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DUBLIN GROUP REPORT FOR EASTERN EUROPE**

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The following report, submitted by Germany as regional Chair for Eastern Europe, covers the work of the Mini Dublin Groups in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan as reported by the German Embassies in those countries. The report on Moldova is based on a US Embassy report on the drug situation in that country, since there is no mini Dublin Group in Chisinau for lack of participants.

Summary

In the countries belonging to the Regional Dublin Group "Eastern Europe", there is only little opiate production. Even ATS are produced only on a minor scale. Eastern Europe is, however, seriously affected by a dramatic increase in trafficking of heroin and opium originating mostly from Afghanistan.

The numbers of heroin and opium addicts are also continuously increasing. Among the groups most affected are minors. With a high proportion of injecting drug users, infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis have spread rapidly.

Efforts to combat drug problems have been stepped up, but are still insufficient. Even in countries where governments show a strong political will to fight drugs, insufficient financial and human resources and lack of coordination between numerous, sometimes competing authorities are so far preventing sustainable success. Other problem areas are i.a. porous borders, corruption among customs and border authorities, lack of technical equipment and non existing or insufficient information exchange within the countries themselves and between the countries in the region.

Generally, anti-drug policies in Eastern Europe emphasise law enforcement and repression, while policies of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are still underdeveloped. There are severe deficits in handling HIV/AIDS infections.

There are already numerous multilateral and bilateral cooperation initiatives covering the whole range of the drug problem. Some of these initiatives are aiming at reinforcing regional cooperation which is a crucial aspect of combating drugs in Eastern Europe. The continuation and stepping up of these cooperation efforts together with the implementation of new projects in areas neglected so far (e.g. HIV/AIDS, prevention) is necessary to counter the formidable challenge posed by the drug situation in Eastern Europe today.

I. Country report 2002 on drugs in Russia¹

1. General Situation in the Russian Federation

Background and development of the drug situation over the last decade

Since the early 1990s, rapidly rising drug abuse and the growing incidence of *HIV* infection among injecting drug users have become enormous problems in the Russian Federation. During the same period, drug trafficking has significantly spread throughout most areas of the country, and Russia has also become a major trafficking route for heroin and other drugs from Afghanistan and Central Asia into Central and Western Europe.

The changes in the illegal drug scene in the 1990s since the dissolution of the Soviet Union have been dramatic. By the end of the decade the number of registered drug abusers had increased by 400% with an ever-increasing number of the abusers being considered addicts. Rising abuse has occurred in virtually all areas of the country and some experts both within and outside the Government estimate that the number of drug users may be as high as 2.5 to 3 million.

This rapid expansion of drug abuse has been characterized by:

a steady increase in the use of heroin and other dangerous drugs;

- an increasing popularity of intravenous drug use among abusers and a frighteningly rapid spread of *HIV* infection among injecting drug users in many areas;
- a sharp decline in the average age of all drug abusers, as well as those injecting drugs and becoming infected with *HIV*, with drug abuse being a problem largely affecting young people and even children.

¹ Annexes to this report distributed separately:

- A. List of projects of the UNODC regional office in Russia
- B. List of TACIS projects in Russia from the EU representation in Moscow
- C. List of US policy initiatives and programmes and focussed projects
- D. Projects/Initiatives run by The United Kingdom and France

Rapidly growing drug abuse and the country's geographical location have significantly contributed to a sharp growth in trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Half of the illicit drugs seized in the country have a foreign origin. There has also been a very significant increase in drug-related criminal activities. Within the last decade, the number of drug-related crimes increased fourteen fold.

Russian organized crime plays a significant role and exercises considerable power over the economic and political development of the country. It has significant financial power and legal properties, informational networks and well-developed structures for strategic planning and actions. The groups are evolving increasingly into networks of associations, imitating state structures such as professional security and intelligence. The most dangerous trend, however, is the active participation of criminal groups not only in the legal economy, but also in administrative and political structures, stimulating corruption and money laundering.

Actual development and trends in 2002

Most of the long lasting trends of the drug situation in Russia continued and were reinforced in 2002. Large quantities of heroin and opium, as well as cannabis and cannabis resin, were smuggled into Russia, mainly from Central Asia and Southwest Asia, for illicit use within the country or trans-shipment abroad. Abuse of drugs continues with heroin becoming the drug of choice among addicts, in part because of its growing availability.

However, recent statistical data show that the Government's anti-drug efforts have started bringing some positive results. Although juveniles and young adults continue to represent a growing share of the total number of drug abusers, the number of newly registered teenage drug users was reduced by 14 % in 2002 in comparison with the previous year. The number of drug related crimes registered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs has stabilized and even decreased by 1 %, with the share of teenagers among those arrested for drug-related crimes having been reduced from 9% to 4%.

2. Assessment of the anti-narcotics strategy

In 2002 the Putin Administration declared international terrorism, organized crime and the forces that are "poisoning nations with drugs" to be the real threats to Russia's national security today.

Until 2000 drug trafficking by Russians or through Russia was not given a high priority by Russian policy makers or law enforcement. Russia had little drug abuse and halting the transit of narcotics through the country was deemed a lower priority than other seemingly more critical criminal activities. Russian authorities have recognized in the last few years that the impact of drug trafficking on Russia is now a serious national security threat to the country. The Putin Administration declared counter terrorism to be the international community's most important priority, and the foreign minister said in December 2002 that Russia still had enemies, "including international terrorism, organized crime, and the forces that are trying to violate the nonproliferation regime and are poisoning nations with drugs." The administration has declared disrupting the cash flow from narcotics to terrorists to be essential in winning the international war on terrorism. In 2002 the Putin Administration sponsored anti-terrorist financing legislation and implemented money laundering legislation to facilitate this.

The Putin Administration has demonstrated that it places a high priority on law enforcement (raising salaries of all Russian police 20% in 2001 and again in 2002 with promises of doubling in near future) and on control of narcotics. This became an even more important priority in the wake of September 11 given the increased importance of depriving the Afghan terrorists of their drug profits. Russian authorities have stepped up their levels of international anti-drug cooperation in interdiction and enforcement. Recent years have seen a marked increase in the willingness of Russian authorities on all levels to cooperate with international counter narcotics efforts.

Strategy

The Putin administration continued to further implement its first national counter-narcotics strategy, and reaffirmed its interest in developing a multi-faceted approach that would include demand reduction and prevention as well as prosecution and interdiction.

Within its limitations Russian drug control units continue to strengthen and deepen their interagency cooperation and to reach out to other nations for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Their recently formed multi-agency counter-narcotics task force continues to develop and improve their cooperation. Seizures of heroin in the first nine months of 2002 were substantial, with 585.5 kilograms seized in 41,161 cases. This represents a slight decrease compared to the same period in 2001, although the statistics indicated that seizures this year consisted of larger amounts of heroin than in previous years.

2.1 Institutional framework, including legislative changes

In July 2002 the new Code of Criminal Procedure came into effect in Russia, bringing Russia into line with international standards of criminal justice and facilitating its integration into Western legal institutions. It facilitates international co-operation by making the Russian criminal justice system compatible with international law enforcement standards. It also facilitates the application of the current law on operational search activity.

Russia passed money laundering legislation which met international standards in 2001, but did not implement the legislation sufficiently to satisfy the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and remained on the list of non-cooperating territories and jurisdictions. In 2002 Russia subsequently established the "Financial Monitoring Committee (FMC)" as Financial Intelligence Unit. By June the FMC had trained bankers and successfully implemented a regime of collecting suspicious transaction reports. By October 2002 the FATF removed Russia from the list of non-cooperating territories and jurisdictions.

2.2 Production related issues

Synthetic drugs

Production of amphetamines and synthetic drugs for domestic consumption is minor but on the rise. With the ready availability of precursors and sophisticated chemists, Russia may be poised to become a major producer of synthetic drugs to Europe and overseas. Legally produced and then diverted, many licit drugs are proliferated in small amounts, with Amphetamine Type Stimulants the most common type of diversion.

Cannabis and opium poppy

Russia is a small producer of cannabis and opium poppy for domestic consumption. This year more poppies were discovered than in previous years. Typically the opium fields are small backyard plots or are located in the countryside, ranging in size from one to two hectares. concealed by other crops.

In Siberia, in the Central Asian border region, and in the Omsk-Novosibirsk-Tomsk region along the border with Kazakhstan, opium poppies are widely cultivated. According to Russian authorities, this year more wild poppy was cultivated on larger areas of land, and wild harvests of these plants expanded throughout Russia. In the first nine months of 2002, Russian authorities eradicated 4,721,470 square meters of wild poppy and 157,018 square meters of cultivated poppy. The amount of wild poppy plants eradicated in 2002 represents a significant increase from previous year amounts. While the area of cultivated poppy plants destroyed in 2002 rose from 112,071 square meters in 2001, the number of cultivated poppy plants eradicated fell from 449,404 plants in 2001 to 177,791 plants in 2002.

Wild cannabis is estimated to cover some 1.5 million hectares in the eastern part of the country. In September 2002, the Russian Ministry of Interior (MVD) reported eradication of 208,582 square kilometers of cultivated cannabis, and 63,896,585 square kilometers of wild cannabis. The numbers of wild and cultivated cannabis plants destroyed in 2002 represents significant decreases from 2001 figures. Hemp, often cultivated for commercial use, was found growing "in abundance" around the Moscow region. The MVD reported that throughout 2002, new zones for storing raw poppy and cannabis for drug production continued to be identified.

