Central Asia Drug
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SPOLEČNOST PODANÉ RUCE

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OVERVIEW OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL ASIA

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Overview of early warning systems in countries of Central Asia

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Acronyms

CADAP	Central Asian Drug Action Programme
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
EWS	Early Warning System
EU	European Union
GPO	General Prosecutor's Office
MHSD	Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development
NC MPDA	National Centre for Monitoring and Prevention of Drug Abuse
NPS	New Psychoactive Substances
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PWID	People Who Inject Drugs
PWUD	People Who Use Drugs
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organisation

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1. Introduction

The Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP) is a long-standing initiative funded by the European Union aimed at addressing drug-related challenges within the Central Asian region. Since its inception, CADAP has been instrumental in supporting countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in enhancing their national drug policies. CADAP's primary objectives include improving the collection and analysis of drug-related data, advancing treatment and prevention strategies, and establishing sustainable drug Early Warning Systems (EWS). CADAP 7, the current phase of the programme, represents an 18-month effort focused on addressing both ongoing and emerging drug-related concerns in the region. It builds on the experiences of earlier phases, applying lessons learned to further strengthen the institutional capacities of Central Asian governments to respond to the drug situation more effectively.

The programme's significance lies in its multifaceted approach. Drug issues in Central Asia are complex and continually evolving. The region has witnessed a rise in new psychoactive substances (NPS), posing significant public health challenges. NPS are often unregulated and quickly spread across borders, necessitating swift action by authorities. CADAP 7 recognises that national governments cannot tackle these challenges in isolation. Through a harmonised regional strategy, it provides technical assistance and capacity-building to improve both national and regional drug monitoring mechanisms.

One of the cornerstone achievements of CADAP 7 has been the positive contribution towards the establishment of EWS in four of the five CADAP countries. EWS are designed to detect emerging drug trends, particularly the appearance of new psychoactive substances, and facilitate real-time communication between key stakeholders. By offering timely and reliable data on NPS, these systems enable public health officials, law enforcement agencies, and policymakers to respond more rapidly and effectively to new drug threats. The EWS initiative under CADAP 7 is pivotal in improving the overall drug monitoring landscape across Central Asia, making it possible for authorities to react promptly and collaboratively to public health crises triggered by the rise of NPS.

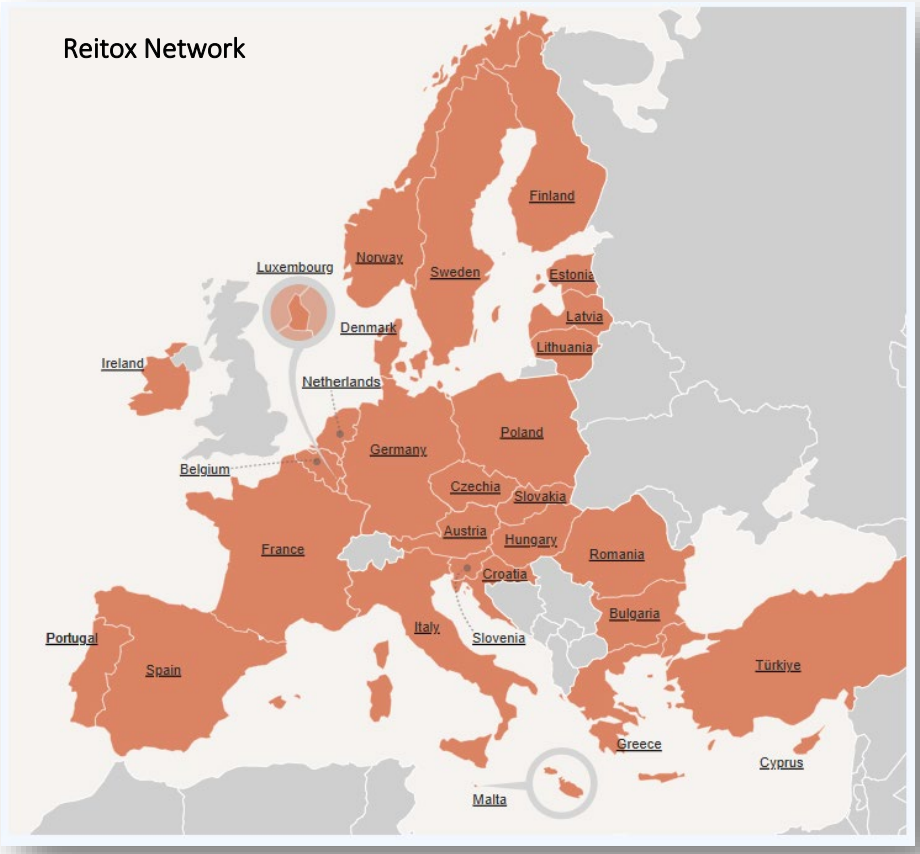
In cooperation with the CADAP countries, Společnost Podané ruce has played a critical role in providing technical assistance for the enhancement of data collection and analysis systems, as well as supporting the implementation of EWS across the region. This collaboration has been vital in equipping national institutions with the tools they need to monitor drug trends and respond to NPS-related health risks. The technical support offered by Společnost Podané ruce is designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of these systems, even after the conclusion of CADAP 7. Included in this document is Annex with the list of events held over the past two years.

2. Overview of Early Warning Systems (EWS)

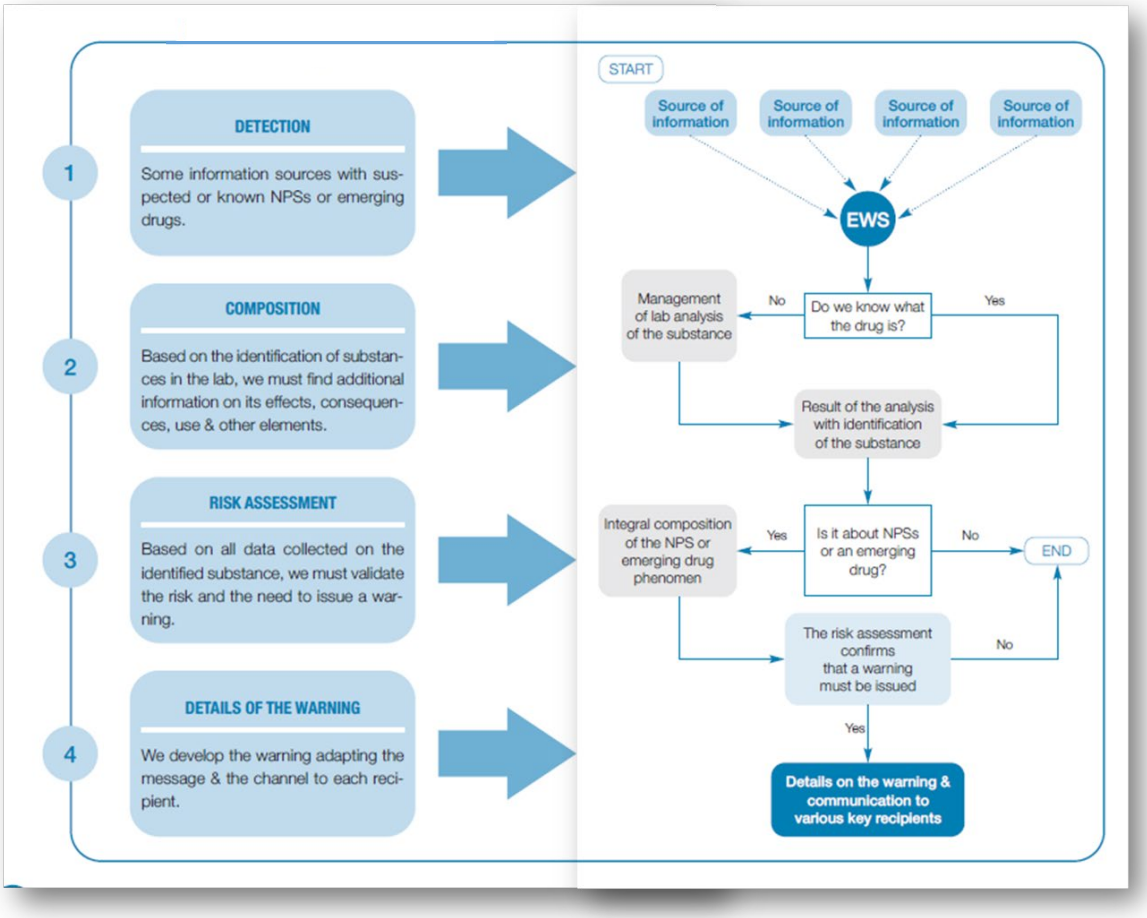
The establishment of Early Warning Systems under CADAP 7 represents one of the most significant advancements in drug monitoring in Central Asia. EWS are designed to provide an inter-institutional, multidisciplinary approach to detecting new psychoactive substances and emerging drug-related phenomena. These systems are built to support public health and law enforcement, their goal being to provide rapid responses to adverse changes in the drug landscape, aiming to minimize the risks associated with these changes.

