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Spotlight

A Public Health Approach to Drug Policies in Central Asia through CADAP 7

The **67th United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs** has been held in Vienna on March 14-22 in which Spain participated through the presence of the Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs, the Anti-Drugs

Prosecutor, the Intelligence Center for Combating Terrorism and Organized Crime, CADAP 7 implementing agency FIIAPP and European cooperation programmes on drugs such as COPOLAD and CADAP 7.



Spotlight

On March 18, CADAP 7 together with UNODC supported the side event “A Public Health Approach to Drug Policies in Central Asia through CADAP 7: An EU Funded Cooperation Programme led by Spain” which has been held between Spain and government delegations from Central Asian countries. This event highlighted the importance of

promoting the public health perspective in drug policy in Central Asia taking into account various international standards in evidence-based prevention and treatment. Emphasis was put on the initiatives in drug demand reduction promoted by CADAP7 and the experiences of the Central Asian countries.

The Director of CADAP 7, Ernest Robelló, highlighted the importance of integrating the public health approach in drug policies to promote health and the well-being of people and communities.

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“it is necessary to balance drug strategies in a more balanced way and from a public health perspective” – *he said*.

The representative of Spain Elena Alvarez expressed Spain’s support to the dissemination and implementation of international standards in drug demand reduction, thus reinforcing its national and international commitment to evidence-based practice. She also highlighted the support of the Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs to programmes such as CADAP 7.



An brief

Handover of the equipment to Clean Zones

On May 31, in a presence of Ms. Marilyn Josefson, EU Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, an additional new equipment was handed over to the management of "Clean Zones" based on colonies No. 31 and No. 2.

Thanks to the support of CADAP programme, in 2010 and 2018, so-called "clean zones" were built at colonies No. 31 and No. 2, intended for the rehabilitation of persons who refused to use psychoactive substances. With the support of the European Union, the 'clean zone' improves the availability and variety of the treatment and rehabilitation facilities within prison. It aims to improve the quality of life and provides an abstinence-oriented service. The comprehensive package of services (both abstinence and harm reduction) for clients

CADAP supports the so-called "Atlantis" drug treatment programmes in the prison system in Kyrgyzstan. The "Clean Zones" and "Atlantis" centres were introduced within the CADAP previous phases with the EU financial support. Trained professionals from the public health system, social workers and psychologists work with patients with substance abuse disorders. Clients entitled to the Clean Zone are engaged and stabilized in abstinence-oriented inpatient treatment service.

The centres are located in a separate building within the prison setting, which are equipped and supplied to carry out rehabilitation. In living blocks designed to accommodate 30-40 people, the trained staff - social workers and psychologists work with the clients. With the support of previous CADAP phases, a living block with classrooms, a gym, a dining room, and a small sewing room have been refurbished and equipped for both facilities.

Within CADAP 7, additional equipment for both clean zones have been provided for the amount of EUR 25 000 - sewing machines, water heaters, stoves, dish washers, air conditioners, fridges and other.



In brief

On the way forward to strengthening of early warning systems

Series of workshops on drug monitoring, new psychoactive substances and development of early warning systems was held in Central Asia in February 2024.



National experts shared their presentations and views on drug situation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, prevention and treatment system, coordination of drug policy in the country, new psychoactive substances and how new trends are being monitored. CADAP experts from "Spolecnost Podane Ruce" in their turn introduced to participants the Czech Republic example of incorporating a human-rights based approach and gender mainstreaming in national policy. Also, participants were acquainted with European experience on Early Warning Systems on new psychoactive substances.

The purpose of the workshops was to promote national dialogues on drug monitoring, new psychoactive substances and the development of early warning systems based on best European practices and international standards. In addition, it aimed to connect and create dialogue between key stakeholders from government and non-government agencies, and define a unified action plan to improve data collection and early warning systems at national level.



In brief

Educational drug prevention curricula are being developed in Central Asia

In February and March 2024 a group of experts from National Center for Prevention of Addictions, Poland visited Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) to meet national partners and to discuss the latest findings

in drug prevention and develop educational programmes that have proven to be effective in stopping or reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug use.