Multilateral initiatives

In 2002, the UNODC assistance administered by the Regional Office for Russia and Belarus (RORB) was intended to address both supply and demand reduction fields, as well as the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS among drug users throughout much of the region. With regard to supply reduction, the RORB started implementation of a technical assistance project with the improvement of professional skills of drug enforcement officers of the CIS countries as its main objective. The Regional Office has also discussed with the Russian authorities a number of project ideas, including those aimed at further improvement of the interagency law enforcement co-operation and the development of the MIA Telecommunication Automated Information System in the North-West Federal District (pipeline project F69), and strengthening drug interdiction efforts along the country's borders with Kazakhstan (pipeline project F59).

2.3 Demand related issues

The Russian Ministry of Interior (MVD) reported that there were approximately three million drug addicts in Russia, an increase in official estimates of 50% since 2000. Russian authorities consider heroin trafficking and abuse a significant threat to national security and public health.

Health issues

The crisis coinciding with the widespread availability of cheap heroin contributed to a rapid increase in serious heroin abuse and addiction, and a concomitant steep increase in HIV and AIDS infections, 80% of which are related to intravenous drug use in Russia.

The most alarming aspect of drug abuse in 2002 was thus an extremely rapid rise in the incidence of HIV among intravenous drug users, resulting from the frequent exchange of contaminated syringes and other injection equipment. As of 31 of December 2002, over 220,700 people were registered as HIV infected, with more than 42,000 cases registered in 2002 alone. Although the growth rate of infections has slowed during the past year (42,000 new cases in 2002 against 87,000 in 2001), Russia still faces significant problems, with experts estimating the annual anti-HIV/AIDS budget of US\$ 6 million to be grossly insufficient for the country's needs. HIV suppressing therapies exceed the financial capability of most Russian clinics and victims remain for the most part untreated, representing a grave concern for Russian health authorities. AIDS wards in hospitals are often merely isolation wards instead of dedicated treatment centers. The Government of Russia is in the process of opening AIDS awareness centers region by region. Certain areas in Russia are said to have the fastest growing rate of HIV infection in the world.

LSD and methamphetamine abuse is on the rise across Russia, especially among teenagers. The increase in the manufacture and sale of so called „designer drugs" such as MDMA („ecstasy") is an area of special and growing concern to Russian and international law enforcement.

Related Crime

The average Russian heroin user cannot support a heroin habit without resorting to some form of criminal activity. The Russian Ministry of the Interior, however, reports a decrease in drug-related crimes of 22% during the first nine months of 2002. This statistic reflects registered crimes only. The lower figures may be a result of the implementation of the new Code of Criminal procedure in Russia, which raises the threshold for evidence required to effect an arrest or open a criminal case. The Russian Ministry of the Interior reports that their experience pointing to an actual increase in drug related crimes themselves. In particular, drug offenses committed by members of the military have escalated dramatically, especially in the north Caucasus.

Strategies

Russian authorities resist needle exchange programs for fear of appearing to encourage heroin abuse. Russian counter-narcotics efforts tend to rely heavily on law enforcement. However, there are some signs of an increased willingness to initiate co-operation and accept assistance in the areas of demand reduction and treatment as well.

In 2001 Russian authorities continued to explore possible co-operation and assistance in the area of drug abuse prevention and treatment. Russian authorities have expressed interest in developing a comprehensive counter narcotics strategy which would combine education, health and law enforcement. Russian law enforcement authorities also have come to support the idea that demand reduction should complement law enforcement efforts to reduce supply.

Multilateral initiatives

In the demand reduction sector the Regional Office of UNODC continued implementing a three-year global project GLO/E96 to mobilize communities on primary prevention of substance abuse among the youth. Furthermore, with the rising spread of HIV/AIDS infection among injecting drug users remaining a high priority issue, the RORB has continued its activities targeting this derivative aspect of the principal problem of drug use.

Considering the alarming development of HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Russian Federation and other CIS countries, the Regional Office has taken steps to work out new and advance existing initiatives on assisting the government with expansion of services provided to the intravenous drug users including, but not limited to, HIV/AIDS prevention measures.

Moreover, in 2002 the Regional Office of the UNODC assumed the task of extending the network of partnering organizations and initiated several projects related to health, demand reduction, training and prevention issues.

2.4 Trafficking issues, including money laundering and chemical precursors.

Heroin

Heroin originating in Afghanistan continues to be the primary drug problem facing Russia. According to estimates by the Drug Control Department, more than 95% of all Russian heroin seizures in 2002 occurred on the southern Russian border. Although approximately half the heroin seized was destined for onward transit, Russia is now also a consumer country and faces a serious drug abuse problem.

Individual criminals of Russian origin use Russia for trans-shipment to Europe and elsewhere. Russia is a significant producer/diverter of precursor chemicals for export for the production of Afghan and Turkish heroin.

The largest seizure of heroin took place in October 2002 in the Siberian city of Omsk. A law enforcement operation resulted in the seizure of 61 kilograms of Afghan heroin, which was the largest heroin seizure in Russia to date this year. Another major Afghan heroin seizure of 47 kilograms occurred in July 2002 at another Omsk drug warehouse. Both shipments of heroin entered Russia via rail from Tajikistan concealed in fruit juice shipments.

Cocaine

While the Russian economy is currently on an upswing, Russia remains a depressed market for cocaine. Demand for cocaine never equaled that for heroin, which is much cheaper and more easily imported into Russia. European and American markets for cocaine are far more profitable than Russian markets and cocaine seized in Russia is typically in transit to Europe. There were no large seizures of cocaine in 2002.

Border control issues

The port city of Astrakhan and the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk are major transit points for Turkish and Afghan heroin into Russia. Vast amounts of daily sea traffic, consisting of passengers, autos on ferries and bulk goods in trucks are used to conceal heroin on its way into Russia. All routes mentioned above are also used in reverse to smuggle multi-ton quantities of the precursor chemical acetic anhydride to the clandestine laboratories which produce Afghan and Turkish heroin. The same routes are used in reverse for the export of Russian- manufactured precursor chemicals used in the production of Afghan heroin. The lack of border controls with China and Mongolia facilitates smuggling, including drug trafficking, through that region. In the east the Chinese continue to import the precursor ephedrine for the domestic production of methamphetamine in kitchen labs in quantities for personal use, although larger and more sophisticated labs were seized in 2002. Cocaine traffickers also route Colombian cocaine for trans-shipment to Europe and elsewhere through Russian seaports and airports. Cocaine in kilo quantities enter Russia via Poland and the Baltic's via courier and cargo shipments.

Given the porous nature its Southern border (which was an internal border only a decade ago) and the limited technical and financial support for law enforcement, it is still difficult for Russia to handle the inundation of the country with Afghan heroin. Even if half of this product finds its way into European or other markets, the proximity of the source and the large quantities available keep prices low (10 US\$ on average per gram in 2000, 35 US\$ in 2001, post-September 11, and 15 US\$ today).

Some of the major seizures of Afghan heroin and opium have taken place not in Russia, but on the Afghan-Tajik border where the Russian Federal Border Service provides assistance in cooperation with Tajik forces. Some of the largest Russian Border Guard seizures in 2002 took place from June-July during a DEA-coordinated regional cross- border interdiction effort targeting Afghan heroin transportation organizations. These troops provide a first line of defense against the scourge of Afghan opiate trafficking to Central Asia and Europe, and to a lesser extent to overseas, via the Silk Road route.

Groups involved in organizing the drug trafficking

Domestic distribution of drugs is handled by the traditional Russian criminal organizations that have long conducted other criminal operations in the various regions of Russia. Trafficking into the country is often handled by members of various ethnic groups who tend to specialize in certain cases in trafficking in drugs in specific areas. Heroin is mainly imported by Afghans, Tajiks and other Central Asians across the southern border with Kazakhstan into European Russia and western Siberia. Vietnamese and Chinese traffic heroin, opium and ephedrine into eastern Siberia, whose inhabitants also manufacture small amounts of methamphetamines in kitchen labs for personal use. Ukrainians traffic in cannabis, while Nigerians and some other Africans traffic mostly in heroin. Azeris, Chechens, and Tajiks dominate the heroin trafficking in Northwest Russia at the street level. Russian law enforcement reports that larger and more powerful Organized Crime groups in the country allow these groups to operate unmolested in exchange for a share of the drug profits.

Strategies

The Government of Russia has specifically requested increased cooperation with the U.S. in its efforts to combat trafficking on its southern border and has requested counter narcotics consultations in the context of the Counter Terrorism Working Group. In September 2002 the Government of Russia signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the US-Government containing a project designed to strengthen the Government of Russia's law enforcement capabilities to fight narcotics trafficking and increase border security on its southern border. They have requested increased co-operation in the context of this project for 2003, including a Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force on the southern border.

