

## Turkmenistan

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

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. The implementation of CADAP 7 is guided by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. CADAP 7 is also based on the relevant UN Conventions which provide the international legal framework for addressing the illicit drugs phenomenon, and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

**On this phase, CADAP is being led by the [International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies \(FIIAPP\)](#) with the strategic and technical support of other EU Member States’ drug agencies as well as the specialized expertise of the [EU Drugs Agency \(EUDA\)](#).**

Since its launch in 2003, the different phases of CADAP have supported the government of the Turkmenistan in the implementation of strategies and measures to reduce the demand for psychoactive substances, promoting prevention initiatives and improving the treatment offered by public institutions to drug users in the country.

CADAP 7 is supporting Turkmenistan in a comprehensive manner, integrating the country's participation in the working groups of the five main outputs of the Programme (drug, policy, data collection, prevention, treatment and coordination), providing technical guidance to the initiatives agreed with the national authorities to reinforce the actions promoted by the Programme. CADAP 7 is supporting joint initiatives of Turkmenistan in psychoactive substance use prevention and treatment through development of interregional and international cooperation in the fight against drugs by participating in joint projects and programmes through international organisations.

### Drug Policy

CADAP 7 has strengthened national policy dialogue which has contributed to the development of more balanced drug policies, strategies, and plans in Turkmenistan. The country’s policies implemented by Turkmenistan in its strategy to prevent drug use and trafficking, supported by CADAP 7 reflects several recommendations and measures, as described in the CADAP 7 - *Handbook on Drug Policy Development* and within the *Regional Drug Policy Report*.

*The drug policy output is implemented with the support of [Episteme Social](#), Spain.*

### Data collection

CADAP7 has increased technical and institutional capacity, enhanced regional cooperation and experience exchange, and strengthened early warning mechanisms for new psychoactive substances elaborating epidemiological surveys, guidelines and reports: *Current situation of Data Collection and Drug Early Warning Systems in Turkmenistan; Implementation manual on Early Warning Systems on New Psychoactive Substances; Guidelines on compiling a country situation profile; Guidelines on Compiling the Annual Drug Situation Report*.

*The data collection output is implemented with the support of [Společnost Podané ruce](#), Czechia.*

### Prevention

The policies implemented by Turkmenistan to prevent drug use and trafficking such as (1) “Prioritising the health and well-being of the population, focusing on promoting a healthy lifestyle and creating a negative attitude towards drug use”; and (2) “Strengthening the work of health authorities, education and the media in promoting drug prevention” reflects ongoing key CADAP initiatives on prevention, such as *targeted prevention programmes for women and vulnerable groups, stigma reduction in local communities and the development of a specialised drug abuse prevention curriculum.*

*The output on Prevention is implemented with the support of expertise from [Poland](#).*

### **Drug Treatment**

CADAP 7 has elaborated a *Therapeutic programme for the treatment of people with psychoactive substance disorders* addressed to health professionals in Turkmenistan and a *Protocol of Collaboration between prison staff and civil society regarding people who use drugs in prison.*

In addition, CADAP 7 jointly with the Government of Turkmenistan conducted International Conference on Substance Use Prevention and Supply Reduction and the Development of National Experts in the Field of Addictology in Central Asia which was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2024.

*The Treatment output is implemented with the support of [Akzept e.V.](#), Germany and [Nazarbayev University](#).*

### **Coordination**

Several initiatives were conducted to enhance the programme's effectiveness, increase technical and institutional capacity on drug policy, data collection and drug demand reduction issues, and to promote and widen regional, international cooperation and dialogue. These events took place across Central Asia countries and EU MS such as, Belgium, Austria, Portugal, Spain, involving approximately 120 delegates and experts from Turkmenistan. The activities and events were conducted in partnership with Spanish institutions (Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs – [DGPNSD](#), and the Intelligence Center against Terrorism and Organized Crime - [CITCO](#)) Presidencies of the Council of the EU (Czech Republic, Spain), EU-funded programmes (BOMCA, EU ACT, LEICA) and international bodies and agencies (UNODC, EUDA, US INL-CADCA).

### **Impact of CADAP 7**

- Assisted Turkmenistan to update its own national drug legislation through the implementation of evidence-based prevention and treatment measures.
- Human capital - increased capacity in drug demand reduction and a large pool of trained professionals.
- Provided a platform for international visibility and recognition, particularly of good practice in Central Asia.
- Facilitated the exchange of information and knowledge between Central Asian states and EU Member States.
- Supported networks of national focal points in the production and dissemination of quality statistics.
- Supported the establishment of Early Warning Systems (EWS) in Central Asia.