The development of EWS in Europe, as outlined by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), began in response to the increasing prevalence of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in the late 1990s. The need for rapid detection and response mechanisms arose when synthetic drugs such as MDMA (ecstasy) gained popularity in the 1980s and 1990s. To address these emerging threats, the EU established a legal framework for information exchange, risk assessment, and control measures through the EMCDDA in 1997, formalising this process under the Joint Action on NPS.

Over time, the EWS evolved to respond to the rapid changes in drug markets, particularly the rise in NPS. The current EU EWS operates under the Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 (as amended) and Directive (EU) 2017/2103, which strengthened the system by enhancing information exchange and introducing shorter timelines for assessing and controlling new substances. The system relies on the collaboration between national focal points (Reitox Network), Europol, and other stakeholders, ensuring real-time communication and the issuance of alerts when a new substance poses significant public health risks.



One of the primary functions of EWS is to ensure the rapid exchange of information. New drugs and substances often spread quickly across borders, especially in regions such as Central Asia, which are strategically located along global drug trafficking routes. EWS enable authorities in multiple countries to share vital information about the appearance of new substances, their chemical compositions, and the potential risks they pose. This rapid dissemination of information is crucial for reducing the time it takes to respond to emerging threats, allowing for quicker interventions and reducing harm to the population. (The picture below depicts the operational model for the detection of NPS).



In addition to the detection and communication of drug-related risks, EWS also play an important role in the assessment and analysis of NPS. By utilising data from a wide range of sources, including forensic laboratories, public health services, and law enforcement agencies, these systems can provide a comprehensive understanding of the prevalence and impact of new substances. This data-driven approach is essential for ensuring that drug policies and interventions are based on sound evidence.

Analytical Aspects for the Early Warning System

For the Early Warning System to effectively capture the key aspects of the phenomenon of new psychoactive substances and emerging drugs, it must encompass the following areas of analysis:

- Analysis of the chemical composition of substances, utilizing seized samples and/or samples collected from users or buyers on the Internet.
- Examination of clinical cases and biological samples linked to adverse effects, including deaths and intoxications, as well as results from autopsies and related investigations.
- Epidemiological monitoring of NPS use patterns and prevalence in a country in various settings (general population, nightlife, high-risk drug users) including quantitative (population) surveys, qualitative research

The effectiveness of EWS lies in their ability to facilitate real-time communication between stakeholders at both national and regional levels. For Central Asian governments, this level of cooperation is crucial, as the emergence of NPS often requires a coordinated response across borders. By creating a platform for the rapid exchange of information, EWS allow stakeholders to collaborate on risk assessments and develop joint strategies for mitigating drug-related harm.

3. Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Each country within the CADAP framework has established legal and institutional frameworks to address drug-related issues, though the level of development and coordination varies. The differences in political landscapes, legal traditions, and institutional capacities across the five Central Asian countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—mean that each nation has had to develop its own approach to implementing EWS. A strong legal and institutional framework is essential for the effective implementation of drug policies and the development of robust EWS.

3.1 Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's legal framework for drug control is among the most developed in the region. The country's State Programme on Drug Policy forms the backbone of its efforts to combat drug trafficking, consumption, and the associated public health risks. This programme lays out a multifaceted strategy that includes prevention, treatment, and enforcement, all of which are coordinated by the Drug Control Committee under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

> The Committee oversees the regulation of precursor chemicals and implements measures to prevent their diversion into illicit drug manufacturing. This ensures that Kazakhstan's legal framework addresses both drug supply and demand, with a particular focus on NPS.

One of the key strengths of Kazakhstan's framework is the integration of public health and law enforcement agencies into a cohesive response system. The Drug Control Committee plays a central role in ensuring that these agencies collaborate effectively, not only within Kazakhstan but also with international bodies such as the UNODC and the WHO.

Key aspects of Kazakhstan's framework further include:

- Legislation: The country has enacted laws that provide a legal basis for drug control activities, including the regulation of precursor chemicals and the penalization of drug trafficking and use. Kazakhstan has implemented regulations to address the illicit trafficking and use of narcotic substances, psychotropic substances, and their analogues, as outlined in the Law "On Narcotic Substances, Psychotropic Substances, and Their Analogues and Precursors".
- Coordination: The Drug Control Committee coordinates efforts across various government agencies and collaborates with international bodies such as the UNODC and WHO. The committee works closely with a range of national stakeholders, including the MHSD and the GPO, ensuring that both public health and criminal justice aspects are incorporated into the national drug strategy.

- Capacity Building: Efforts are ongoing to enhance the capacities of law enforcement and healthcare providers through training and technical assistance programs. Capacity-building initiatives also focus on improving the technical infrastructure of forensic examination facilities, such as the Republican State Enterprise 'Centre for Forensic Examinations,' which conducts drug-related forensic investigations. Furthermore, healthcare providers are supported with updated protocols for epidemiological surveillance, particularly regarding HIV prevalence among PWID.

3.2 Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan's approach to drug policy is similarly robust, characterized by the National Programme on Counteracting Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse, which outlines comprehensive strategies for prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. The Drug Control Agency under the Government of Kyrgyzstan is the primary body responsible for the implementation of drug policies. In 2021, Kyrgyzstan further demonstrated its commitment to international drug control by organizing an International Narcotic Control Board mission, the first one since 1997, with the support of the Department of Medicines and Medical Devices under the Ministry of Health.