In 2002 Russia began to implement its new programme to combat narcotics and disrupt their delivery system. The program has 20 goals - including reinforcement of the southern Russian borders; funding and development of targeted governmental programmes in the field, including the programme for the years 2002-2004; support of anti-drug centers throughout the country; measures to cut off cash flows to drug dealers, and public education in the area of demand reduction. In 2002 President Putin also mandated the creation of a federal agency to co-ordinate all Russian domestic and international law enforcement counter narcotics efforts. The original plan was to attach the agency to the Ministry of the Interior. Nowadays, it seems that it is supposed to become an independent federal organisation, comprising 7000 agents, which will be fully functional by 2005.

This move should simultaneously expand and co-ordinate Russia's current counter narcotics intelligence and interdiction capabilities. The head of this agency will be a deputy MVD minister, raising the profile and the effectiveness of counter narcotics activities within the Government of Russia.

Effective work has started by the Russian Committee on Financial Monitoring (CFM) set up in February 2002 in accordance with the Comprehensive Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as the Russian Financial Intelligence Unit. The CFM responsibilities include, but are not limited to, co-ordination of the money laundering efforts of the Government agencies and private financial institutions. In co-operation with UNODC a project was designed on assistance in creating the Russian National Automated Information and Analysis System that would allow the authorities to effectively detect suspicious financial transactions and actively participate in the international anti-money laundering cooperation.

Co-operation with donors, bilateral agencies and other multilateral organisations

The RORB maintained close contact with most of the major donor embassies in Moscow, including those of USA, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland and the European Union, as well as local offices of the foreign cooperation agencies such as US-AID, CIDA (Canada), and DFID (UK). Inter alia projects in the following fields were initiated or planned:

assisting Russia in combating money laundering (in co-operation with the Council of Europe, Strasbourg);

technical assistance project on strengthening border control between Afghanistan and Tajikistan (in co-operation with the Government of Japan);

several local projects, aimed at drug demand reduction among HIV/AIDS positive intravenous drug and humanitarian assistance (one in Chelyabinsk region).

3. Needs for external assistance as identified by authorities

Limited resources still handicap Russian law enforcement to a certain extent in their response to narcotics. The Putin administration has made serious efforts to strengthen law enforcement in the last two years, nearly doubling salaries for law enforcement over a four years period, and increasing salaries of judges four-fold.

Russian law enforcement authorities and the UN estimate that the flow of Afghan heroin alone has increased four-fold in the last three years, while overall Russian law enforcement budgets have remained static, equipment deteriorates and veteran officers are lost to attrition. Although new agents are being hired for counter narcotics units, almost no new funding is available for equipment replacement or procurement of new technology. Inadequate budgets, low salaries and a lack of technical resources and support hamper performance, sap morale and encourage corruption. Funds for training are also rather limited.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations with respect to political initiatives

The countries represented in the Mini-Dublin-Group support authorities and institutions in various ways as described above. This includes governmental and non-governmental organisations and close co-operation with UNODC in Moscow. It is recommended to follow up carefully existing programmes and measures rather than to initiate a broad number of new procedures. The recent changes in Russian governmental organisations reflect the priority which is clearly given to the measures against drug abusing and drug trafficking. The further development of the respective national programme should be supported by the participating states.

4.2 Recommendations with respect to donor and operative co-operation

The existing programmes reflect quite adequately the alarming fact that the HIV figures and the accompanying health and information problems are addressed by the respective donors and partners of the Russian authorities represented in the Mini-Dublin-Group Moscow. Also the acceptance of preventive and educational programmes in various areas are aiming at the current main problem identified in the various statements from the participating States and the Russian authorities themselves. This is clearly a new promising development in comparison to the traditionally purely law enforcement oriented approach. The existing ongoing and pipeline projects of the various organisations and donor do reflect in some fare the current needs of the Russia.

Further room for improvement is to be seen in enhancing the co-operation with the border forces placed at the Afghan-Tajik border in order to contain – in co-operation with the Russian law enforcement authorities – the influx of heroin passing via this channel or at least improve the information flow on seizures and other law enforcement measures at the respective border.

Another priority field is reflected in projects developed by the EU-ECD in Moscow and aims to improve the control of illicit or suspicious money flows in order to address the activities of the organised crime dealing with drug trafficking at its most sensitive point: the profit made by their illegal activities. These efforts should be continued and further developed.

There is an excellent case related co-operation between the embassies of the Mini-Dublin-Group in Moscow. The liaison officers of the respective law enforcement agencies – such as police, customs and border agencies – meet regularly in order to exchange personal data, co-ordinate measures and compare situation reports. There is no need to further formalise this kind of co-operation, which is based on a large information fund due to the large community of liaison officers located in Moscow.

II. Country report 2002 on drugs in Ukraine¹

1. General Situation

In 2002, the Ukrainian law enforcement authorities, under the supervision of the Department for the Fight against Drug-related Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, seized approximately 29 mt of narcotics, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors (mainly poppy straw with a rather low concentration of usable drug components, but also, in smaller proportions, pure opium, marihuana, heroine, LSD and cocaine). Many of the drug seizures in Ukraine show evidence that those drugs, originating mainly in the countries of Central and South-Western Asia, are bound for Western Europe via Ukraine as a major transit route.

Because of the poor quality of poppy and the small size and quantity of production sites, Ukraine is neither a noteworthy producer nor an exporter of locally produced narcotics. Ukrainian authorities are convinced that local production has been almost exclusively for local consumption.

The number of drug related crimes has risen by 21.4% to 58.100 cases in 2002 in comparison with the previous year. A third of these crimes were considered serious and very serious offences. The majority of the crimes was committed in Ukraine's Eastern oblasts of Lugansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia (due to their vicinity to the rather porous border with Russia), as well as in Odessa (main seaport) and Kiev oblasts and the Crimean peninsula (Yevpatoria seaport).

Statistically, one in every seven crimes in Ukraine is drug-related. 42 offences connected to the laundering of drug-related money have been registered. In 2002, 42.000 persons and 3140 rings of drug dealers have been arrested in connection with drug-related crimes.

Ukrainian anti-drug policies tend to over-emphasise law enforcement. Prevention policies exist, but suffer from a serious lack of funding, insufficient capabilities of the authorities and lack of interaction among them.

2. Assessment of the anti-narcotics strategy

2.1. Institutional Framework

Ukraine has ratified the United Nations Anti-Drug Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988. Ukraine's legislation is considered being in line with its international obligations and with international standards.

¹ Main Source: Department for the Fight against Drug-related Criminality of the Interior Ministry

2.2. Production-related issues

The number of laboratories for the production of synthetic drugs has risen recently. In 2002, 142 (+29.1% compared to 2001) hidden drug laboratories were uncovered and destroyed. In a majority of those the psychotropic drug Pervitine was produced. Over recent years, customs officials have noted a rise in psychotropic drugs smuggling (mainly sodium oxybutyrate, clonidine and ephedrine) to Ukraine's neighbouring countries (esp. Russia and Poland).

There is some illegal cultivation of poppy and hemp.

2.3. Demand-related issues

The number of drug-addicts in Ukraine continues to rise rather dramatically. As of April 2003, 112.600 drug users were registered by the Interior Ministry. This is roughly 5.000 or 4.5% up from 2001. The real numbers are, according to independent experts, probably four or five times higher than the official ones. Especially worrying is the situation in the Eastern oblasts of Lugansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, as well as in Odessa and Kiev oblasts and the Crimean peninsula.

The dramatic rise of drug abuse by minors continues to be very worrisome. According to official statistics released by the Interior Ministry, 68% of all registered drug users are under the age of 30 (4000 of which are minors), 20% are women, and 78% unemployed. As elsewhere, there is a close connection between drug abuse and infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. Roughly 1% of the population is HIV-infected. Health authorities do not have the capabilities to react effectively to this situation. There were about 2.000 drug-related deaths (because of overdose or of drug related diseases) in 2002.

2.4. Trafficking issues

Ukraine continues to be an important transit country for international drug trafficking. There is evidence that drug traffickers use Ukraine as the main transit country for drugs on their way to Western Europe originating mainly from Central Asia and Latin America. It seems that drugs enter Ukraine predominantly through its seaports (at the Black Sea, especially Odessa) and via its eastern border with Russia (3.000 km), a border that, due to historical and political reasons, is not very well protected against drug trafficking.

3. External Assistance-related issues

Many countries, such as the United States, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and Hungary have established working contacts with the Ukrainian law enforcement authorities.

However, there is a lack of co-ordination as regards international cooperation with Ukraine.

Ukraine is eager to receive financial and logistical support from the European Union and other donors for its projects, e.g. for a nation-wide data bank for drug-related crime,. Under the auspices of the Cabinet of Ministers, a steering council co-ordinates the Ukrainian activities in this field.

In 2002, the competent Ukrainian law enforcement authorities continued their efforts to combat drug-related crime, smuggling and trafficking. However, compared to Western standards, Ukrainian authorities still suffer from a drastic shortage of funds and from lack modern technical equipment. The interaction and information-sharing between different authorities involved in combating drug-trafficking and transborder crime (e.g. Interior Ministry, State Border Police, Security Service, Customs Police) appear to be still far from optimized.

Furthermore, many officers of the law enforcement agencies need to improve professional and tactical skills in order to be more successful.

There are many international governmental and non-governmental donors in Ukraine (UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, etc.). Co-ordination of their efforts is, as in other countries, rather difficult, as donors tend to have their own strategies and focus, which are often different from the national drug-combating strategy and thus difficult to be integrated into it.

