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Spotlight

Second Meeting of Programme Steering Committee took place in Turkmenistan

On 5 July 2023, the Second Steering Committee brought together delegates from the national beneficiary agencies of Central Asian countries, European Union Delegations, implementing partner FIIAPP and international experts in drug demand reduction.

The objectives of the meeting were to share good practices, identify priority issues, discuss the working plan, identify opportunities for knowledge and experience sharing in the area of drug reduction. The discussion allowed participants from all five Central Asian countries to identify additional needs and make further recommendations, which shall be taken into account in the work plan for the next year.



Spotlight

“CADAP Programme is a long-standing partner of Turkmenistan. The Government of Turkmenistan, in particular the relevant ministries and departments of Turkmenistan, within the framework of the previous and current 7 phase of this Programme, are actively involved in the implementation of all its components”, said *Yazguly Agabayev, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan, in his welcoming speech*. - The plan of the current 7th phase of CADAP Programme includes such activities as technical assistance in the development of a roadmap to strengthen the key positions of national policy, monitoring, prevention and treatment, assistance in the development and testing of curricula on drug prevention, compiling a roadmap to improve data collection, preparing national reports on drugs, assisting in the introduction of new curricula on rehabilitation and reintegration in universities, and others that are of interest to the countries of the region and are certainly relevant for us at this time”, - *he noted*.



Cosimo Lamberti, European Union Representative mentioned the great regional impact of CADAP Programme.

“One of the greater positive aspects is that in CADAP case we have possibility to tackle several problems not at national but at a regional one or transnational one” – *he said*.

“Maintaining frequent contact between countries of the region and carrying out activities at regional level requires appropriate coordination mechanisms. In Central Asia, regional cooperation is made easier through the Regional Steering Committee whose members are representatives of national beneficiaries’ agencies of CADAP 7. Annual Steering Committees have been convened in different countries of the region to report, evaluate and review various activities carried out within the framework of CADAP, as well as to design new ones. In 2023, Turkmen Government has strongly supported this initiative by providing an excellent platform for establishing a forum for the presentation of achievements, evaluation of results, and feedback”, says *Ernest Robello, CADAP 7 Director*.

The meeting involved a presentation of the programme’s objectives, expected results and the actions planned for the next year, followed by a constructive discussion with the primary beneficiaries from Central Asian countries. Good practices were shared, priority issues identified, together with opportunities for knowledge and experience sharing in the area of drug reduction.



In brief

Delegation from Kyrgyzstan learns about drug use disorders treatment in the Spanish prison system

Representatives of the State Penitentiary Service of Kyrgyzstan visited Madrid in order to learn about the Spanish experience and improve their institutional capacity to promote rehabilitation programmes in prisons, to learn first-hand how Spanish prisons approach the work with drug dependent inmates in order to achieve an effective rehabilitation.

For CADAP's Coordinator, Antonio Miguel González, this visit is "an opportunity for exchange experience in the field of treatment and rehabilitation of drug use disorders treatment in the penitentiary environment. The evolution of the Spanish prison system, the reforms and practices adopted by Spain to comply with the EU regulations, the institutional coordination system through the National Plan on Drugs and the

accumulated experience in this type of visits make Spain a benchmark at European level" and adds "this visit has been planned with a comprehensive approach aimed at the rehabilitation of the prisoners, involving the different resources and administrations that intervene throughout their prison situation".

For Peggy Martinello, director of the Public Administration and Social Affairs area of the FIIAPP, the study visit "is a forum for mutual learning between counterpart institutions from different countries, which is structured around the desire to know, learn and improve public policies" and in this line she highlights "the importance of programmes such as CADAP that contemplate this type of initiative".



The aim of this visit is to learn about the training in psychology, psychotherapy and drug use disorders treatment of professionals who treat inmates with addictions in prisons; to understand the working model followed by therapists and prison staff in relation to new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants; to learn more about group therapies to deal with addictions in prisons; as well as to get to know the reinsertion, rehabilitation and assistance programmes that are carried out in Spain for open prisoners and ex-prisoners with drug use disorders.