Key elements of Kyrgyzstan's framework further include:

- Legal Framework: The country has developed legal provisions to address drug trafficking and precursor control, with new laws passed to address the illicit production and distribution of NPS. In 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers passed a new Antinarcotic Programme and its Action Plan for 2022-2026, with the assistance of the UNODC, highlighting the government's focus on strengthening the legal and institutional mechanisms for drug control.
- Institutional Framework: The dissolution of the State Drug Control Service in 2016 led to the formation of the Counter-Drugs Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Although this restructuring has presented challenges in maintaining the institutional continuity needed for effective drug control, the Department now plays a pivotal role in drug policy coordination and data collection.

> The Drug Control Agency coordinates efforts among various stakeholders, including health services, law enforcement, and civil society organizations (CSO).

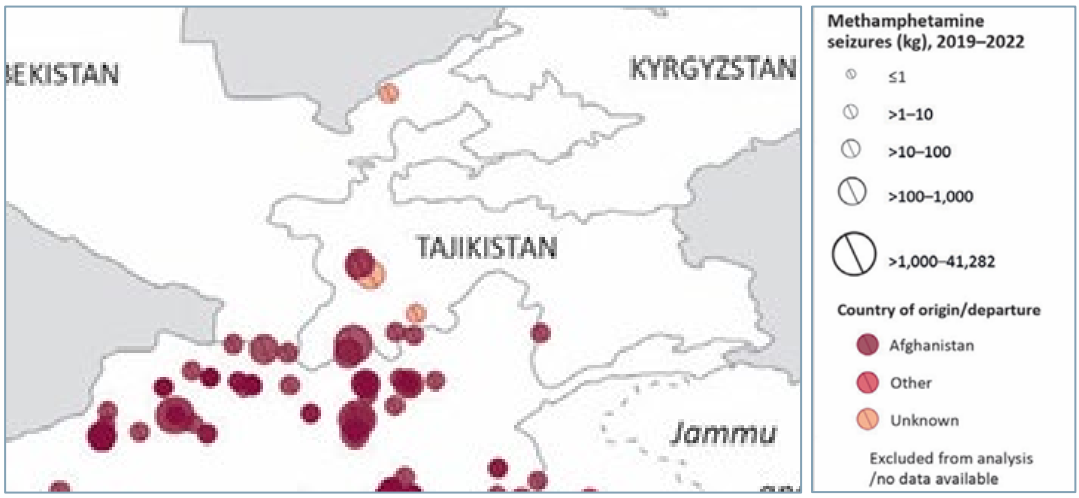
- International Cooperation: Kyrgyzstan actively participates in regional and international initiatives, fostering cooperation with neighbouring countries and international organizations.

3.3 Tajikistan

Tajikistan faces unique challenges in the development and implementation of its drug control frameworks. As a country with limited resources, Tajikistan has struggled to fully implement the National Drug Control Strategy and the associated Action Plan for 2021-2030. Nonetheless, the Drug Control Agency, established with the assistance of international donors, and the and the National Centre for Monitoring and Prevention of Drug Addiction continue to play a crucial role in coordinating the country's response to drug trafficking and NPS.

The county's geographic location, bordering Afghanistan, makes it particularly vulnerable to drug trafficking. The influx of narcotics from Afghanistan[1] has complicated efforts to implement effective drug control measures, as the sheer volume of drugs passing through Tajikistan overwhelms its law enforcement and public health infrastructure. This is further evidenced by the increasing number of methamphetamine seizures, as illustrated in the map below[2], highlighting the growing scale of the problem for Tajikistan.

In response, CADAP has provided technical assistance aimed at improving Tajikistan's capacity to detect and respond to NPS. This assistance has included training for law enforcement officers in forensic drug analysis and the provision of equipment to support the development of national forensic laboratories.



Tajikistan's institutional framework is still developing, and further support is needed to ensure that it can fully implement its EWS. However, the country has made progress in aligning its drug policies with international standards, and with continued assistance from CADAP, it is expected that Tajikistan will strengthen its capacity to monitor and respond to NPS in the coming years.

Other components of Tajikistan's framework also include:

- Coordination Council on Drug Abuse Prevention: Established in 2004, this council oversees the coordination of state drug policy activities.
- Legal Framework: Tajikistan's legal framework includes the Criminal Procedure Code and other relevant laws, providing a solid foundation for drug control. Additionally, the Penal Reform Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan up to 2030, developed during the 2019 Penitentiary Forum, aims to enhance legislation and law enforcement practices related to criminal penalties, including drug-related offenses.
- Data Collection: The National Centre for Monitoring and Prevention of Drug Addiction conducts extensive research and data collection to inform policy and interventions. The Centre not only monitors drug trends but also evaluates the registration, treatment, harm reduction measures,

[1] According to UNODC reports, opium poppy cultivation and opium production in Afghanistan has decreased by 95%, yet opioids, such as heroin and opium, as well as Afghan-made methamphetamine, are still flowing into Tajikistan - Tajikistan sees no signs of drug smuggling from Afghanistan abating - World - TASS

[2] Seizures in Central Asia (2019 – 2022), UNODC Information Centre, Understanding Illegal Methamphetamine Manufacture in Afghanistan, Research Brief 2023

and rehabilitation of drug-dependent patients, providing critical information to shape drug policy.

3.4 Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan's legal framework for drug control remains relatively underdeveloped compared to its regional counterparts. Although the country has enacted laws aimed at regulating drug trafficking and the use of psychoactive substances, it has been slower to implement the comprehensive institutional reforms needed to support an effective EWS.

One of the main challenges faced by Turkmenistan is its relatively closed political system, which limits the involvement of international organisations in the country's drug control efforts. However, CADAP has worked closely with Turkmenistan to provide technical assistance and support the development of its legal and institutional frameworks.

Other aspects of Turkmenistan's framework further include:

- Legal and Institutional Structures: Turkmenistan has ratified international conventions and developed national laws to support its drug control efforts.
- International Collaboration: The country collaborates with various international organizations, including the UNODC and WHO, to enhance its drug control capabilities. Turkmenistan has also established partnerships with the EU, OSCE, and CARICC to further support its efforts in combating illicit drug trafficking and strengthening cross-border security efforts. This collaboration includes participation in regional workshops and conferences aimed at improving drug control measures.
- Capacity Building: Ongoing efforts focus on improving the capacities of national experts and stakeholders through training and technical assistance. Significant progress has been made in building local expertise, particularly through the training of narcologists at the Turkmen State Medical University and the opening of a new rehabilitation centre for drug users.

3.5 Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has made considerable progress in developing a robust legal and institutional framework for drug control. The country's National Drug Control Strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to addressing drug trafficking, consumption, and public health risks, with a particular focus on NPS. The Ministry of Internal Affairs plays a central role in coordinating Uzbekistan's drug control efforts, working closely with the Ministry of Health and other government agencies.

CADAP's support has included training for public health and law enforcement officials, as well as the provision of equipment for drug monitoring and analysis.

One of the key strengths of Uzbekistan's framework is its focus on international cooperation. Uzbekistan has been proactive in fostering relationships with international organisations such as the UNODC and WHO, as well as neighbouring countries. This cooperation has been crucial in addressing the cross-border nature of drug trafficking and ensuring that Uzbekistan remains an active participant in regional drug control efforts.