4. Mini-Dublin Group recommendations

Essential for a co-ordinated effort in combating trafficking issues is the existence of information-sharing mechanisms and other channels of interaction between the relevant Ukrainian authorities, including those involved in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases. For this, not only sufficient financial, but also physical (trained personnel) and logistical (computers, shared database) support is lacking on the Ukrainian side.

As a major transit route of drug-trafficking to Western Europe, Ukraine has to ensure sufficient control of its borders by seeking further co-operation and co-ordination with its neighbours, including the enlarged EU. This applies to its Black Sea ports in particular, as well as to the borders with Russia and Belarus, along which drug abuse and drug-related crimes are especially high.

The EU and its member states should try to exert their influence to have better co-ordination with Ukraine as regards anti-drug programs with a view to create a coherent platform for countermeasures and to make sure that the funds made available are used as efficiently as possible. The recently initiated EU-anti-drug (“BUMAD”)-program for Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova, amounting to 2.000.000 € for a 24-month period, aims at improving Ukrainian anti-drug efforts in this respect. It should be used to actively and regularly inform EU-member countries of its actions and achievements and to provide a forum for drug-combating efforts from the donor community (including NGO activities).

At the same time, the Ukrainian side with Parliament and the Presidential Administration will have to undertake more political efforts to tackle the critical situation and the obvious connection between drug-abuse and HIV/AIDS. By promoting active discussion within society on the national, as well as the regional and local level, the authorities should be able to formulate, possibly with the help of the international donor community and foreign experts, a comprehensive national anti-narcotics strategy, but also to help raise the level of awareness among the population and provide additional funding for (regional/local) institutions of rehabilitation and counselling.

III. Country report 2002 on drugs in Belarus¹

1. General situation in the country

1.1 Belarus today – a short overview

The transition process which Belarus, a country of some 10 million inhabitants, experienced after the collapse of the Soviet Union led to a rise in social problems of all kinds, including drug addiction, trafficking and prostitution. Even so, reported crime seems to be much lower than in most neighbouring countries (i.e. Ukraine, Russia, possibly Poland, Lithuania and Latvia) because of the strong emphasis the Lukashenko regime puts on repression and control over the population. There is, however, a high degree of corruption which serves as a major source of revenue for virtually all government employees.

Politically, the country has been more and more marginalized, ever since the election of Alexander Lukashenko to the Presidency in 1994. Lack of democratic freedoms and continued human rights violations have strained political relations with the West (EU, US). There are also tensions in the relations between Belarus and Russia, with which a Union State had been declared in 1999. While it is unclear what the political fate of this Union will be, the border between the two countries remains unguarded.

Assessing the political will of the government of Belarus to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drug policy is rather difficult. Despite Pres. Lukashenko's anti-corruption rhetorics and probably genuine and sincere commitment by many officials at the working level, there have been persistent rumours linking parts of the regime to wide-scale trafficking in alcohol, cigarettes and also narcotics. Notwithstanding some understanding of a balanced and multidisciplinary approach in various ministries and law-enforcement agencies, the focus of the authorities is still almost exclusively on repression. Moreover, there seem to be serious shortcomings in the coordination between various government agencies, which often act as competitors. Border guards, Ministry of Interior and Health ministry officials appear as reliable partners at the working level. The KGB obviously remains loyal only to the country's leadership. Customs officials, at whatever level, have a reputation of being heavily corrupt.

¹ participation of France, United Kingdom, Italy, USA, Japan, Germany, EU-Delegation/TACIS, UNDP

1.2 General Drug Situation in Belarus

Belarus is party to the three international UN conventions in the field of drug control (1961, 1971, 1988) and has ratified the UN convention against Organized Crime in April 2003.

On the interstate and intergovernmental level Belarus has signed agreements related to the fight against illegal drug trafficking within the framework of the CIS, with the UK, Turkey and the Russian Federation. On the interministerial level agreements have been signed within the framework of the CIS and with the Ministries of Interior of Italy, Turkey and Tajikistan.

In 2002, the *Ministry of Interior* (MoI) seized 1 923 kg (in 2001: 1 498 kg) of drugs and precursor substances, the *Border Troops* 70 kg (69 kg), the *Customs Committee* 48 kg (47 kg) and the *Committee for State Security/KGB* 34 kg (15 kg).

Seizures in 2002 were: 1 412 kg *poppy straw* (in 2001: 1 106 kg), 305 kg *opium extract* (275 kg), 89 kg *marijuana* (103 kg), over 9 kg *ATS* (13 kg), 6 kg *heroin* (3 kg).

According to the Belarusian government, the consumption of "hard" drugs (heroin, ATS) is increasing in relation to "soft" drugs. The market prices for drugs in Belarus have been mostly stable over the last three years (poppy straw: 1 glass - 10 US\$; heroin: 40-60 US\$ per gram; wholesale price: 30 US\$ per gram; marijuana: 1-3 US\$ per gram; cocaine: 70-150 US\$ per gram; ecstasy: 3 US\$ per tablet). Nevertheless, there seems to be a tendency of decreasing prices, which is seen by some state agencies as evidence for a developing market.

In 2002, 66 (2001: 62) drug related deaths were reported. According to the Ministry of Health Care, 8 249 drug consumers were registered as of December 31, 2002. The actual population of drug addicts exceeds this figure significantly (according to the Helsinki Committee, by some 10-15 times). The increasing number of drug users is directly linked to the increasing number of HIV-infections (81,3 percent of those appear among persons who inject drugs).

The MoI reported 5 303 drug related cases of investigation in 2002, 1 000 cases more than in 2001. 2 795 suspects were identified, among them 145 foreign nationals. According to the MoI there were no laboratories detected in Belarus in 2002. Governmental agencies destroyed 29 412 square metres of poppy straw and 10 406 square metres of marijuana. The MoI recognized a steady increase of drug related cases every year. In the first three months of 2003 the number of registered drug related offences rose by four percent to 1 541. About 4 kg of heroin were seized.

There were no essential changes in drug trafficking routes over the last two to three years. Belarus' geographical location between Western Europe and Russia, the elimination of the internal borders between Russia and Belarus as consequence of the customs union with Russia and the customs union in the framework of the Eurasian Economic Community (since 2000) make it an attractive trans-shipment point of drugs coming from Afghanistan and Central Asia to Europe (heroin, opium) and from Western countries to markets in Eastern Europe, including Belarus (ATS, ecstasy).

1.3 The prospects for the future

The figures mentioned above show a clear tendency towards an increase in seizures and consumption. Furthermore, it is to be expected that in case of a change towards a democratic, less repressive regime this trend will even be reinforced.

The European Union, which will become a neighbour to Belarus in a year's time as a result of its enlargement, obviously has a primary interest in keeping the situation under control and enhancing the anti-drug fight on its eastern border. The security of the Polish-Belarusian border will have a noticeable impact on security of the EU as a whole. The same applies to the open border between Russia and Belarus and the transit route from Russia proper to the Kaliningrad region, leading through Belarus. Other states (USA, Japan) and international agencies (notably UNDCP) also clearly have an interest in addressing what has become a global issue.

2. Short issue-oriented assessment of the country's anti-narcotics strategy

2.1 Institutional framework

According to the 2002 "Law on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors" drug control is carried out by the following government agencies:

- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Health Care
- State Customs Committee
- State Committee of the Border Troops
- Committee of State Security (KGB)

Furthermore, other administrative organs including the local executive bodies cooperate in the framework of the national anti-drugs-strategy. The coordinating body is the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, which also monitors the implementation of the anti-drug legislation.

The Council of Ministers has approved a State Program for the years 2001-2005 comprising organizational, legal, preventive, medical and rehabilitation measures, as well as measures of suppression of illegal drugs trafficking. The implementation of this program is to be controlled by the Ministry of Interior (MoI). Since 1996 there is a special anti-drug department within the criminal investigation police (Department of Morals and Illegal Drug Trafficking).

The 2002 drug law stipulates the main principles of the state's anti-drug policies:

State control over narcotic substances named in one of three official lists;

Licensing of certain duties linked to the legal circulation of drugs;

Priority of preventive measures against drug addiction and crime;

Development of a network of institutions for treatment;

Promotion of international cooperation aimed at the improvement of the relevant legislation.

In order to prevent the diversion of and the trafficking with drugs for medical and pharmaceutical use, the Ministry of Health annually conducts an examination of all relevant institutions.

The Ministry of Health is in the process of publishing the new National list of drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. The new methods will be stricter according to the requirements of the international conventions. In particular, such substances as norephedrine, pseudoephedrine and ephedrine have been included into the list of the psychotropic substances.

According to the "Belarusian Helsinki-Committee" the state policy is too much oriented on state bodies and structures and ignores the experience and potential of NGOs. The significance of the State Programme was discredited by the absence of special funding of the scheduled measures. Additional financing of anti-drug measures was to be included only within the MoI system. After two years of the State Programme in action, no serious results in fighting the spread of drug addiction have been achieved, and many measures have remained only on the paper.

2.2 Production related issues

There is no significant production of illegal drugs in Belarus.

According to the UNDP National Human Development report, poppies and hemp are being grown in private gardens, especially in Chernobyl-affected areas. The authorities' ability to detect laboratories is limited. Belarus has major chemical production facilities and has all the laboratory and technical capabilities necessary for the production of synthetic drugs. Usually these drugs still originate in Western countries and are shipped to Belarus from Poland and Lithuania.

