmenistan.



In brief

Uzbekistan.

Mr. Wim Riepma, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Uzbekistan, said that the partnership between the European Union and Uzbekistan has grown stronger throughout the years and became a cornerstone of the EU's goal of fostering resilience and prosperity in Central Asia and beyond. He added that successful drug demand and harm reduction as well as addressing drug trafficking, contribute to this goal. Uzbekistan is strategically located vis-à-vis major production areas of opioids, (met)-amphetamines and synthetic drugs and therefore the CADAP Programme continues to be of high relevance. He thanked and commended the government of Uzbekistan for their unwavering support. Ms Dina Mamutova,

specialist of the international department, National Information-Analytical Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, mentioned that within the implementation of the CADAP phases, visible results have been achieved in the area of prevention, in the reduction of the spread of drug use among the population. "Today we face new challenges and threats requiring a joint international response. In doing so, we consider it possible to continue our fruitful cooperation under the Financial Agreement for the implementation of the 7 phase of the CADAP Programme in the several key areas" – she said.



Besides discussing the results to highlight, sharing the opinions and determining the plan of actions for the next year, a separate session was dedicated to **Evidence-based Drug policy and Data collection improvement**. CADAP continues enriching the knowledge and insight of national partners on international drug policy introduced both in the EU countries and internationally. **The Drug Policy Development Manual** is being developed for CA countries with a methodology for the elaboration of drug policies.

CADAP provides technical assistance to CA countries for the improvement of data collection and analysis systems and the implementation of a **Drug Early Warning Systems**. Currently, information from each CA country is being collected and consolidated to assess the current situation of data collection and drug early warning systems. Based on the findings, a Road Map with methodology to improve data collection and information analysis systems will be developed together with the Handbook for the implementation of Early Warning Systems in Central Asia.

CADAP supports regional interconnection in countering drug trafficking

The **66th United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs** has been held in Vienna on March 13-17 in which Spain participated through the presence of the Government Delegation of the National Plan on Drugs, the Anti-Drugs Prosecutor, the Intelligence Center for Combating Terrorism and Organized Crime, International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIAPP) and European cooperation programmes on drugs such as **COPOLAD** and **CADAP 7**.

On March 14,

a meeting has been held between Spain and government delegations from Central Asian countries, where the Spanish side presented the latest developments and a national anti-drug strategy with a special focus on international cooperation. In addition, the parties exchanged views and expectations on the implementation of the current phase of CADAP.

On March 15

CADAP 7 together with UNODC ROCA supported the side event for the **Kyrgyz Republic** “**Innovative approaches in the field of the fight against illicit drug trafficking and prevention in Kyrgyzstan**”, where Kyrgyz authorities, CADAP and UNODC shared views, experiences and proposals on introducing new technologies such as hyper-spectral cameras and aerial systems in the fight against illicit drug trafficking.



Ernest Robelló, CADAP 7 Director pointed out that

“

it is necessary to balance drug strategies in a more balanced way and from a public health perspective”.



In brief

On March 16

the side event has been held for Uzbekistan – “Uzbekistan’s Efforts in Promoting a Drug-Free World. Prospects for Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Anti-Drug Sphere”, where participants shared their views on perspectives for strengthening the regional cooperation based on the mutual trust and understanding and the importance of the regional interconnection.



In brief

Central Asian experts will enhance their skills in collecting and analyzing drug use data

A working arrangement was signed on February 15 in Madrid between FIIAPP – International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in order to train and update the knowledge and experience of Central Asian experts in charge of recording and analysing data on addictions.



“

The European drugs problem is increasingly linked to, and influenced by, global developments, underlining the need to identify trends occurring in EU neighbouring countries and worldwide. Our support for EU regional cooperation on drugs in Central Asia spans over 20 years and we look forward to continued collaboration with our partners in the region to develop science-based drug monitoring, policies and practice”, *says Alexis Goosdeel, EMCDDA Director.*

“We are delighted to sign this working arrangement with FIIAPP today, which will allow us to support activities under the CADAP 7 programme, such as facilitating the exchange of knowledge between experts and offering internships at the EMCDDA for Central Asian experts”, *he adds.*

“

Any public drug policy that wants to get to the heart of the problem needs solid data: who is using, where, what kind of substances.... All this information is crucial to tackle a problem that may appear to be individual but is basically social, which leads us to the epidemiology of drugs,” *explains Ernest Robelló, CADAP 7 Director Through national early warning systems, drug observatories facilitate the detection, exchange of information, assessment and response to the emergence of new substances that may pose a public health problem.*



During the previous phases of the programme, EMCDDA data monitoring and reporting practices have been introduced in Central Asian countries, and training and other forms of assistance have been provided. These include: the five key indicators and other core indicators of drug epidemiology, the creation of national focal points/national drug observatories, the production of national drug situation summaries and of annual national reports.