The country has also invested heavily in the development of its technical infrastructure, with new forensic laboratories established to support the identification and monitoring of NPS. These laboratories, supported by CADAP, are equipped with state-of-the-art technology that enables rapid and accurate drug analysis. Additionally, Uzbekistan has focused on training healthcare providers in drug treatment and prevention, with a particular emphasis on addressing the public health risks associated with NPS.

Key elements of Uzbekistan's framework further include:

- Legal Provisions: The country has enacted laws to regulate precursor chemicals, penalize drug trafficking, and support drug treatment and rehabilitation. In addition, the legal framework includes provisions for the preventive registration of PWUD, including those without signs of dependence. This registration, known as 'uchyot,' plays a key role in social and formal control over drug use in the country.
- Coordination: The National Information-Analytical Centre coordinates efforts among various government agencies and collaborates with international organizations. Coordination efforts also include significant collaboration with ministries such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and other government bodies that contribute to drug policy enforcement and harm reduction efforts.
- Data Collection and Analysis: Uzbekistan has made significant strides in improving its data collection systems, integrating them with national and international databases. This includes data from both health services and law enforcement agencies, as well as efforts to integrate community-level data collected by police offices and border crossing points.

4. Data Collection and Analysis Systems

Effective data collection and analysis are critical components of any Early Warning System (EWS), particularly in the context of drug control. The ability to monitor emerging trends, such as the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS), relies heavily on the quality, accuracy, and timeliness of the data collected. The Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP) has provided significant technical assistance to Central Asian countries in building and enhancing their data collection and analysis systems. These efforts ensure that national institutions have the tools and expertise required to track drug trends, assess risks, and implement evidence-based responses.

4.1 Data Sources and Collection Methods

The effectiveness of an Early Warning System is closely tied to the quality and diversity of its data sources. Central Asian countries, with support from CADAP, have developed a multi-faceted approach to data collection that draws on information from a range of stakeholders, including health services, law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories and civil society organisations.

In Kazakhstan, for example, the national drug monitoring system collects data from public health services, including hospitals and treatment centres, where individuals present with drug-related issues. This information is supplemented by data from law enforcement agencies, which track drug seizures, arrests, and trafficking routes. Forensic laboratories also play a critical role in identifying new substances, analysing drug samples to determine their chemical composition and potential risks.

Similarly, in Kyrgyzstan, data collection efforts are coordinated by the Drug Control Agency, which works closely with other government sectors. Health services provide data on drug use and related health outcomes, while law enforcement agencies collect information on drug trafficking and criminal activity. Civil society organisations also contribute valuable data, particularly in the context of harm reduction programmes. These organisations often have direct contact with people who use drugs (PWUD) and can provide real-time insights into emerging trends and the availability of new substances.

One of the key innovations introduced by CADAP is the use of standardised data collection tools across the region. This ensures that the data gathered by different countries is comparable, allowing for a more cohesive and integrated approach to drug monitoring. Standardisation also facilitates the sharing of data between countries, which is critical for responding to cross-border drug trafficking and the spread of NPS.

4.2 Data Collection and Analysis – a Country Perspective

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has integrated data collection into its national drug control strategy, focusing on improving the quality and timeliness of data. The country participates in regional and international data sharing initiatives, enhancing its ability to monitor and respond to drug trends. This includes maintaining a narcological register and sentinel surveillance systems to track key populations, such as PWID, and drug-related infectious diseases like HIV.

- Data Integration: One of Kazakhstan's key strengths is the integration of forensic laboratories into its data collection system. The Republican State Enterprise 'Centre for Forensic Examinations' plays a critical role in identifying new psychoactive substances, analysing drug samples to determine their chemical composition and assessing the potential risks. Kazakhstan has made significant progress in developing its data collection and analysis systems, supported by CADAP's technical assistance. The country's drug monitoring system is built around a multi-sectoral approach that involves data collection from public health services, law enforcement agencies, and forensic laboratories. However, challenges remain with capturing data from individuals who undergo private, anonymous treatment outside state-run systems.
- Capacity Building: Training programs and technical assistance have been provided to improve the capacities of stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis. These programmes have also focused on strengthening epidemiological surveillance methodologies, particularly for HIV and hepatitis C among PWID. Kazakhstan has adopted international standards for these surveillance systems, ensuring consistency with regional data-sharing practices.
- International Cooperation: Kazakhstan collaborates with regional and international organizations to share data and best practices, enhancing its EWS capabilities.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan's approach to data collection and analysis is similarly multi-faceted, with the Drug Control Agency playing a central role in coordinating efforts across different government sectors. Data is collected from a variety of sources, including public health services, forensic laboratories, and law enforcement agencies. Public health data, which includes information on drug-related health conditions such as overdoses and poisonings, is a vital component of the country's drug monitoring system. One of the key challenges facing Kyrgyzstan is the need to integrate data from different sectors more effectively. This lack of coordination between various agencies and the absence of regular reporting on the drug situation hinder the development of a comprehensive drug information system. Efforts are being made to enhance data accuracy and integration with regional systems. However, there is currently a significant gap in the collection of reliable data on drug use among the general population, which limits the country's ability to create evidence-based policies.

- Data Collection Challenges: Limited resources and technical capacity have hindered the effectiveness of data collection systems in Kyrgyzstan. Additionally, the available data often focuses more on drug supply indicators such as seizures, with limited information on drug demand, drug use prevalence, and treatment demand.
- Improving Data Accuracy: Efforts are ongoing to improve the accuracy and reliability of data collected from various sources. One approach has been to improve the collection of sex-disaggregated data for some indicators, but a more systematic effort is required.
- Regional Integration: Kyrgyzstan is working to integrate its data collection systems with regional initiatives to enhance its EWS capabilities. As part of these efforts, the country consistently reports data on drug supply, including NPS, to international information-sharing platforms, contributing to a broader understanding of the global drug market.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan's NC MPDA conducts extensive research and surveys to monitor drug trends. Data collection covers general population surveys, school surveys, and specific subpopulations. The country however faces significant challenges in terms of data collection and analysis due to its limited resources and the complexities of drug trafficking across its border with Afghanistan.

> While law enforcement agencies collect valuable information on drug seizures and trafficking routes, there is still work to be done in ensuring that this data is shared and analysed in conjunction with public health data.

- Comprehensive Data Collection: Tajikistan's data collection efforts cover a wide range of indicators, including general population surveys, school surveys, and specific subpopulations. In addition, the country's data collection includes targeted research into specific subpopulations, such as school children, nightlife participants, and PWID, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of drug use trends across

different demographic groups. Nevertheless, one main challenges in this regard is the need for greater coordination between its public health and law enforcement sectors. While both sectors collect valuable data, there is a need for better integration of this information to ensure that it can be used to inform a comprehensive response to drug threats.

