

Nº8 Newsletter

Spotlight

International Conference “Enhancing Substance Use Prevention, Supply Reduction, and Developing National Expertise in Addictology and Treatment in Central Asia”. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

In brief

Regional training of trainers on use of newly elaborated educational programmes on prevention. Almaty, Kazakhstan	p4
Next series of technical meetings launched in Central Asia	p5
Regional Workshop on drug monitoring and EWS on new psychoactive substances. Almaty, Kazakhstan	p7
Delivery of special equipment to partner institutions in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.	p8
CADAP at a glance	p12

Spotlight



Spotlight

International Conference “Enhancing Substance Use Prevention, Supply Reduction, and Developing National Expertise in Addictology and Treatment in Central Asia”

On 27-28 November, 2024, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, an International Conference “Enhancing Substance Use Prevention, Supply Reduction, and Developing National Expertise in Addictology and Treatment in Central Asia” has been conducted with the support of EU-funded Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP). The event gathered delegations from all 5 Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) among representatives of relevant state institutions, NGOs and EU expert organizations. Aim of the conference was to share expertise and knowledge among professionals in supply reduction and the prevention and treatment of psychoactive

substance use to implement and sustain effective, evidence-based interventions and policies that will contribute to the reduction of substance use, including NPS, and its consequences and associated risks.

During the conference an overview of international best practices in preventing psychoactive substance use and drug treatment services was made; key stakeholders and subject experts in combating illicit drugs, including NPS brought together; supply reduction measures in Central Asia reviewed; strategies and interventions for preventing substance use in Central Asia were jointly discussed.



While welcoming the participants and guests of the conference, representative of Ministry of Interior of Turkmenistan underlined that as a result of joint efforts of law enforcement agencies, ministries and public organizations aimed at preventing illegal drug use, as well as strengthening the state border with neighboring countries, illegal drug trafficking has been minimized. In Turkmenistan, much attention is paid to activating the work of health care, education, and mass media to form a negative attitude among the country's population towards drug use.



Spotlight

According to the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the issue of control over precursors is particularly complex, given the need for high-quality reagents to identify precursors among the huge flow of chemicals used in the economy and for production processes.

Ministry of Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic expressed concern in increasing popularity of various smoking mixtures in recent years, effect of which is associated with the presence of synthetic drugs (cannabinoids). In 3 years and 10 months, 260 kg of synthetic drugs were confiscated.



Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan informed that in 2024 16 criminal groups consisting of 74 people were liquidated, and 1,300 kg of narcotics were confiscated. Criminal groups are becoming increasingly inventive – they use high-quality vacuum packaging, not recognizable by sniffer dogs.

European expert organizations such as the National Center for the Prevention of Addiction (Poland), Akzept (Germany), the Republican Center for the Treatment of Addiction (Lithuania), technical specialists from penitentiary institutions in Spain made expert presentations.

Thus, conference created a live platform to share knowledge and successful models among international and regional experts about the current drug use situations, to identify collaborative strategies and initiatives.

As a result of the international conference, draft recommendations will be developed to strengthen national drug policies that are evidence-based, gender-responsive, coherent and balanced.



An brief

Regional training of trainers on use of newly elaborated educational programmes on prevention has been conducted in Almaty on January 28-30, 2025

Previously, a series of trainings for national trainers on the use of previously developed Guidelines for Conducting Preventive Measures has been conducted in Central Asian countries. The package of measures includes activities aimed

at vulnerable groups of the population – women, young people, migrants and other vulnerable groups. Particular attention is paid to educational activities to reduce stigma.

These guidelines were developed through the joint work of experts from the National Center for Prevention of Addictions (Poland) and national working groups, which included representatives from the sectors of healthcare, education, internal affairs, and non-governmental organizations.



In brief

Next series of technical meetings launched in Central Asia

We run the next round of Technical Committees meetings to **review the progress of ongoing activities, obtain feedback from national partners and discuss future plans and priorities.** Meetings have been conducted in Tashkent on January 14, Dushanbe - January 17, Bishkek - January 20 with involvement of main

partners and stakeholders – EU Delegations, national beneficiaries, partner international organizations.

Mr. Shukhrat Gulomov, Head of Department, National Center under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, stated:

“

A lot has been achieved within the framework of the European Union programme CADAP 7. We see this programme as a key platform for fostering international cooperation and strengthening national capacities in drug demand reduction. We hope for continued collaboration with the European Union to further build on the progress made and to address emerging priorities in the field of drug.”