In this phase of the programme, the collaboration with the EMCDDA foresees, among other things, the participation of Central Asian experts in technical meetings within the European Union, as well as study visits of Central Asian representatives to the EMCDDA headquarters in Lisbon to improve information analytical capacities and facilitate information exchange.

Quote

Ernest Robello, CADAP 7 Director

“

Any public drug policy that wants to get to the heart of the problem needs solid data: who is using, where, what kind of substances.... All this information is crucial to tackle a problem that may appear to be individual but is basically social, which leads us to the epidemiology of drugs. Through national early warning systems, drug observatories facilitate the detection, exchange of information, assessment and response to the emergence of new substances that may pose a public health problem”



Interview

Our hero today is Ms. Khan Elena, who works as a teenage narcologist at the Tashkent branch of the Republican Specialised Scientific-Practical Medical Centre for Narcology. Ms. Khan Elena has devoted almost her entire life to the prevention and treatment of drug addiction.

- Why have you chosen this profession? There is a general misconception that work in anti-drug area is mainly male profession
- Of course, it was all for a reason. Back in the early 90s, when I was a young doctor, a close acquaintance from a good family asked me for support. They told me that their daughter was in a relationship with drug user, and at that time there was very limited information about existing drugs. The drug-using boyfriend suggested her to try it, assuring that nothing bad could happen. Once she tried, she became addicted. The girl's parents started looking for specialists, at the time there were very few specialists in this field. This situation motivated me to choose this profession and to help people with substance use disorders.



Interview

- What do you think, does this stigma regarding women working in "male" professions or perception of purely "man's job" still exist
- In my opinion no, on the contrary, from my observations now more women than men work in the Narcology Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan.?
- What is your hobby besides your job?
- I paint pictures, play sportive games and go to the theatre
- How do you feel about your women colleagues? I have great respect for such women, knowing that this profession requires certain skills in dealing with people with drug use disorders. It is actually very difficult to provide services to

people in withdrawal syndrome and it requires great stamina, stress tolerance, patience. You need to have assertive, communicative and sensitive communication skills

- What can you advise for women interested in this kind of profession?
- I would advise women who choose addiction treatment to have a basic knowledge of psychiatry, addiction medicine and psychology in the first place. It is not going to be an easy path, but with this knowledge you will be able to provide quality care to this category of people. I am sure that the acquired skills of stress resistance, constructive problem solving and communication will help you in everyday life



The EU Gender Equality Strategy delivers on the von der Leyen Commission's commitment to achieving a Union of Equality. The goal is a Union where women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are free to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to thrive, and can equally participate in and lead our European society. The key objectives are ending gender-based violence; challenging gender stereotypes; closing gender gaps in the labour market; achieving equal participation across

different sectors of the economy; addressing the gender pay and pension gaps; closing the gender care gap and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics. The Strategy pursues a dual approach of gender mainstreaming combined with targeted actions, and intersectionality is a horizontal principle for its implementation. While the Strategy focuses on actions within the EU, it is coherent with the EU's external policy on gender equality and women's empowerment

CADAP 7 at a glance



The Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP) is an European Union initiative to promote the development of effective drug demand reduction policies in Central Asian countries.



Target group



Policy makers and governmental officials



Police



Judges



Prosecutors



Drug prevention experts



Healthcare and social workers



NGO staff



Teachers



Prison staff

Final Beneficiaries



Drug users



Young people



Women



Migrants

Main areas of action



Treatment

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

- Trainings for treatment professionals
- Development of curricula for rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents
- Construction services and supply of equipment based on the needs of national partners



Drug policy

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

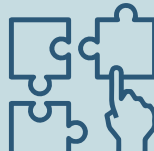
- Support of participation of governmental delegations from CA countries in drug dialogues, EMCDDA expert meetings and international conferences
- National and regional dialogues on drug policies
- Development of drug policies roadmaps



Prevention

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

- Study tours for national agencies in the field of drug prevention with a special focus on NPS
- Preventive programme focused on youth at risk



Coordination

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

Joint activities with

- UNODC
- EMCDDA
- CARICC



Data collection

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

- National and regional researches on pharmaceutical drugs and NPS
- National reports on drug situations
- Targeted studies based on countries specific needs
- Strengthening of early warning system on the detection of NPS
- Study tours in Spain and Internships in EMCDDA

Implementing organization



FIIAPP
COOPERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA



FIIAPP is a foundation of the Spanish Public Sector that aims the participation of public administrations in international cooperation programmes, mobilizing the knowledge and experiences of the public systems of the European Union and third countries within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Strategic partnership



SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE SANIDAD
DELEGACIÓN DEL GOBIERNO PARA EL PLAN NACIONAL SOBRE DROGAS



European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

