



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Uzbekistan is hosting the 3rd Steering Committee of the Central Asia Drug Reduction Programme**

**Bukhara, 5 June 2024**

On 5 June 2024, the Third Steering Committee meeting of the 7th Phase of the EU-funded Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP) 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 best practices from the Programme implementation to date, identify remaining priority issues and further 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 Programme extension.

CADAP Programme is a long-standing partner of Central Asian region. All countries were actively involved in the implementation of all its components. The 7th phase included 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 early warning systems, assisting in the introduction of new curricula on rehabilitation and reintegration in universities, and others that are of interest to the countries.

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. It is of crucial importance as the the number of drug users is increasing, and the types of drugs are changing” – he said.

Mr. Bolot Otunbaev, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, mentioned the great impact of CADAP Programme. “CADAP Programme is reliable partner of Kyrgyz Government in terms of detection of new drug trends and patterns. Extension of the Programme is needed and important for us” – 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. Today's meeting is a great opportunity not only to look back on the achievements obtained within CADAP 7 but also to look forward towards a new horizon, extension of the Programme, in which cooperation can serve as the vehicle to foster stronger bonds between the EU and Central Asia", says Ernest Robello, CADAP 7 Director.

More information about CADAP, its activities and results achieved is available at: <http://www.eu-cadap.org>

CADAP 7 is implemented by FIAPP – International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies. FIAPP 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.



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