The visit will strengthen institutional cooperation and exchange experiences on concepts and practices in prevention, harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation measures, in order to improve the professional capacity of staff working in the prison system of Kyrgyzstan. This form of cooperation is the basis of the work of the FIIAPP, a public foundation that promotes, supports and accompanies improvements in public systems worldwide based on the exchange of experience and knowledge between public institutions.



In brief

Empowering through learning: professionals in the field of drugs and people who use drugs

Central Asia health experts took part in 11th Reitox Network Extended Meeting “Empowering through learning: professionals in the field of drugs and people who use drugs” which has been held at the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in Lisbon, Portugal.

The visit was made possible within the framework of the working arrangement between FIIAPP – International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies and the

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) focused on training and updating the knowledge and experience of Central Asian experts in charge of recording and analysing data on addictions, to exchange experiences on the collecting and reporting of consistent, harmonized and standardized data on the drug phenomenon across Europe and Central Asia.



Extended Reitox network meeting gathered participants from Latin America and Caribbean, Türkiye, Norway, Western Balkans, Georgia, Central Asia and Switzerland to foster an exchange of ‘know-how’ and experience on practical and thematic issues. The theme of this year’s session was ‘Empowering through learning: professionals in the field of drugs and people who use drugs. The event featured presentations from keynote speakers on mental health and drugs, data on the labour market and on training for professionals. Several participants from EU and non-EU countries (Italy, Ireland, Georgia, Türkiye and North Macedonia) shared their experiences and best practice regarding the implementation of training. The separate session was focused on projects offering upskilling opportunities to people with drug use disorders by showcasing successful projects from various countries (Croatia, Portugal, Chile and Panama).



In brief

“

I would like to thank CADAP programme for this useful experience", says Ms. Ainura Esenamanova, from Kyrgyz Republican center for psychiatry and narcology.



“

It was very interesting to learn the experience of other countries. For me, the experience of the Turkish police was interesting - the training of dogs to find drugs. The experience of Portuguese NGOs in peer-to-peer training was also very helpful.

We visited a mobile unit of harm reduction programs. According to a schedule the mobile unit travels to places with the high concentration of people with drug use disorders. The mobile unit staff provides counseling, conducts HIV rapid tests, distributes condoms, sterile syringes and needles, and naloxone, helps inject drugs safely, provides first aid in case of overdoses, and tests for drug content in patients' bodies. It would be good to include the distribution of condoms and naloxone in the activities of mobile units of Kyrgyzstan as well. It is also necessary to strengthen information work among the general population on the services provided for people with drug and alcohol use disorders" - tells Kyrgyz delegate.



In brief

A delegation from Central Asia learns about prevention, treatment and harm reduction services for people with drug use disorders in Spain

Delegates from institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – key countries on the heroin route to Europe participate in a study visit today in Madrid and Barcelona in order to learn about the Spanish experience and improve their institutional capacity to develop, coordinate and implement drug policies, as well as to **learn about the prevention, treatment and harm reduction services that Spain carries out in relation to problematic drug use.**

The experts of the delegation will visit the Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs of the Ministry of Health, various resources of the Subdirectorate General of Addictions of Madrid Salud of the Madrid City Council, the General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions and the Intelligence Centre against Terrorism and Organised Crime (CITCO) of the Ministry of the Interior, the Madrid VII Penitentiary Centre of Estremera, the Programme of Addictions, HIV, STIs and Viral Hepatitis and various resources of the Public Health Agency of Catalonia.



For the Director of CADAP, Ernest Robelló, this visit “highlights the **importance of international coordination in the implementation of evidence-based drug policies carried out within the EU**, especially taking into account the **cross-cutting nature of this issue and its different implications**”.

For Peggy Martinello, Director of Public Administration and Social Affairs at the FIIAPP, the visit “is a **forum for mutual learning between counterpart institutions in a region with different approaches to the implementation of drug policies**”. In this line, he underlines the importance of this initiative **to foster the exchange of information** on both sides of the Eurasian continent and to favour the **integration of evidence-based public policies**.



In brief

This exchange will strengthen institutional cooperation between those responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing drug policies. In addition, the delegation will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about the addiction care provided in a prison in the Community of Madrid, the operation of care and monitoring centres for drug use disorders treatment in Madrid and Barcelona, as well as **innovative initiatives in the application of opioid substitution therapies and harm reduction** such as those offered by the Bagaría Casanova pharmacy in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat or the REDAN La Mina centre in Sant Adrià del Besòs.