Mr. Cosimo Lamberti, Programme Manager from the EU Delegation to Kyrgyz Republic, announced the new phase of the project that was officially approved by EC headquarters and Member States in December 2024.

“

From the Administration's perspective, we have seen significant improvements both in terms of financial resources and in expanding our impact. For example, the amount of financial funding has increased significantly - we are now talking about 18 million euros, which is significantly higher than the previous allocation of 7 million euros. This gives us the opportunity to expand our actions to a much wider range of issues and territories.

However, it also means that there is a lot of work to be done to adjust our priorities. We will not only work in our traditional areas such as health and prevention, but we will also pay special attention to law enforcement. This is an important part of the work, especially in light of the new challenges posed by the increasing flow of drugs, such as methamphetamine, from Central Asia to Europe. We recognise that these new threats require flexibility and quick action to respond to changing conditions in a timely manner.

I would also like to emphasise that one of the key tasks at the moment is closer co-operation with law enforcement agencies, including in strengthening forensic and forensic expertise. We see that many countries in the region face difficulties in identifying new drugs, and this requires new approaches, new technologies and the exchange of experience. We have already discussed with our European partners the possibility of creating joint databases that will help us to combat new threats” – he said .



In brief

As it was mentioned by **Mr. Mahmudullo Abdurahmoni** 3-d Secretary of the Border and Territorial Settlement Issues Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, the

problem of drug proliferation and drug addiction is one of the most serious challenges for modern society, and it is especially relevant for Tajikistan.



The Government of Tajikistan, following the national Strategy on Drugs, is making significant efforts to combat this phenomenon. It should be noted that the solution of these issues is impossible without the support and co-operation of the international community. I would like to highlight the initiative of the President of Tajikistan to establish the SCO Anti-Drug Centre in Dushanbe, which is an important step in our common cause. In this context, the implementation of the Drug Prevention Programme in Central Asia over the past twenty years is a successful example of fruitful cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the European Union” - he said .

Mr. Akmal Rustamov, EU Delegation to Uzbekistan declared that CADAP 7 is a great example of successful cooperation between the EU and Central Asia, including the Republic of Uzbekistan. It demonstrates the commitment of both sides to jointly address key challenges and build stronger partnerships in the field of drug policy and prevention.



Besides discussing the results to highlight, sharing the opinions and determining the plan of actions for the next year, a separate session was dedicated to **Evidence-based Drug policy and Data collection improvement**. CADAP continues enriching the knowledge and insight of national partners on international drug policy introduced both in the EU countries and internationally. **The Drug Policy Development Manual** has been developed for CA countries with a methodology for the elaboration of drug policies.

CADAP provided technical assistance to CA countries for the improvement of data collection and analysis systems and the implementation of **a Drug Early Warning Systems**. Information from each CA country has been collected and consolidated to assess the current situation of data collection and drug early warning systems. Based on the findings, a Road Map with methodology to improve data collection and information analysis systems has been developed together with the Handbook for the implementation of Early Warning Systems in Central Asia.



An brief

Regional workshop on drug monitoring and EWS on news psychoactive substances has been held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on July 24-25, 2024

The workshop has brought together representatives of regional law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories and experts from international organizations who addressed the current situation of illicit drug trafficking and NPS in Central Asia. They discussed recent trends and their impact on youth drug use, as well as the social and public health consequences of these activities. Special attention was paid to such topics as prevalence and patterns of drug use in

the general population and in adolescents; drug-related correlates and consequences (overdoses, drug-related deaths, drug-related morbidity including infectious diseases and mental health); data on drug markets – production, trafficking, seizures, prices, purity of drugs, supply reduction, law enforcement measures; legislation, regulation, drug policy, strategy, action plans.



Participants analyzed the risk factors associated with drug supply and use, and explored effective preventive measures in other contexts. The exchange of good practices and intervention strategies adapted to the reality of Central Asia has been promoted.

The importance of international cooperation in the creation of early warning systems that allow for an effective exchange of information between countries was also emphasized. Experts in law, public health and security policies have offered recommendations on the current situation in their respective countries.



Delivery of special equipment to partner institutions in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Tajikistan

CADAP has procured ambulance car for Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoHSP RT) as part of procurement component of the project, which aims at provision of equipment and medical

supplies and development of facilities and infrastructure in targeted partner institutions. The ambulances is equipped with modern medical equipment, which will provide timely and specialized medical care to people in need.