This expert mission met with national partners such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice where highlighted the science behind evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions. This meeting provides a space for experts to share their research and views on the most urgent and crucial issues related to the science of drug use prevention and treatment.

post-graduated training, Educational package for intervention focused on stigma reduction, Guidelines for selective prevention program addressed to women and vulnerable groups.

International and national experts look into possibilities of applying evidence-based prevention and treatment methods in a practical way when developing effective educational programmes. In working groups experts discussed effective, accessible and affordable educational curricula. Based on European experience, expert group began work on development of several educational packages – Curriculum on drug prevention for



An brief

Therapeutic programmes for the treatment of people with psychoactive substance disorders to be introduced in Central Asian countries

A series of round tables has been conducted in Central Asia aimed on development of the Concept of a Therapeutic Program for the treatment of people with psychoactive substance disorders and to agree on a concept of a Protocol of collaboration between prison staff and civil society regarding people who use drugs in prison.

Drug treatment in central Asia is being provided in a form of detoxification, outpatient drug free medical services, inpatient drug-free medical treatment, opioid substitution treatment, psychological support and therapy and social rehabilitation. It is primarily delivered through the

narcological service, an integral part of the national medical system. One of the key problems is medicalization of the treatment and lack of psychosocial help and support as well as the offer of the services. There is a lack of post-treatment assistance for individuals using psychoactive substances to reintegrate into society. In Central Asia, OAT programmes are currently available in three of the five countries. In Kyrgyzstan, a program has been running since 2002, and in Kazakhstan a pilot program began in 2008. In Tajikistan, an OAT program was started in 2010.



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The drawing up of modern treatment and harm reduction models, the development of capacities on drug therapy, rehabilitation and social reintegration and the implementation of a protocol in order to strengthen the collaboration between NGOs working on rehabilitation of drug dependent prisoners and prison staff, will contribute to the development of health care and social responses for tackling drug use. The participation of target group members/institutions is an integral part of our approach” says Ernest Robello, CADAP Director.

The next task is to create a therapeutic programme draft that will be further discussed with treatment specialists, treatment providers and community members in Central Asia.



In brief

Innovate experience and cooperation between state and civil society in evidence based prevention of drug use discussed during regional forum in Almaty

CADAP in cooperation with Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, CADCA (Public Coalitions of America for the Prevention of Drug Abuse) and INL Astana (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement) conducted a Forum "Exchange of best practices in cooperation between the state and civil society in matters of evidence-based prevention of psychoactive substance use through public initiatives".

The Forum, conducted on April 22-23 is a regional event designed to facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on the creation and sustainability of effective community prevention initiatives. The forum was focused on the Central

Asian region and aims to highlight the effectiveness of public initiatives in addressing the problem of psychoactive substance use at the community level. The event highlighted the importance of collaboration between national and local governments and civil society in implementing evidence-based prevention initiatives. Participants from Central Asian countries considered practical measures to support and promote the efforts of community initiatives and increase their effectiveness. The Forum served as a platform for international experts and stakeholders to contribute to the broader success of evidence-based substance use prevention initiatives in Central Asia.



Mr. Khadji-Gali Imazhanov, Head of the Department of Combatting Drug Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan informed that in Kazakhstan is active a Comprehensive Plan to combat drug addiction and drug trafficking for 2023-2025. Its development took into account the



features of the transformation and conditions of the global drug market, such as an increase in the number of new psychoactive substances, changes in methods of production and distribution of drugs. The introduction of achievements of scientific and technological progress is also taken into account.

“ Along with the development of the legislative framework, the identification of causes and preventive work are of great importance”. – *he underlined.*

Ernest Robello, CADAP Director, 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 drug users is increasing, and the types of drugs are changing. Here it is necessary to work in all directions, and especially in the field of primary prevention. To work together, hearing every voice and every opinion,” *he said.*



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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 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.