In addition, the Central Asian delegation visited **several supervised drug consumption rooms** in Barcelona, places where illicit drugs can be consumed under the supervision of health personnel, which have been operating in Europe for more than three decades.

As the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) notes, "these facilities aim to reduce the risks of disease transmission through unhygienic injecting, prevent overdose deaths and connect high-risk people with drug use disorders to addiction treatment and other health and social services".



State – Civil Society Forum on primary prevention in communities

On June 16, CADAP Programme In cooperation with partners represented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, CADCA (Public Coalitions of America for the Prevention of Drug Abuse) and Public Foundation “Door-Eli”, conducted a Forum “Cooperation between the state and civil society in the field of primary prevention through public coalitions”. Providing a platform for cooperation and exchange of experience, the event gathered members of the Parliament, representatives from Ministry of Interior and its counter-drug service, Ministry of Health and its Center of Psychiatry and Narcology, Center of Health and Mass Communications, local administrations, NGOs and international organisations.

Main task of the Forum was to include into the public agenda the issue of primary prevention in communities, to strengthen the role of state, municipal structures and civil society, in preventing the use of psychoactive substances, especially among young people. Moreover, to share the experience of already established public coalitions in the regions and outline plans for organizing new public coalitions in Bishkek.

Welcoming the guests and participants of the Forum, the representative of the **European Union** Cosimo Lamberti noted that the European Union has been supporting this direction for 20 years.



Much has been done, but more remains to be done. The number of people with drug use disorders is increasing, and the types of drugs are changing. Here it is necessary not only to punish the guilty, but to work in all directions, and especially in the field of primary prevention. To work together, hearing every voice and every opinion,” *he said*.

According to Marlen Mamataliyev, Member of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, along with the development of the legislative framework, the identification of causes and preventive work are of great importance.



In brief



Parliament always supports such initiatives. If the proposals based on the results of this forum are fixed in an official document, then, if necessary, we will hold a meeting of the Parliament on this issue and give necessary tasks," – he added.

The Forum was followed by a consultative meeting and a workshop, gathering experts on PS (psychoactive substances) providing them a possibility to share with decision makers all challenges, risks and consequences of PS use in communities, its impacts on human lives; to define priorities for further actions and to draft a logical model for future social coalitions.



20 years together.

BOMCA-CADAP 20 years celebration

In 2023, BOMCA and CADAP Programmes celebrate their 20th Anniversary. Thus we prepared a wide range of special activities all over the Central Asia to mark this special year. Some of these activities have been already successfully implemented so far.

Turkmenistan.

Art and creative competition “Friendship across borders”.



The purpose of the art and creative competition was to support child participation and creative expression, as well as to promote and disseminate information about the **Cooperation of the European Union with Central Asian countries**, to **promote good neighborly relations and friendliness** towards neighboring countries in Central Asian region.

The competition has been announced among all primary schools in Ashgabat and lasted one month long. We received more than 40 excellent drawings, among which the jury had a hard time choosing the best ones, since absolutely all of them were bright, memorable, creative, with deep meaning and understanding.



20 years together.

BOMCA-CADAP 20 years celebration

On May 01, in the premises of European Union Delegation in Turkmenistan, with participation of the EU Ambassador to Turkmenistan **Mr. Diego Ruiz Alonso**, the award ceremony has been held. Winners and all the participants received prizes and appreciation certificates.

“

Thanks to everyone who participated in this competition. From the large number of high quality drawings received, it was difficult to choose which are better than the others. Congratulations to all the participants. I am proud that you thought about the importance of friendship and presented it through your drawings. Thank you for your diligence, for your talent and vision”, said **Ernest Robello**, CADAP 7 Director in his message to the participants of competition.