Regulations to avoid abuse of precursor substances became part of the new narcotics law, in force since May 2002. The government and the responsible law enforcement agencies make efforts to detect and destroy the local production of poppy straw and marijuana. As far as production of drugs is concerned, Belarus seems to conduct a more or less effective policy of suppression. In May 2002, as a results of parliamentary hearings devoted to public health care, parliament adopted recommendations directed against illegal production and dissemination of drugs. NGOs criticise that state officials had only a superficial view on the problem. They were still reluctant to engage specialized NGOs that had much deeper systematic analysis at their disposal.

2.3 Demand related issues

Government policy is focused on suppression of illegal drug trafficking to the neglect of prevention of drug abuse. The legislation contains a possibility of special sanctions and compulsory measures, restricting the rights of drug addicts. Addicts seem to be reluctant to register with the government programmes as they fear the ensuing consequences at their work place, at school or elsewhere. While drug addicts are very widely considered as criminals, officially drug addiction is recognized as an illness. Treatment for drug addicts is generally performed in psychiatric hospitals, either through arrest or self-enrolment. The emphasis of all programmes is exclusively on detoxification and physical stabilization. There is a lack of knowledge and funding to further assist addicts through psychological counselling and rehabilitation. There are no full-fledged rehabilitation centres or long-term rehabilitation programmes in the country.

Belarus is still lacking an efficient system of anti-drug education. An extremely acute problem is anti-drug preventive work among the minors.

When organizing programmes in support of drug addicts and prevention the Belarusian state appears to be to a high extent dependent on financial assistance from abroad (e.g. methadone-programme). A number of public organizations which have evolved lately deal with the drug problem. One of their activities is to establish more points of syringe exchange. NGOs who work in anti-drug programmes are confronted with numerous organisational, financial and legal problems.

Cooperation with UNODC and NGOs

The UNODC office Moscow, which was established in 1999, is in charge of the two countries.

The demand reduction issue is taken into account in a project where UNDP Belarus will be jointly participating with UNODC in the nearest future.

UNODC Project AD/RER/03/F77 – “Diversification of HIV prevention and drug treatment” will benefit drug users in Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The project aims at the improvement/development of a needs-based range of HIV prevention and drug treatment services for injecting and other drug users, including a combination of outreach, low-threshold, out-patient and in-patient provision of HIV/AIDS prevention education, access to condoms and clean injecting equipment, counselling, detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation. Emphasis will be placed on the replication of existing successful initiatives in the region as well as on the development of linkages to other services to meet other health and social needs of drug users.

BUMAD (**B**elarus, **U**kraine, **M**oldova **A**nti-**D**rug) Programme planned for 2003 by EU/TACIS will have a tentative budget of about 5 Mio €. The general objective of BUMAD is to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement measures in the region by reinforcing the national capacity as well as regional cooperation.

Following the assessment of the situation, and on the basis of the BUMAD strategy seven projects are proposed:

- 1. To reinforce and harmonize national legislative frameworks* with a view to facilitate the fight against illicit trafficking and drug abuse in their respective country, but also to reinforce operational cooperation among them.
- 2. To strengthen interdiction capacity at the seaport of Sevastopol (Ukraine)*
- 3. To strengthen land border interdiction capacities.*

The objective is to reinforce the Western borders of the three countries (the assessment indicated that the reinforcement of the Eastern border would not be cost-effective). The project, benefiting essentially customs authorities, will contemplate three aspects: search techniques and equipment, risk assessment techniques and cross border cooperation.

- 4. To develop compatible system for intelligence gathering and analysis*

There is a need to reinforce the capacity to collect and analyze drug related data in the three countries of the region. The drug intelligence system should be compatible among the three countries and other existing regional systems.

5. To train police officers as prevention agents

The project will benefit the Police Academies of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. It will develop curricula in drug prevention and launch regional pilot activities among police officers of all three countries.

6. To reinforce information on drug abuse

The BUMAD Programme will provide support for a rapid assessment of the current drug abuse situation and for the establishment of a more permanent monitoring system following the EU standards in this area.

7. Treatment and Prevention of drug abuse

The objective of the project is to create a fund for NGOs managed by UNDP. This fund should support small scale initiatives (prevention and treatment) benefiting directly drug addicts and their families. Due to the number of NGOs already present in this area, the management of the fund by UNDP would permit to secure coordination and avoid overlapping. NGOs' technical capabilities will be identified through the assistance from EU experts and joint work on pilot projects and demand reduction. As a result it is expected that national authorities will accept a broader role of NGOs in demand reduction. UNDP's contribution to the project is up to 200.000 US\$ as well as implementation of both contributions to the project.

2.4. Trafficking issues, including money laundering and chemical precursors

The convenient geographical location, the customs unions with Russia and within the framework of the "Eurasian Economic Community" (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirgistan, Tajikistan) have facilitated the increase in the volume of drugs being smuggled through Belarus to Poland and Germany. The most frequent transit routes are between Russia (Moscow/St.Petersburg) and Western Europe via Poland and, to a lesser extent – between Ukraine and the Baltic's and beyond. Air traffic with some countries within the CIS – notably Moldova – is not controlled at all. The fact that the vast majority of drugs enters Belarus from Russia highlights the problem of the lack of control at the border between the two countries. Prevention of illegal trafficking in drugs at that border is a task predominantly carried out by the police (*militsija*, MoI). The openness of the border in the East tends to undermine the effects of any assistance for the modernization of Belarus' Western borders.

Belarus is in the process of working out a legal basis for an exchange of samples of seized drugs with Russia. There is already some experience with controlled deliveries as regards cooperation with Germany. According to the MoI, a special training programme for the conduct of controlled deliveries is currently being prepared. A similar operation called “Visitor” had been carried out in 2001 together with law enforcement agencies from Russia, Poland, Germany, Denmark and Austria. The operation “Channel”, aimed at the closure of existing channels of drug trafficking, is conducted once every two years in the border zone of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

In January 2003, changes were made in the Criminal Code, by which the penalty for illegal drug trafficking was increased. While drug use itself continues not being penalized, acquisition or storage of drugs without the aim of sale can be punished by up to five years of deprivation of liberty. The majority of crimes, concerned with drugs, are referred to the category of gross or especially gross offences.

The Belarusian Helsinki Committee argues that in practice, illegal channels of drugs dissemination were not always detected and barred. The reason was often fear of drug-dependent persons to give evidence against drug dealers because of low efficiency of witness protection. Furthermore, in some cases *militia* officials allegedly did not act against drug dealers, despite clear evidence of their criminal activities. With the given standard of living and level of salaries, it cannot come as a surprise that officials tend to be susceptible to corruption.

Money laundering does not seem to be a large problem. However, the potential for growth is strong due to the growing number of casinos and organized crime groups. The move to privatization also increases the vulnerability of financial institutions to money laundering and other economic crimes. The law on “Measures to prevent legalisation of values illegally acquired” of 2000 is aimed at preventing money laundering. Financial operations with certain regions are subject to special observation. Paragraph 235 of the new Criminal Code of 2001 stipulates that a person convicted of money laundering can be sentenced to up to 4 years in prison. There are no specialized departments within the state agencies. Since money laundering is usually linked to drug crime the responsibility was put on the department within the MoI dealing with drugs, whose staff does not have any specialized knowledge in this regard.

3. Short prioritized identification of needs for external assistance as put forward by authorities

The law enforcement agencies indicated similar needs. The State Security (KGB) did not react to the group's request.

The **Ministry of Interior** draws attention to the fact that it investigates more than 90 percent of cases related to drug crime. The majority of drugs are shipped to Belarus from Russia and the border between the two countries is protected neither by the border troops nor by the customs. Therefore MoI's *militsia* has to compensate their absence. The MoI indicated the following needs:

- (1) X-ray devices, air detectors to search for narcotics in vehicles. The MoI estimates the minimum costs at about 200 000 US\$.
- (2) There is a shortage of qualified personnel and a lack of experience in respect to the fight against the international drug-related crime, especially concerning the technique of "controlled deliveries" (CD). The funding of joint international seminars and of practical training for the high-ranking, the instructors and the low-ranking staff would be useful. The costs for a seminar for the management level abroad are estimated at 40 000 US\$ (participants: 20, 10 days, without transport), for the low-ranking staff at 25 000 US\$ (participants: 50, 10 days, without transport).
- (3) In order to carry out "controlled deliveries" (CD) special equipment and funding is needed. The costs of one CD amount to 62 000 US\$.
- (4) The system allowing the exchange of information among the agencies involved is of high importance. The existing system in the MoI has shortcomings, and does not allow the link-up with the KGB, customs and border troops. The costs for a modernized system amount to 143 000 US\$.
- (5) There are noticeable shortcomings within the expert units. Special devices like mobile labs allowing for a quick analysis of the origin of seized quantities of drugs are needed.

The **Border Troops Committee** listed the following priorities:

- (1) Shortage of qualified personnel and lack of experience with respect to the fight against the international drug-related crime, especially concerning the technique of “controlled deliveries” (CD). The funding of joint international seminars and of practical training for the high-ranking, the instructors and the low-ranking staff would be useful.
- (2) The border checkpoints were still lacking equipment to detect narcotics such as express-analysers, x-ray devices, air detectors to search for narcotics in vehicles.
- (3) In order to guarantee an effective control of transborder road and railway traffic the border checkpoints need to have more service dogs trained with the relevant drug samples, that are also lacking.