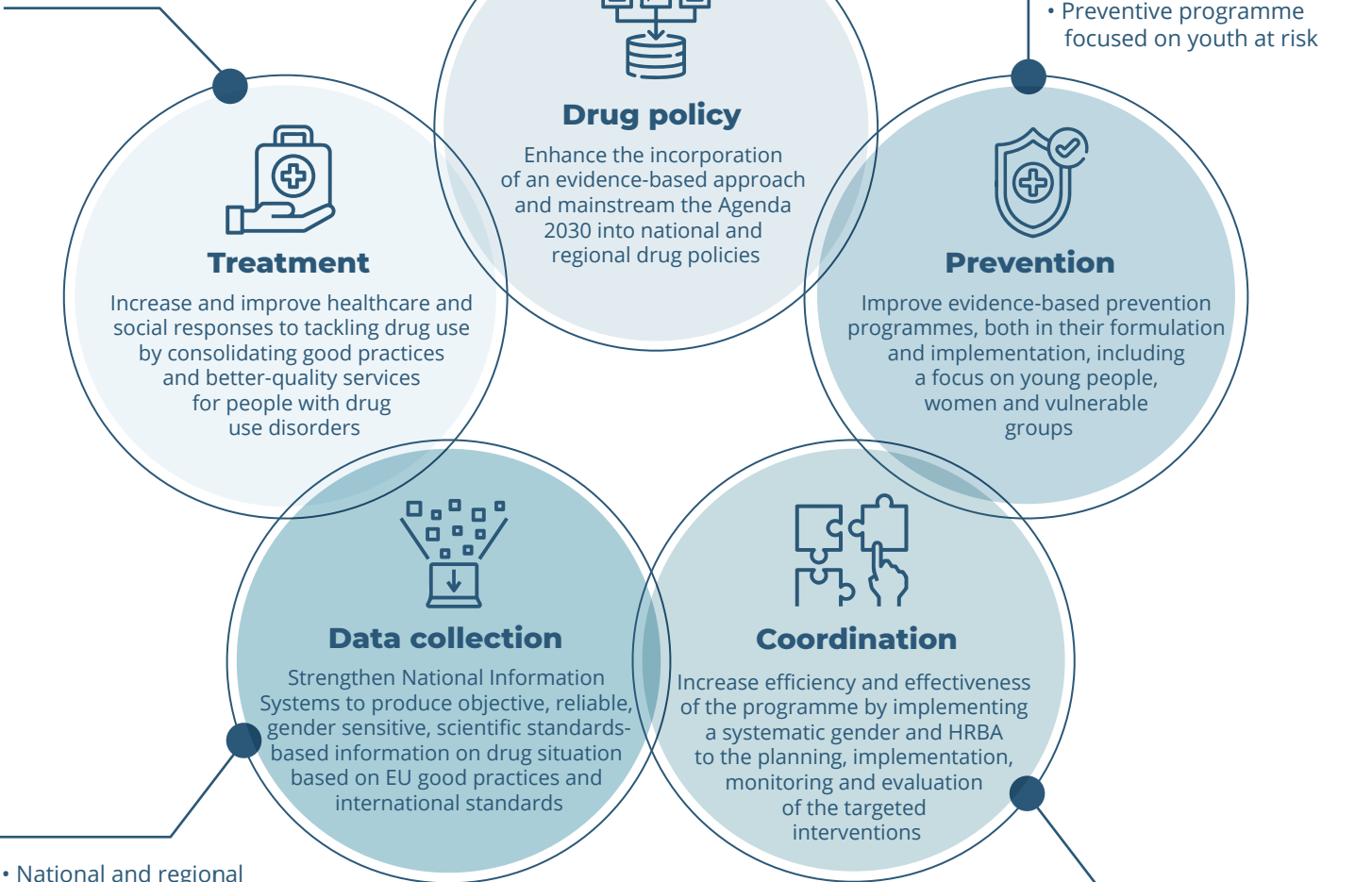
Strategic partnership and technical support



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

Ernest Robello

CADAP 7 - Director

ernest.robello@fiiapp.es

8/F Business Centre "Rossiya", Razzakov Street, 19
 720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

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