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CADAP 7 at a glance



42 months

February 2021 –
August 2024



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



Final Beneficiaries

- 1 people with drug use disorders
- 2 young people
- 3 women
- 4 migrants



Location



Total budget
€ 6,8 millions



EU contribution
€ 6,8 millions

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 and technical support



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



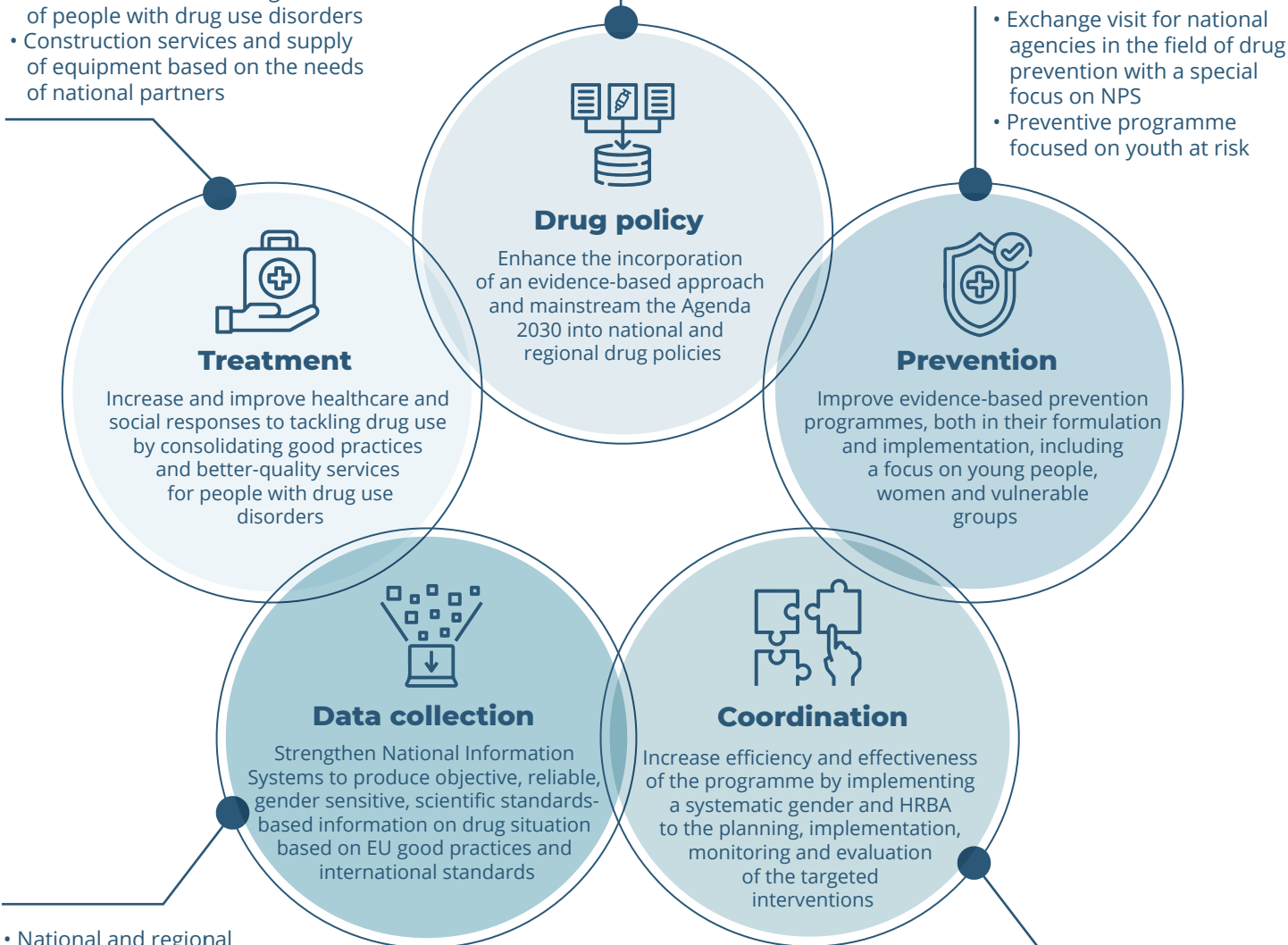
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Main areas of action

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

- 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

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



- 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
- Exchange visit in Spain and Internships in EMCDDA

Joint activities with
 - UN bodies
 - EMCDDA
 - Bilateral agencies
 - Other EU-funded programmes

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