- Research and Surveys: NC MPDA conducts research and surveys to monitor drug trends and inform policy and interventions. NC MPDA utilizes a range of methods, including quantitative and qualitative surveys, to ensure comprehensive monitoring across diverse population groups and environments.
- Capacity Building: Training programs and technical assistance are provided to enhance the capacities of stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis. This includes efforts to improve monitoring and research capacities, with a focus on integrating gender-disaggregated data to better inform gender-sensitive drug policies.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan has faced difficulties in establishing a fully functioning data collection and analysis system due to its relatively closed political environment and limited engagement with international organisations. The country's data collection focuses primarily on drug supply indicators, with limited data on drug demand and related issues. Efforts are needed to enhance data collection on drug use prevalence, treatment demand, and related health issues.

- Supply-Focused Data Collection: Turkmenistan's data collection efforts focus primarily on drug supply indicators, such as seizures and arrests.
- Improving Data Collection: Data collection in Turkmenistan involves input from public health services, law enforcement agencies, and forensic laboratories. While public health services provide essential data on drug-related health issues, law enforcement agencies contribute information on drug seizures and trafficking. However, the country's forensic laboratories are still in the early stages of development, and further investment is needed to ensure that these facilities are able to identify and monitor NPS effectively.
- Efforts are needed to enhance data collection on drug demand and related issues, such as treatment demand and drug use prevalence. To this aim, the country has participated in training workshops on data collection.
- Capacity Building: Training programs and technical assistance are needed to improve the capacities of stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis. Further support is necessary to strengthen data systems on health issues related to drug use, such as HIV among PWID.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has made significant strides in improving its data collection systems, integrating them with national and international databases. One of Uzbekistan's key strengths is its focus on forensic analysis. The country has invested heavily in the development of forensic laboratories, which are equipped with state-of-the-art technology for identifying and monitoring NPS. These laboratories work closely with law enforcement agencies, providing the data needed to assess the scale of drug trafficking and the risks

posed by new substances. Challenges remain in ensuring data accuracy and comprehensiveness. A significant gap persists in capturing data from hidden populations, such as PWUD who avoid services due to the narcological registration system, leading to potential underreporting.

- Data Integration: Uzbekistan has made efforts to integrate its data collection systems with national and international databases to provide a comprehensive view of drug trends. This includes data from law enforcement, health services, and local community-level collection points, such as police offices and border crossings. These efforts are supported by organizations like UNODC and WHO to facilitate broader regional cooperation.

- Improving Data Accuracy: Efforts are ongoing to improve the accuracy and reliability of data collected from various sources. Recent steps have focused on improving the collection of disaggregated data, such as by gender and age, to better understand specific population groups. Nevertheless, limitations persist in estimating hidden populations, particularly regarding synthetic drug users and non-injecting users, which complicates the analysis of drug trends.

- Capacity Building and International Cooperation: Training programs and technical assistance are provided to enhance the capacities of stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis. Specialized training has also been extended to staff involved in forensic medicine and public health authorities to improve the timeliness and accuracy of reporting. Uzbekistan is also an active participant in regional and international data-sharing initiatives, working closely with neighbouring countries to share information on drug trends and trafficking routes.

4.3 Data Analysis and Risk Assessment

Once data has been collected, it must be analysed to identify trends, assess risks, and inform decision-making. The ability to analyse data effectively is essential for the functioning of EWS, as it allows national authorities to detect emerging drug threats early and implement timely interventions.

Central Asian countries have made significant strides in improving their data analysis capabilities, thanks to the technical assistance provided by CADAP. For example, Kazakhstan has developed sophisticated analytical tools that allow it to process large volumes of data quickly and accurately. These tools enable authorities to identify patterns in drug use and trafficking, assess the risks posed by new psychoactive substances, and develop evidence-based policies and interventions.

In Kyrgyzstan, data analysis efforts are focused on understanding the relationship between drug use and public health outcomes. By analysing data from hospitals, treatment centres, and forensic laboratories, Kyrgyz authorities can track the spread of new substances and assess their impact on public health. This information is then used to guide public health interventions, such as harm reduction programmes and treatment services for people who inject drugs (PWID).

Tajikistan, while still developing its data analysis capabilities, has made progress in building the infrastructure needed to support a national drug monitoring system. With support from CADAP, Tajik authorities have established a network of forensic laboratories and trained analysts to process drug-related data. This capacity-building effort is crucial for ensuring that Tajikistan can monitor emerging drug trends and assess the risks posed by NPS.

One of the key benefits of CADAP's work on data analysis is the focus on real-time risk assessment. By providing national authorities with the tools and expertise needed to analyse data quickly, CADAP ensures that countries can respond to drug threats before they escalate. This is particularly important

in the context of NPS, where new substances can appear and spread rapidly, posing significant risks to public health and safety.

4.4 Regional Cooperation and Data Sharing

One of the central objectives of CADAP's data collection and analysis efforts is to foster greater regional cooperation. Drug trafficking and the spread of new psychoactive substances do not respect national borders, making it essential for Central Asian countries to share information and collaborate on risk assessments.

CADAP has facilitated the establishment of a regional data-sharing platform, which allows national authorities to exchange information on drug trends, trafficking routes, and the appearance of new substances. This platform is particularly valuable for countries such as Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, which are situated along key drug trafficking routes. By sharing data on drug seizures, arrests, and forensic analyses, these countries can better coordinate their efforts to combat the spread of NPS and other illicit drugs.

Kazakhstan has been a leader in regional data-sharing efforts, working closely with neighbouring countries to develop joint strategies for monitoring and responding to drug threats. The country's advanced forensic laboratories and data analysis tools have been used to assist other Central Asian nations in identifying new psychoactive substances and assessing their risks. This cooperation has been facilitated by CADAP, which provides the technical support needed to ensure that data is shared in a timely and effective manner.

In addition to regional cooperation, Central Asian countries also collaborate with international organisations, including the European Union Drug Agency and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). These partnerships provide access to global data on drug trends and allow Central Asian countries to contribute to international efforts to combat the spread of NPS.

4.5 Challenges and Future Directions

While significant progress has been made in improving data collection and analysis systems in Central Asia, challenges remain. One of the key challenges is the need for further investment in technical infrastructure. Many countries in the region, particularly Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, still lack the resources needed to fully implement national drug monitoring systems. CADAP's support has been crucial in addressing these gaps, but continued investment will be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of these systems.

Another challenge is the need for greater coordination between public health and law enforcement agencies. While progress has been made in this area, particularly in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, there is still room for improvement in ensuring that data from different sectors is integrated and used to inform a comprehensive response to drug threats.

Looking to the future, CADAP's work on data collection and analysis will focus on building the capacity of national institutions to collect, analyse, and share data independently. This will involve further training for analysts, the development of more advanced data analysis tools, and the expansion of regional cooperation efforts. By continuing to strengthen these systems, CADAP aims to ensure that Central Asian countries are well-equipped to monitor and respond to the ever-evolving challenges posed by drug use and trafficking.

4.6 Drug-Related Trends and Challenges

The countries face various challenges related to drug use and trafficking, impacting the development of EWS. Understanding these trends and challenges is crucial for developing effective responses and enhancing the capacity of EWS.

Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan, the rise of NPS has had a profound impact on both public health and law enforcement efforts. These substances, often marketed as "legal highs," have become increasingly popular among young people and vulnerable populations. Public health services have reported a sharp increase in hospital admissions related to NPS use, with individuals presenting symptoms ranging from severe agitation and psychosis to organ failure and death. This has placed significant strain on Kazakhstan's health system, which is already grappling with the ongoing opioid crisis.

