The European Monitoring Centre For Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Principal Elements For Collaboration With CICAD

Ignacio Vázquez Molini, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, December 1, 2006
Mission of the EMCDDA

• To obtain, analyze and disseminate objective, reliable and comparable information on drugs and drug addiction, and their consequences, in order to provide a evidence-based description of the drug phenomenon at the European level.

• This information is aimed at politicians, scientists and researchers responsible for responding to the problem, and the public in general.

The EMCDDA

• Central reference point on drug information in the European Union
• Established in 1993, situated in Lisbon, Portugal
• Decentralized Agency of the EU
  • Agencies respond to the decentralization, and to the new technical or scientific tasks
  • Other crucial agencies for the protection of public health:
    • The European Medicines Agency, United Kingdom;
    • European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Sweden.
Focus from the Perspective of Obtaining Data

• Obtaining Data
  • National Information Points and expert groups in each member state (REITOX), prepare national reports for the EMCDDA;
  • Contact with other data collection specialists;
  • Technical Work Groups.

• Methods
  • Annual expert group meetings;
  • Ad hoc work groups more reduced for the development of indicators;
  • Emphasis to favor adopting common methods;
  • Emphasis on offering additional value at the European level.

FIVE KEY INDICATORS

1. Use of drugs, behaviour, and attitudes of the general population (statistical)
2. Estimates of the prevalence of drug consumption.
3. Requests for treatment by drug consumers.
5. Extent of infectious diseases related to drugs.

• More effective coordination:
• Verifiable demand reduction:
• Significant supply reduction:
• Greater international cooperation:
• Broader means for research:
• Better information:
• Evaluation of results.

FOCUS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

• Global: include all aspects
• Multidisciplinary: health, criminology…
• Integrated civil society and public powers
• Balanced: demand and supply
• Coordinated: national and European levels
• Evaluated: measure and publish results.
Principal Elements for Cooperation CICAD-OEDT

• Memorandum of Understanding, year 2000;
• Participation of EMCDDA at the CICAD Regular Sessions;

During 2006:

• Participation of EMCDDA experts in CICAD work groups: prisons (Guatemala), evaluation (Washington), observatories (Buenos Aires);
• Participation of CICAD experts in EMCDDA work groups: TDI (Lisbon), observatories (Caracas), costs and mortality (Lisbon);
• Reciprocal visits in Lisbon and Washington.

NEXT STEPS FOR COLLABORATION

• Increase activities with CICAD jointly with the UNODC;
• Collaboration, with a view toward the implementation of the MEM in 2007, on the methodological development of basic indicators:
  - Indicator on mortality:
  - Indicator on morbidity:
Thank you for your attention