The **Customs Committee** stressed:

- (1) Modern techniques of customs control of goods and vehicles had to be studied.
- (2) The dog handling service had to be developed by studying of foreign experience
- (3) training of personnel (courses and practical training)
- (4) training of dogs and teaching materials
- (5) Equipment for border checkpoints: gas and spectro-analysers, express test-kits for the analysis of solid and liquid objects.

4. Mini-Dublin Group recommendations with respect to

4.1 Political initiatives

Given the current state of self-isolation by Belarus, participants of the Mini-Dublin Group would caution against political initiatives directed at the country’s top political leadership involved in various human rights violations and quite possibly also in various trafficking issues.

At the same time, working-level cooperation with law-enforcement agencies and various ministries involved in the anti-drug fight should be pursued whenever possible, while high level bilateral contacts (ministerial or above) clearly remain proscribed by EU and US.

4.2 Donor community priorities in the light of points 2 and 3 above

With consideration to the relatively limited cost of the needs listed above by the law-enforcement agencies, the Mini-Dublin Group would recommend to the donor community to provide aid in all three directions mentioned: training of personnel and dogs, mobile x-ray devices, mobile labs.

Ideally, the effectiveness of the control at the border could be seriously upgraded by providing permanent x-ray devices that would allow to check lorries. Donors should also consider supporting demand reduction and treatment programmes including those organized by the NGO sector (community policing, promoting a healthy life-style, public education).

IV. Country report 2002 on drugs in Moldova¹

1. General situation in the country

Moldova further realigned its law enforcement organizations this year, increasing specialization of the investigative units that include narcotics investigators. In February 2002, legislation was passed which removed anti-corruption efforts from the Organized Crime Department of the Ministry of Interior (MOI) to a newly created Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption, reporting directly to the President and Prime Minister. This reorganization permitted elements of the Organized Crime Department, of which the Drug Enforcement Unit is a subsection, to re-focus their efforts on crimes related solely to narcotics possession, distribution, and trafficking as well as vice and narcotics-related corruption. The number of law enforcement personnel within the Drug Enforcement Unit dropped slightly as a result of the re-organization, with 96 officers remaining in the field and 21 serving in headquarters/support positions. While the quantity of illicit drugs seized in 2002 is roughly similar to that in 2001, the number of criminal proceedings increased substantially as a result of revisions to the criminal code. Drug usage within Moldova remains a concern, although consistently poor economic conditions make Moldova a relatively unattractive market for narcotics sales. Accurate statistics are difficult to obtain, as only 'registered users' are included in government data. The MOI claims that domestic usage increases by approximately 35% each year. Moldova is not a significant producer of narcotics or precursor chemicals, and the true extent of money laundering is difficult to determine.

Moldova is an agriculturally rich nation with a climate that is favorable for cultivating marijuana and heroin. Annual domestic production of marijuana is estimated at several thousand kilograms, with authorities seizing 3,196 kg of cannabis plants and 3,635 kg of poppy plants through November 2002. The indigenous market for locally produced narcotics remains small, largely confined to production areas or neighboring countries. The importation of synthetic drugs is reportedly on the rise, particularly with regard to Romanian groups that have reportedly begun locating production laboratories for both amphetamines and ecstasy within Moldova. Domestic drug traffickers remain closely connected with organized crime elements in neighboring countries, whose involvement in Moldova includes not only narcotics trafficking but trafficking in women as well. Seizures of all drugs are on the increase. Moldova is not assessed as a factor in the production of any precursor chemicals.

¹ Report provided by US Embassy in Chisinau.

2. Assessment of the country's anti-narcotics strategy

STATISTICAL TABLES (Data provided by MoI):

Year (2002 is Jan – Nov)	2002	2001	2000
Drug Related Criminal Cases:	2331	2031	1905
Narcotics Labs found/destroyed:	7	15	--
Seizures			
Poppy Straw (kg)	1509	1764	870
Opium (kg)	17	17	13
Hashish/Marijuana (kg)	322	345	70

(Small amounts of heroin, cocaine, and various synthetic narcotics were also seized)

2.1 Institutional framework

Moldova is party to the three UN Anti-Drug Convention (1961, 1971, 1988). Moldova also has bilateral agreements with the Ukraine (1992), Turkey (1994), and Hungary (1997) related to cooperation against narcotics activity, terrorism, and organized crime. Moldova is also party to a 2000 agreement amongst members of the CIS to fight illicit trafficking in narcotics, psychotropic substances, and their precursors.

Despite severe material and resource inadequacies, Moldova strives to fulfill all obligations under the 1988 UN Drug Convention and other agreements to which it is a party. Moldova continues to refine its criminal code, including sections detailing narcotics offenses. In 2002, the penalties for trafficking rose to a maximum of 25 years in prison, while ancillary amendments now permit Moldovan authorities to charge and bring to justice those not directly involved but who aid and/or abet narcotics traffickers. As a result of the reorganization creating the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (CCECC), the Drug Enforcement Unit now contains a total of 117 officers nationwide, with 96 serving around the country supported by 21 individuals in headquarters and support units. All of these personnel are dedicated exclusively to anti-narcotics activity. Moldova also continues to pursue, with US support, improvements in border control that will lead to a decrease in the flow of illicit goods, including narcotics.

As noted above, the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption was created in 2002 at the behest of President Voronin. This Center, independent from the MOI, is authorized to investigate all allegations or incidents of corruption, including those related to narcotics-related public corruption.

2.2 Production related issues

Law Enforcement Efforts: Moldovan authorities initiated over 2,331 drug related cases in the first 11 months of 2002, as compared to 1,912 cases during the same timeframe in 2001. In 2002, 1,509 kilos of poppy straw, and 17 kilos of opium were seized (in 2001: 1,764 kilos of poppy straw and 17 kilos of opium). Total arrests through November 2002 reached 1,408, including 29 foreigners. In addition, seven clandestine labs producing acetyl opium were located and destroyed in 2002, a decrease from the 15 labs destroyed in 2001 (13 producing acetyl opium and two producing ephedrine). No one was extradited from Moldova in either 2001 or 2002 for drug related offenses.

2.3 Demand related issues

Treatment for Moldova's 6,940 officially registered addicts remains an option only for the wealthiest of offenders. Financial hardships and dilapidated facilities restrict rehabilitation and treatment efforts by the Moldovan government, although NGO's have previously provided limited funding for anti-drug information and education campaigns.

2.4 Trafficking issues, including money laundering and chemical precursors

Despite the lack of rudimentary equipment such as vehicles, narcotics traffickers were pursued at all levels, with seizures and lab destructions remaining high priorities for the anti-narcotics units. MOI officials also continue to work with the Prosecutor General to ensure that quality cases are pursued.

Drug Flow/Transit: Seizures over the past 11 months continue to indicate that Moldova remains primarily a trans-shipment country for narcotics. While historically viewed as a medium for narcotics moving from Central Asia to Europe (westward) and for precursor chemicals moving eastward, recent arrests of Moldovans in Western Europe and Russia indicate that refined narcotics are now moving to the east as well.

Moldova is not a significant contributor to the production of any precursor chemicals. Law enforcement measures against precursor development and transportation are therefore intertwined with those taken to combat the narcotics problem facing Moldova overall. Moldova is currently not a signatory to any formal agreement for maintaining records of precursor chemicals. In 1999, the Government of Moldova enacted the Law on the Circulation of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors. This national chemical control legislation created a Permanent Committee of Drug Control within the Ministry of Health Care, which oversees imports and exports of these chemicals.

3. Short prioritized identification of needs for external assistance as put forward by authorities

3.1 US policy initiatives and programs

The US Embassy's counter-narcotics program is centered on activities from the Department's INL Bureau. Ongoing USG training initiatives are designed to improve the abilities of police to investigate and infiltrate organized crime and narcotics syndicates. Ancillary efforts related to counter-narcotics include customs and border improvement programs aimed at strengthening Moldovan border controls, thus reducing the flow of illegal goods through Moldova.

3.2 Needs for further external assistance

The possibility exists that Moldova could soon be faced with a 'bottleneck' of narcotics moving westward as Romania, in conjunction with its entry into NATO and the EU, strengthens its border leaving Moldova with an influx of illicit drugs with little room for export. With evidence suggesting that transit countries historically become user countries, Moldova will need to invest significant resources into education, border enhancement, and law enforcement initiatives if it hopes to stem a slow but steady growth of its user population in the near future.

V. Country report 2002 on drugs in Georgia

1. General situation in the country

Georgia is considered to be an importer of drugs, including both heroin and opium, and also a transit country. It is part of the Silk route that becomes more and more attractive for drug transit, in particular regarding heroin originating from Afghanistan. Economic and social complexities inherent in the transition process of the country have spurred the growth of drug trafficking and the rapid spread of drugs. Because the availability of enormous amounts of money originating from the drugs and arms business and because of their low income, politicians and civil servants are highly susceptible to corruption. Drug production in Georgia exists at medium scale.

There is a lack of reliable general data on drugs due to high fragmentation of the law enforcement bodies involved in drug control, providing only very conflicting statistics.