Kazakhstan has also faced challenges in controlling the flow of NPS into the country. Law enforcement agencies have reported an increase in drug seizures involving synthetic substances, many of which are trafficked through online platforms or smuggled in small quantities, making detection difficult. The constant introduction of new substances, designed to evade existing drug control laws, has further complicated efforts to regulate the NPS market.

Despite these challenges, Kazakhstan has made progress in addressing the rise of NPS through the development of harm reduction programmes and improved cooperation between public health and law enforcement agencies. However, the rapidly changing nature of the NPS market continues to pose significant risks to public health and safety.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan has seen a similar rise in the availability and use of NPS, particularly among people who inject drugs (PWID) and those living in economically disadvantaged areas. The country's public health services have reported an increase in the number of NPS-related poisonings and overdoses, which have contributed to a growing public health crisis. The lack of resources available to treat individuals affected by NPS, particularly in rural areas, has exacerbated the situation. Since 2015, there has been an increase in sales of new psychoactive substance (NPS) in the country, including online sales. The dealers employ innovative advertising techniques such as "graffiti" on the walls of buildings, displaying email addresses for potential buyers to make purchases of NPS. During operational-search activities on March 16, 2015, a recreational substance was procured and studied, which was identified as "ADB-PINACA" (N-(1-carbamoyl-2,2-dimethylprop-2-yl)-1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide).[3]

The presence of NPS in the Kyrgyz Republic was confirmed in 2019 through an ESPAD survey conducted among schoolchildren. The results indicated a lifetime prevalence of new types of psychoactive substances ranging from 0.3% to 0.8%, with a rise in the use of NPS among boys compared to 2017.[4]

[3] Madybaeva D and Aida Karipova A. Survey of substance use and behavioural addiction among pupils in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2017. ResAd, 2018

[4] 2019 Substance Use and Addiction Among Youth in Kyrgyzstan, Author: Dinara Madybaeva, M.D. – monitoring and evaluation specialist / PF "AIDS East-West, Foundation in the Kyrgyz Republic"; Reviewers: Assoc. prof. Viktor Mravcik, M.D., Ph.D. – CADAP

Law enforcement agencies in Kyrgyzstan have struggled to keep pace with the rapid proliferation of NPS. The country's porous borders and limited resources have made it difficult to control the flow of synthetic drugs into the country. Many of these substances are smuggled in small quantities, making detection and interception challenging.

Kyrgyzstan's response to the rise of NPS has focused on expanding harm reduction programmes and improving public awareness of the risks associated with these substances. However, the country still faces significant challenges in addressing the social and economic impacts of drug use, including rising rates of drug-related crime and unemployment.

Just recently, Kyrgyzstan has made a significant step forward in formalising and conceptualising the Early Warning System on new psychoactive substances (EWS) proposing a plan for establishment an EWS coordination group and a network of cooperating institutions with routine information exchange and regular inventory and analysis of the situation in a country. The system is to be coordinated by the Service for Combat of Drug Crime of the Ministry of Interior.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan's proximity to Afghanistan, a major producer of opiates, has long made it a key transit point for drug trafficking. However, in recent years, the country has also seen a rise in the trafficking and use of synthetic drugs, particularly NPS. Tajikistan's public health system has been overwhelmed by the increasing number of individuals seeking treatment for NPS-related health conditions, including severe mental health disorders and organ damage.

Law enforcement agencies in Tajikistan face significant challenges in intercepting the flow of drugs, particularly along the country's long and porous border with Afghanistan. The country faces significant issues related to opioid use and associated infectious diseases. Injecting drug use is a key driver of HIV transmission, accounting for a significant portion of new infections in recent years. The number of new HIV cases in 2020 was 1,084, with a concerning increase in the proportion of women among new cases, rising to 42%[5]. High levels of drug-related crime and trafficking further complicate the situation in Tajikistan. In 2021, 707 drug-related offenses were recorded, reflecting a slight increase from 2020.[6]

Despite these challenges, the country has made progress in improving its capacity to monitor and respond to drug-related trends. With support from CADAP, the country has developed harm reduction programmes and expanded its data collection efforts, enabling it to better track the spread of NPS and other synthetic drugs.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan has faced significant challenges in addressing the rise of NPS, particularly due to the country's relatively closed political system and limited engagement with international organisations. While public health services have reported an increase in NPS-related health conditions, the country's law enforcement agencies have struggled to control the flow of synthetic drugs into the country.

6/Component "National Focal Point", senior scientist; Biljana Kilibarda, M.D., Ph.D. – CADAP 6/Component "National Focal Point", scientific expert.

[5] UNODC, Paris Pact Fact Sheet, March 2022 Tajikistan

[6] UNODC Paris Pact Fact Sheet 2022 Republic of Tajikistan

Turkmenistan has limited data on drug use among the general population, hindering effective policy and intervention efforts. There are also no reliable population-based surveys on high-risk drug use, further complicating efforts to gauge the full extent of the drug problem. This gap extends to key population groups, such as women and PWID, for whom data is also scarce. This lack of reliable data hampers the development of targeted policies and interventions.

Addressing stigma and discrimination against drug users is a critical challenge for Turkmenistan's drug control efforts. For example, 83.7% of women aged 15-49 report discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV, indicating a broader issue of stigma towards vulnerable populations.[7]

Further training programs and technical assistance are needed to enhance the capacities of stakeholders involved in data collection and analysis. These programs should also focus on addressing human rights issues, particularly around gender-based violence and access to healthcare for women and PWID.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has been significantly affected by the rise of drug trafficking, particularly along its border with Tajikistan. In addition to the ongoing trafficking of opiates, the country has seen an increase in the smuggling of synthetic drugs, including NPS. Uzbekistan is dealing with a growing problem of synthetic drug use, which poses significant challenges for the country's drug control efforts. In 2022, 326 synthetic drug-related crimes were registered, nearly double that of 2021.[8] Synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones are among the most prevalent synthetic drugs, with platforms like Telegram increasingly used for distribution.

The rise of NPS has also had a profound impact on Uzbekistan's public health system, with increasing numbers of individuals presenting with NPS-related health conditions. Public health services have struggled to keep pace with the growing demand for treatment, particularly in rural areas where resources are limited.

Despite these challenges, Uzbekistan has made progress in addressing the rise of NPS through the development of harm reduction programmes and improved cooperation with international organisations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). However, further investment is needed to ensure that the country's public health and law enforcement systems are equipped to respond to the evolving drug landscape.is experiencing an increasing prevalence of synthetic drugs and NPS. Monitoring these trends and developing effective responses are crucial for the country's drug control efforts.

[7] https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/data-book-2022_en.pdf

[8] UNODC. Paris Pact Fact sheet. Republic of Uzbekistan 2022 and Drug Situation Report, 2022, National Centre for Drug Control of the Republic of Uzbekistan

5. Recommendations

While significant strides have been made in developing Early Warning Systems (EWS) in the CADAP countries, there is still much to be done to ensure the continued effectiveness and sustainability of these systems. The recommendations outlined below reflect the lessons learned from the implementation process and offer guidance for further developing and strengthening EWS in Central Asia. These recommendations focus on enhancing data collection, improving technical infrastructure, fostering regional cooperation, and building on the capacity-building efforts initiated by CADAP.