Uzbekistan

A sets of special equipment - monoblocs, tablets, laptops, servers, software and networking equipment for the amount more than EUR 150 000 has been delivered to partners institutions of Uzbekistan to strengthen the national ability to prepare for and respond safely and effectively to threats related to drug trafficking and strengthen national early warning and data collection systems. The equipment provided is expected to support interoperability, compatibility, and standardization, fostering a multi-disciplinary perspective and facilitate effective interagency partnership.



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.

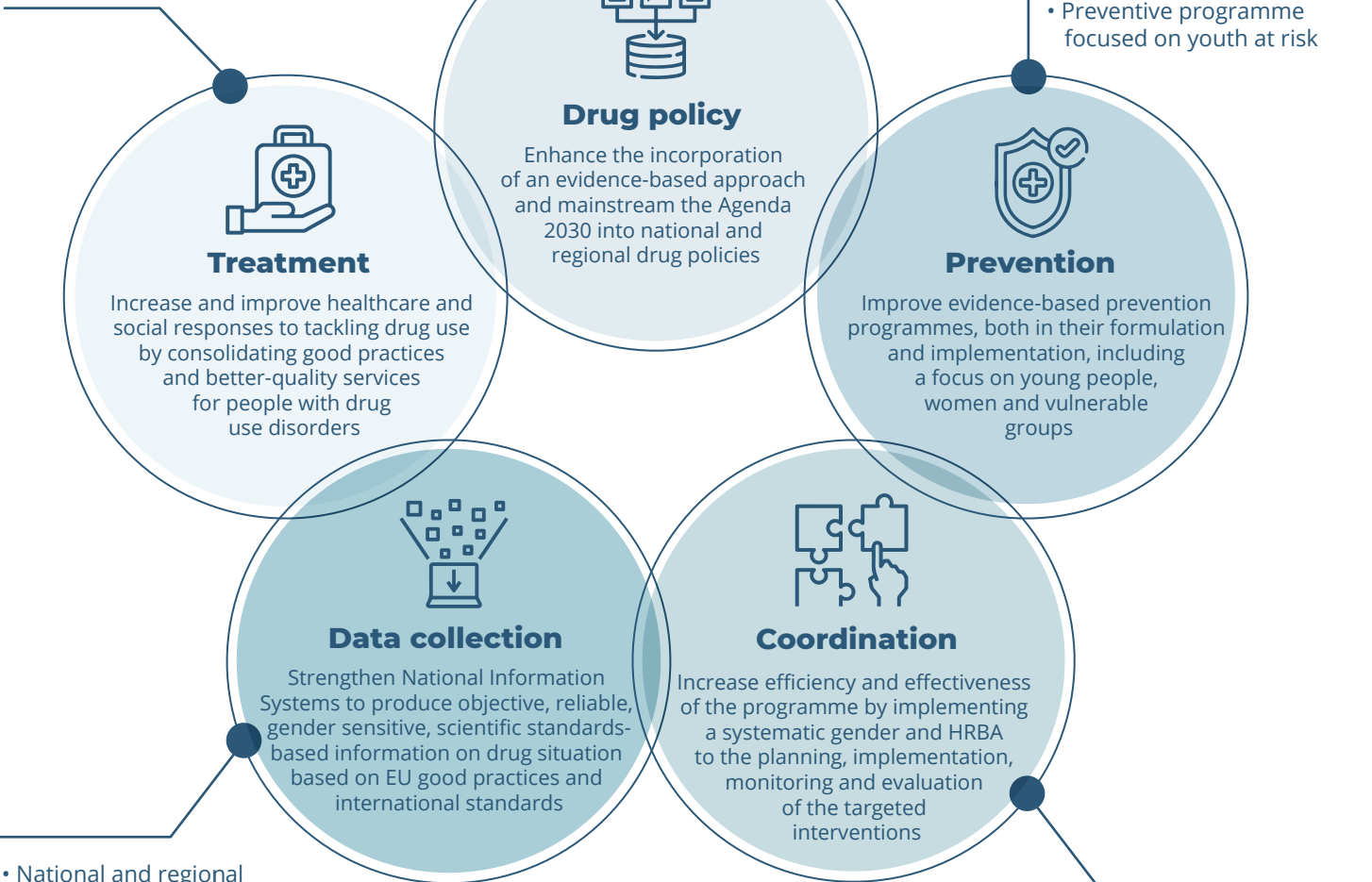
Strategic partnership and technical support



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



- 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

- 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

- 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

Find more about CADAP, our news and publications, subscribe to our newsletter: www.eu-cadap.org

Follow us in social networks

- /eucadap/
- /in/cadap-phase-7-277470235/
- /EUCADAP
- /CADAP7