At the beginning of 2003, the Parliament of Georgia adopted a new law on narcotics, which was put into effect on April 7, 2003.

2. Short issue-oriented assessment of Georgia's anti-narcotics strategy

2.1 Institutional Framework

In 1998 Georgia signed the UN-Convention against Illicit Traffic in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. A Memorandum of Understanding between UNDCP, Armenia, Georgia and Iran provides for cooperation with regard to drug control and the fight against money laundering. Legislative acts are in general in line with the provisions of the international Conventions on drug-control.

The main law enforcement agencies concerned with drug interdiction in Georgia are the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of State Security, the State Border Guards and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Ministry of Finance includes the Customs Department whose anti-narcotics department was replaced by a special action task force that is almost untrained. By law, all seized contraband, including drugs, becomes the property of State Security. The Ministry of State Security therefore retains a small department concerned with international drug trafficking that theoretically should receive all information obtained by Customs. In reality, the department has only limited or no contact with local enforcement agencies. State Border Guards are not very effective in combating trans-border trafficking.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has ultimate authority in respect of all drug investigations within the state. It maintains a substantial Drug Squad with more than four hundred officers. Main responsibilities of the Drug Squad are to record, store and analyse drug related data, to investigate drug use and trafficking, to assist the development of a National Drug Strategy, and to recommend legislative changes. It has developed a large database of suspects, accused and convicted persons since 1993, but it relies to large extend on self-generated information for analysis and development as there is little or no routine exchange of information between authorities. As the system is also not networked with the police it remains, in effect, more of a register than an operational database. Difficulties are furthermore experienced with regard to the receipt of international drug information because of a lack of qualified English speakers.

Furthermore Georgia has a National Drug Commission that is structurally located within the Council of Security and chaired by State Minister Jorbenadze. Two sub-commissions composed of practising professionals have been established – Law Enforcement and Health and Treatment. In theory every region has its own drug commission, but in reality they have not been established. Fragmentation of government departments, lack of separate budgets, minimal achievements and nominal influence to implement strategies are factors which prevent the development of a balanced and comprehensive national strategy.

Since the beginning of April, a new Law on drugs, psychotropic substances, precursors and medical assistance for addicts has been in force. In order to prepare a secondary legislation, e.g. amendments to the law on police and the law on criminal procedure, a task force was established that combines the efforts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Prosecutor General's office and Parliament.

On a wider scale, Georgia is preparing a National Action Plan for a Drug Information System. A central role in the new system will be reserved for the National Focal Point (NFP), which should co-ordinate the effort. From August 2002 it has been located within the National Institute on Addiction. A Head for the NFP has been appointed and is in place. On issues such as the legal mandate, funding, and role of the NFP, final decisions have still not been made by the Drug Commission. By now, the NFP is integrated into the framework of the Southern Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme (SCAD) and works therefore independently. As Georgian authorities have yet to define the future role of NFP, continuance of the institution after completion of SCAD III (April 2004) remains uncertain at current stage.

2.2. Production related issues

Recently there have been strong indications that two drug laboratories had been established in the Pankisi gorge. This would imply that precursors for heroin production are presumably smuggled from Russia via Chechnya to the Pankisi gorge. With reference to the anti-crime-operation carried out in the region, the National Security Council stated that such laboratories existed, but had been destroyed.

There is a number, possibly fifty or more, of what may be termed ‘small drug dealing enterprises’. Drug cultivation and production exist at a medium scale, but basically Georgia is a drug transit country to Europe through Turkey or via the Balcan route. A detection of hemp cultivation some months ago (on September 18, 2002 three thousand tons of hemp were destroyed in Georgia by the law enforcement bodies; 789 tonnes were burned in Erani and 2258 kg in Igoeti, Jumati and Lanchkhuti) shows that production of opiates becomes popular, especially in marginalized areas: Usually farmers accept to cultivate cannabis in order to create an income due to the lack of other alternative resources of livelihood.

2.3. Demand related issues

The problem of drug addiction in Georgia is characterized by a constantly rising trend. According to the data supplied by the Scientific Research Institute of Narcology under the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, there are about 12.000 drug addicts recorded in Georgia. However, the real number of drug addicts is estimated at 100.000 to 150.000.

According to information provided by the National Security Council, annual use of heroin is estimated at 1.5 tons in total. An amount of 250 up to 300 million Lari (1 Lari = 2,15 US\$) is said to be spent on heroin every year. The number of heroin cases comprises 25% of drug addiction in total. As the purchase price is on a high level, opium and marijuana tend to be more popular. New style drugs such as ecstasy are also available but still less common. The preparation of statistics on drug abuse is very poor. Consequently it is difficult to obtain reliable figures.

There is a strong connection between drug abuse (especially heroin) and infectious diseases such as AIDS/HIV or Hepatitis B and C.

There is no registration of drug related deaths, such as cases of overdosing. Governmental rehabilitation service does not exist either. The level of drug prevention programmes is very low; the field of prevention and treatment is to a large extent left to nongovernmental initiatives and organisations. The recently adopted law on narcotics stipulates improvements in the field of rehabilitation service, e.g. by legalization of substitution programmes. However, implementation of such programmes will depend on adequate funding.

2.4. Trafficking issues

Despite the lack of data, the analysis of drug trafficking in neighbouring countries indicates an increase of drug traffic in Georgia. A number of factors have negative influence on the control of trafficking business in Georgia. Among these are unreliable general data and indicators of the level of police activities, lack of funds available for investigation as well as the average length of investigations. Corruption among law enforcement structures is probably the most serious among these factors. Most of the pushers interviewed in the media complain about the absence of a legal alternative to their „dirty work“. Drugs found by police are usually of a very small quantity and intended for the internal market only.

In 2002, the State Border Defense Department revealed 18 incidents of illegal import of drugs, mainly on the „Red Bridge“ border station between Georgia and Azerbaijan. According to the data in 2002, following drug substances were confiscated: 3.35 kg of heroin, 1.2 kg of opium and 56.95 kg of marijuana. There is a striking difference between the annual amount of drugs used and confiscated drug substances, casting doubt on Georgia's commitment to address the problem of drugs trafficking effectively.

The whole region of Southern Caucasus faces an important challenge due to the lack of cross-border cooperation. Border guards do not regularly carry out physical examination and are not very effective in combating trans-border drug trafficking. Their main efforts are directed towards passport examination and detection of weapons. They only conduct searches on receipt of specific information. Border personnel works in extremely poor conditions and often lacks minimum standards of training and expertise. Motivation to increase the efficiency of border management is often low. There is an awareness of the transit problem among national authorities, but this is not transferred to the enforcement level yet. The railroad cargo from Central Asia as well as the transit by TIR from Azerbaijan towards the seaport of Poti (Georgia) are at special risk to be used by traffickers, since the expanding transport to Europe of export goods from Central Asia and Azerbaijan provides plenty of opportunities for the illicit trafficking of drugs.

3. External assistance

Since 2001 UNDP is implementing EU funded Southern Caucasus Anti-drug Programme (SCAD). The programme aims at harmonising drug law enforcement tactics and operational techniques by creating a basis for the development of cross-border operation, optimising procedures for internationally controlled deliveries, collection and sharing of drug intelligence.

The programme strategy adopts an integral approach tackling three interlinked aspects of the problem simultaneously:

- To reinforce drug control capacities at national level
- To develop drug prevention and treatment policies
- To foster regional co-operation and harmonise methodologies

The countries represented in the Mini-Dublin Group support authorities and institutions in Georgia in a number of bilateral initiatives: Cooperation activities between Italian, French and German police authorities with Georgian law enforcement bodies have been started. An Italian Interpol official has been appointed to the Georgian Interpol Office in Tbilisi. Reforms planned for Georgian customs that are also aimed at reducing smuggling activities are supported by the TACIS programme, including technical support to be provided by customs representatives from Great Britain and the Netherlands. The programs of the U.S. Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) in Russia and the NIS focus on countering public corruption and organized crime, combating money laundering and financial crimes as well as enhancing border security, including the struggle against the trafficking of drugs and people.

4. Mini-Dublin Group recommendations

- Strengthening the role of National Focal Point as a single co-ordinating authority
- Strengthening regional cross-border cooperation
- Strengthening legal and judicial system and law enforcement.
- Fighting against institutional corruption among law enforcement officials, training its staff, defining basic strategies with regard to fighting drug abuses.
- Establishing and strengthening a system for the collection of reliable data
- Providing education to the general public including the improvement of anti-drug campaigns through newspapers, radio and media, especially in rural and border areas.

VI. Country report 2002 on drugs in Azerbaijan

1. General situation in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is located along a drug transit route to Central and Western Europe. Consumption and cultivation of narcotics are low, but levels of use are increasing.

2. Issue-oriented assessment of Azerbaijan's anti-narcotics strategy

2.1 Institutional framework

Azerbaijan is party to the three UN Drug Convention (1961, 1971, 1988). It has signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Criminal Code (in force since September 2000) contains special provisions concerning drug-related crimes.

The Azerbaijan government's counter-narcotics activities are coordinated by the "State Commission on Combating the Illegal Trade of Narcotics and Drug Substances" headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov.