5.1 Enhancing and Diversifying Data Collection Mechanisms

Data collection is the backbone of any Early Warning System, and the ability to gather accurate, timely, and comprehensive data is essential for the early detection of NPS and other emerging drug trends. Central Asian countries must continue to expand and diversify their data sources to ensure that they capture a wide range of drug-related information.

Engage and formalise a network of multiple sectors	National EWS should integrate data from a variety of sources, including public health institutions (such as hospitals, clinics, and drug treatment centres), forensic laboratories, law enforcement agencies, customs authorities, and civil society organisations. This will provide a holistic view of the drug landscape, encompassing both supply and demand dynamics.
Expand and diversify data sources	Governments should ensure that data is collected from a wide range of sources, including public health services, law enforcement agencies, community-based organisations, and harm reduction services. The inclusion of more diverse data inputs will provide a comprehensive view of drug trends and enhance the ability to detect emerging substances early.
Develop real-time monitoring and alert systems	Real-time monitoring systems within healthcare and forensic settings should be expanded to provide early warnings on new or unknown substances. Alert systems will enable faster response times when new psychoactive substances are detected.

5.2 Strengthening Technical Infrastructure for EWS Operation

The technical infrastructure supporting EWS must be continually upgraded to keep pace with the evolving drug landscape. Countries must invest in the tools and technologies that enable rapid and accurate data collection, analysis, and communication.

Modernise forensic laboratories	Forensic laboratories are at the forefront of identifying NPS and other emerging substances. Investments in state-of-the-art equipment, such as high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) machines, will enable laboratories to analyse substances more accurately and efficiently. Furthermore, laboratories should have access to up-to-date databases of known NPS to facilitate substance identification.

Develop IT infrastructure for real-time data sharing	The ability to share data in real time between stakeholders is critical for the timely detection and response to emerging threats. Countries should invest in the development of secure, interoperable IT platforms that allow data to be exchanged seamlessly between public health agencies, forensic laboratories, law enforcement, and international partners.
Create a network of regional forensic experts	A cross-border network of forensic professionals will facilitate knowledge sharing and enable countries to collaborate effectively on the identification of new substances. This network can also serve as a rapid-response mechanism in cases of drug-related public health emergencies.

5.3 Expanding Capacity Building and Training Initiatives

While significant capacity-building efforts have been undertaken through CADAP, the rapidly evolving nature of the drug market means that continuous training is required to keep stakeholders updated on the latest trends, technologies, and methodologies. Further recommendations include:

Create an ongoing training programme	National authorities should institutionalise a continuous training programme for all EWS stakeholders, covering should cover topics such as new forensic techniques for NPS detection, risk communication strategies, and the use of real-time data analysis tools.
Develop cross-sectoral training workshops	Regular workshops should be organised to bring together professionals from public health, law enforcement and forensic science, focusing on sharing best practices for data collection, risk assessment, and EWS management and engaging European and international experts. The success of previous workshops conducted by Společnost Podané ruce has demonstrated the value of such cross-sectoral engagement in strengthening national responses to emerging drug threats.

5.4 Promoting and Enhancing Regional and International Cooperation

Given the transnational nature of drug trafficking and the cross-border spread of NPS, international as well as regional cooperation is essential for the success of EWS in Central Asia. The countries in the region should work together to share data, expertise, and resources in order to address common drug threats. Recommended actions include:

Strengthen regional data-sharing mechanisms	Establish a formal regional data-sharing mechanism that facilitates the rapid exchange of information on drug seizures, NPS trends, and forensic analyses. Such a platform will enhance regional cooperation and ensure that countries can respond to drug threats in a coordinated and timely manner
Formalise regional data-sharing agreements	To strengthen cooperation, establish formal agreements that support the real-time exchange of information on drug seizures, emerging NPS, and trafficking routes. This will help national EWS to identify cross-border trends and coordinate responses more effectively.

Promote joint monitoring of key trafficking routes	Joint monitoring and data-sharing initiatives along major drug trafficking routes, particularly the northern route, will enhance regional efforts to intercept illicit drug shipments and monitor the flow of NPS into and through the region.
Expand partnerships with international organisations	Continue to engage with international organisations such as the UNODC and EUDA, as well as with regional partners in Europe and Asia. These partnerships provide access to technical expertise, funding opportunities and global drug trend data, helping to enhance national and regional EWS.

5.5 Address Stigma and Discrimination

Reducing stigma against drug users and promoting inclusive approaches in drug policy are essential to improving the effectiveness of EWS and related interventions.

Awareness campaigns	Governments should develop and implement public awareness campaigns aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against drug users. These campaigns should highlight the importance of treating drug use as a public health issue rather than a criminal one.
Gender-sensitive approaches	Drug policies and interventions must adopt gender-sensitive approaches to address the specific needs of women and other vulnerable groups. This includes designing tailored harm reduction services for women, who often face unique challenges when accessing drug-related healthcare.
Human rights protections	All drug policies and interventions must respect and protect the human rights of people who use drugs, ensuring that they can access healthcare, harm reduction services, and support without fear of discrimination or punishment.

5.6 Improving Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Legal reforms and institutional strengthening are crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of EWS.

Legal reforms	Governments must regularly review and update their legal frameworks to support the continued development of EWS and ensure that data can be shared and used effectively. These reforms should include provisions for the monitoring and regulation of emerging NPS.
Strengthening institutional roles	National agencies responsible for drug policy coordination must be empowered to support EWS operations, ensuring that they have the resources and authority needed to implement drug monitoring and control measures effectively.
Capacity building	Stakeholders involved in legal reforms, including legislators, law enforcement officers, and public health officials, should receive ongoing training and technical assistance to ensure that they have the skills necessary to enact and enforce comprehensive drug policies.

5.7 Focus on High-Risk Populations

Targeted interventions for high-risk populations are essential for addressing the specific challenges these groups face.

Conduct targeted research	Governments should invest in research to identify the unique needs of high-risk populations, such as youth, people who inject drugs (PWID), and economically disadvantaged groups. This research will inform the design of interventions that address the specific challenges faced by these populations.
Develop tailored interventions	Interventions should be developed to address the specific risks faced by high-risk groups. For example, targeted harm reduction services, such as safe consumption spaces and needle exchange programmes, should be expanded to provide these groups with the support they need.
Strengthen harm reduction services	Expanding access to harm reduction services, including opioid substitution therapy and overdose prevention services, will help mitigate the risks faced by high-risk populations. These services should be widely available and tailored to meet the needs of vulnerable groups.

6. Remaining Challenges

Despite the progress made under CADAP 7, several challenges remain in ensuring the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of Early Warning Systems (EWS) in Central Asia. Addressing these challenges will be essential for building on the success of CADAP 7 and ensuring that the region is well-equipped to respond to emerging drug trends in the future.

6.1 Resource and Infrastructure Gaps

While CADAP 7 has provided invaluable technical assistance and resources, resource limitations continue to hinder the full implementation of EWS in some countries, particularly in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The lack of adequate infrastructure and financial resources in these countries limits the ability to upgrade forensic laboratories and public health systems, which are critical for the successful operation of EWS.

- Need for infrastructure investment: Governments must prioritise investment in building and upgrading the necessary infrastructure to support EWS. This includes constructing and equipping forensic laboratories with the latest technology to analyse and identify new psychoactive substances.
- Financial sustainability: Long-term financial support from national governments and international donors is needed to ensure that EWS can operate effectively over time. Without continued investment, these systems may struggle to keep up with the rapid evolution of drug trends.

6.2 Adapting to the Evolving NPS Market

The rapid evolution of the NPS market presents an ongoing challenge for forensic laboratories and law enforcement agencies. Manufacturers are continually altering the chemical structure of NPS to evade detection and regulation, making it difficult for existing forensic technologies to identify new substances in a timely manner.

- **Upgrading forensic capabilities**: Countries must invest in cutting-edge forensic technologies that allow for the accurate and rapid identification of newly emerging NPS. Advanced tools, such as mass spectrometry and chromatography, are essential for keeping pace with the constantly shifting NPS landscape.
- **Legal frameworks**: Legal reforms are needed to ensure that laws governing drug control can adapt to the evolving NPS market. This includes the introduction of generic or class-based legislation that regulates entire categories of substances rather than individual chemicals.

6.3 Ensuring Sustainability of Training and Capacity Building

While CADAP 7 has made significant progress in training national stakeholders, ongoing capacity building is essential for maintaining the effectiveness of EWS in the long term. Without continuous professional development, there is a risk that the expertise gained during CADAP 7 could be lost.

- **Ongoing professional development**: Governments should institutionalise regular training programmes for public health professionals, forensic analysts, and law enforcement officers. These programmes should focus on the latest trends in drug detection, NPS monitoring, and risk assessment.
- **Advanced training opportunities**: In addition to regular training, advanced courses should be offered to key personnel involved in EWS operations, ensuring that they have the skills and knowledge necessary to manage complex drug monitoring tasks.

6.4 Addressing Stigma and Discrimination

Stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs continue to present barriers to effective drug monitoring and treatment in many Central Asian countries. Addressing these issues is critical to improving access to healthcare and harm reduction services, which are vital components of EWS.

- **Public awareness campaigns**: Governments should launch national campaigns to raise awareness about drug use as a public health issue, aiming to reduce stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs. These campaigns should be culturally sensitive and address the specific concerns of different population groups.
- **Promoting gender-sensitive approaches**: Drug policies and interventions must be gender-sensitive to address the unique challenges faced by women who use drugs. Tailored harm reduction services, healthcare programmes, and legal protections should be implemented to ensure that women have equal access to the support they need.
- **Ensuring human rights protections**: Governments must ensure that drug policies and interventions respect the human rights of people who use drugs, including their right to access healthcare and harm reduction services without fear of discrimination or punishment.

7. Conclusion

The CADAP programme, particularly its seventh phase, has laid a strong foundation for the development of Early Warning Systems in Central Asia. By strengthening data collection and analysis systems, enhancing regional and international cooperation, addressing stigma and discrimination, improving legal and institutional frameworks, and focusing on high-risk populations, the participating countries have made significant progress in their drug control efforts.

The technical assistance provided under Result 2 of the CADAP Programme has made significant strides in improving the information systems and data analysis capabilities in the Central Asian countries. The collaborative efforts made through this initiative have laid a strong foundation for the development of more effective and evidence-based drug policies and intervention programs. Continuous support and capacity-building are essential to sustain these improvements and address emerging challenges in the region.

Moving forward, it is essential to build on these achievements and continue to address the remaining challenges. Continued investment in training, technical assistance, and infrastructure is needed to enhance the capacities of stakeholders involved in EWS development. Promoting regional and international cooperation will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, resources, and best practices, strengthening the overall capacity of the region to address drug-related issues.

Addressing stigma and discrimination is critical to improving access to treatment and support services, ensuring that drug policies and interventions respect and protect the human rights of individuals who use drugs. Enhancing coordination and integration of data collection systems will provide a comprehensive view of drug trends and inform policy and interventions. Finally, continued monitoring and research are needed to identify emerging drug trends and develop effective responses.

By addressing these challenges and building on the achievements of CADAP 7, Central Asian countries can develop robust Early Warning Systems that enable them to respond effectively to evolving drug trends, protect public health, and promote safety and security. The CADAP programme will continue to play a crucial role in supporting these efforts, providing the necessary resources, technical assistance, and expertise to ensure the continued development and effectiveness of EWS in Central Asia.

In conclusion, the development of Early Warning Systems under the CADAP programme is crucial for addressing the evolving drug trends in Central Asia. The implementation of CADAP 7 over 18 months has provided a unique opportunity for the participating countries to enhance their drug control efforts and set the basis to develop robust EWS. Through a coordinated and comprehensive approach, the countries can address the challenges posed by drug use and trafficking, protect public health, and promote safety and security.

8. References

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3. EMCDDA. *Operating Guidelines for the European Union Early Warning System on New Psychoactive Substances* (2019).
4. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). *Paris Pact Fact Sheet 2022: Republic of Uzbekistan*.
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6. National Centre for Drug Control of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2022). *Drug Situation Report*.

Annex - 2023 Events and Workshops

1. National Drug Policy Dialogue (DPD) in Turkmenistan
    - Date: 31 March 2023
    - Format: Online
    - Topic: Drug policies, data collection, and work plan for 2023.
2. CADAP – II Programme Steering Committee
    - Date: 5 July 2023
    - Format: Online
    - Topic: Presenting the achievements of R2 to date
3. R2 Workshop Needs Assessment
    - Date: 25 August 2023
    - Format: Online
4. Fourth meeting of Technical Committee in Kyrgyzstan
    - Date: 6 September 2023
    - Format: Online
    - Topic: Presenting achievements of R2 to date
5. National Workshop in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan
    - Dates: 30-31 October and 2-3 November 2023
    - Format: Online
6. Regional Technical Committee in Tashkent
    - Dates: 14 November 2023 and 7 November 2023
    - Format: Online (7 November); in-person (14 November).
7. 20th Anniversary Event and R2 Workshop
    - Dates: 16-17 November 2023 and 20-21 November 2023
    - Format: In-person
8. Workshops in Tashkent and Dushanbe
    - Dates: 27-28 November 2023 and 29-30 November 2023
    - Format: In-person

2024 Events and Workshops:

1. CADAP Regional Workshop on Drug Monitoring and Early Warning Systems (EWS)

    - Date: 24-25 January 2024
    - Format: In-person
    - Topic: Workshop on drug monitoring and EWS

2. National Workshops Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan

    - Date: 19-22 February 2024
    - Format: In-person
    - Topic: Workshop focusing on data collection, EWS, and drug monitoring systems.

3. III Programme Steering Committee

    - Date: 5 June 2024
    - Format: Online
    - Topic: Presenting the updates from R2

4. CADAP Regional Workshop on Drug Monitoring and EWS

    - Date: 24-25 July 2024
    - Format: In-person; online – shared presentations
    - Topic: Workshop on drug monitoring and EWS