2.2 Production related issues

The scale of production of drugs in Azerbaijan is relatively low. Cannabis and poppy are cultivated illegally, mostly in Azerbaijan's southern region. In the first 10 months of 2002 law enforcement authorities discovered and destroyed 501 tons of hemp and poppies that were under cultivation on 390 hectares of land.

2.3 Demand related issues

In 2002 there were 15,698 officially registered drug addicts in Azerbaijan. The unofficial number is supposed to be several times higher. Based on anecdotal evidence, it seems that drug addiction is not a widespread phenomenon in Azerbaijan. The government has supported awareness enhancement campaigns aimed at young people.

2.4 Trafficking issues, including money laundering and chemical precursors

Opium and poppy straw from Afghanistan and South Asia transit through Azerbaijan from Afghanistan and Central Asia west into Western Europe and from Iran north into Russia and west into Western Europe. The quantities are difficult to estimate, it can be assumed that the transit route through Azerbaijan is not as significant as the one through Iran and Turkey. The group has no information as to whether the "Balkans route" is fed via Azerbaijan.

In 2002 the authorities of Azerbaijan confiscated 59 kg of marijuana, 5 kg of hashish, 11 kg of opium, 7 kg of heroine and 6 kg of poppy seeds.

The authorities Azerbaijan claim that the occupied territories not controlled by the Azerbaijan government (Nagorno-Karabagh and surrounding areas) are used for drug trafficking. This claim has not been confirmed by other sources.

3. Need for external assistance as identified by authorities

The authorities Azerbaijan are mainly interested in technical and training assistance for law enforcement and border guard services.

3.1 Donor community priorities

Most participants viewed trafficking as the most serious narcotics-related problem in Azerbaijan. Therefore most activities centre on law enforcement and border guard support.

3.2 Projects

The European Union has allocated 8 mio € to the Southern Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme (SCAD) which supports the national authorities in building counter-narcotics capacities. SCAD is being realised in two stages since July 2001 in the three South Caucasian countries. Azerbaijan's share during the first stage is 1.5 mio € .

SCAD consists of six interrelated projects:

- 1) legal assistance
- 2) sea port control
- 3) land border control
- 4) police drug intelligence system
- 5) drug information systems
- 6) awareness campaigns in schools

The SCAD projects are implemented by UNDP, who also allocate an extra 10 % of the funds spent by the EU to each phase of SCAD.

In 2002 the US have allocated 118.000 US\$ to counter-narcotics training and equipment for law enforcement and border guard authorities. The amount requested for this year is 250.000 US\$.

VII. Country report 2002 on drugs in Armenia ¹

1. General situation in the Country

Armenia is not a major drug-producing country and its domestic rate of drug abuse is relatively small. As a Caucasian crossroads between Europe and Asia, Armenia has the potential to become a transit point for international drug-trafficking. At present, limited transport between the country and its neighbouring states makes Armenia a secondary traffic route for drugs. However the Anti-Drug Department (ADD) of the Police Service expect an increase in drug trafficking if the borders to Turkey and Azerbaijan will be opened in the future. In 2002, the Armenian Ministry of Interior was restructured into the National Police Service (NPS).

2. Short-Issue oriented assessment of the country's anti-narcotics strategy

2.1 Institutional framework

Armenia is a party to the three UN Drug Convention (1961, 1971, 1988). In 2002, parliament passed a bill aimed at strengthening the police mandate to combat drug sales and trafficking. Also in 2002, the Government of Armenia, UNODC and the European Union launched the second project under the South Caucasus Anti Drug Program (SCAD). Initiated in 2001, SCAD strives to harmonise counternarcotics legislation in the three Caucasus countries and improve counternarcotics co-operation. The program has a total budget of 3.3 Mio. € (792.000 € for Armenia). The first phase called for a review of the existing legal and institutional framework. The second phase aimed at improving drug abuse statistics and drug abuse prevention at schools. The third phase was launched in March 2003 and will include strengthening the land border control, legal assistance and the improvement of the police intelligence system.

2.2. Production related issues

Hemp and opium poppy grow wild in the northern area of Armenia, particularly in the Lake Sevan basin and in some mountainous areas. No illicit labs producing synthetic drugs were discovered in 2002.

¹ Sources : US State Department INCSR Report 2002, SCAD project papers, Statistics of the Anti-Drug Department of the Armenian Police

Armenian Authorities seized 76,8 kilograms of drugs during the first nine months of 2002. This compares with 8,2 kilograms of drugs during the first nine months of 2001. The ADD reports that in 2002, 154.128 kilograms of green hemp and 774 kilograms of poppy were eradicated by the police. In 2001 a combined total of 177.359 kilograms of green hemp and poppy were destroyed.

2.3 Demand related issues

Drug abuse does not constitute a serious problem in Armenia, and the local market for narcotics, according to the ADD, is not large. The main drugs used are opium and cannabis. Heroin and cocaine first appeared in the Armenian drug market in 1996 and, since then, there has been a small upward trend in heroin sales, while cocaine abuse has remained flat. The Police Service, the Office of Attorney General, and the Republican Narcotics Dispensary gather statistics on drug abuse and trafficking. Two NGOs started working on counternarcotics programs in 2002 and continue to be very active in this area. Their assessment of the number of drug addicts in Armenia is much higher than official estimates. Statistics from all sources show an upward trend during 2002 in drug abuse and seizures compared with previous years.

Estimates of the number of drug addicts in Armenia vary from 1000 to 25.000. (Armenia's population is estimated at around 2.700.000.) The share of drug abusers consuming opiates is estimated at 50% of the total drug abusing population. According to the Deputy Police Chief, Armen Yetsian, who oversees the ADD, there is no indication of an increase at the moment. The senior law-enforcement official insists that drug addiction essentially does not exist among young people.

The Anti-Drug Civil Society NGO, which launched an outreach regional program in 2002, assesses the number of drug addicts at close to 25.000. The chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on State and Legal Issues, MP Victor Dallakian, said during recent parliamentary debates over the draft law on narcotics and drugs that there are currently about 20.000 drug addicts in Armenia. According to experts at the Republican Narcotics Dispensary, which was established to detoxify and assist addicts, fewer than 300 addicts are officially registered with the Dispensary, while another 700 persons are on probation for using drugs. Under current legislation, a person detained for drug abuse for the first time is released on a 6-month probation period. Repeated drug abuse during the probation period is however considered a criminal offence. According to the Dispensary, the average cost to the state for treatment of a drug addict is 250 US\$.

2.4. Trafficking issues, including money laundering, and chemical precursors

The Government of Armenia, recognising its potential as a transit route for international drug trafficking, is attempting to improve its interdiction ability. The principal transit countries through which drugs pass before they arrive in Armenia include Iran (opiates, heroin), Georgia (opiates, cannabis, hashish), and the Russian Federation. Armenia's borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan remain closed owing to the Nagorno Karabach conflict; however, according to ADD information, opiates and heroine are smuggled to Armenia from Turkey via Georgia. Should these borders open, drug transit could increase significantly.

ADD experts have accumulated a significant database on drug transit sources, routes and the people engaged in transit; scarce financial and human resources, however, limit the Police Service's ability to combat drug trafficking.

Although corruption is endemic in Armenia, there were no cases reported of government officials being involved in drug-related corruption in 2002. Money laundering of narcotics business profits has not been identified until now.

3. Short prioritized identification of needs for external assistance as put forward by authorities

- a) Provide legal assistance
 - Ongoing support for the adoption on drug control legislation
 - National and regional training for judges and prosecutors and provision of equipment
- b) Improve interdiction ability at land border control points
 - Provision of equipment at land borders
 - Practical on-the-spot group training on searching and profiling techniques;
 - Introduction of regional customs co-operation
- c) Improve police drug intelligence
 - Provide equipment for the police anti-narcotic units
 - National and regional training for police anti-narcotic units
- d) Upgrade drug information
 - Establishment of national capacity for the collection and analysis of data on drug use;
 - Regular information maps and National Drug Reports

- e) Introduce drug prevention in schools
 - Devise manual for drug prevention in schools
 - Set up protocol for drug related incidents in schools

4. Mini-Dublin-Group recommendations

4.1 Political initiatives

- Promote co-ordination and co-operation of law enforcement, customs and financial investigation services within Armenia and the South Caucasus.
- Promote co-ordination and co-operation at the national and international level between law enforcement and economic development agencies.
- Promote co-ordination and co-operation at the national level between the enforcement agencies and educational, health and social services.

4.2 Donor community priorities

- a) General:
 - International assistance should be delivered in a sensible and co-ordinated manner, to maximise the impact and avoid duplications.
- b) Detail:
 - Support and close monitoring of ongoing SCAD Program implementation
 - Identification and co-ordination of future projects in Armenia within Dublin Group

CENTRAL DUBLIN GROUP MEETING, ATHENS, 9/10 JUNE 2003

DUBLIN GROUP REPORT FOR EASTERN EUROPE

JUNE 2003

Annexes to the Country report 2002 on drugs in Russia

- A. List of projects of the UN-ODC regional office in Russia**
- B. List of TACIS projects in Russia from the EU representation in Moscow**
- C. List of US policy initiatives and programmes and focussed projects**
- D. Projects/Initiatives run by The United Kingdom and France**

UN-ODC Programme, list of ongoing and pipeline projects

1. Policy Support, Legislation and Advocacy

In 2002, the Regional Office paid considerable attention to counseling the Russian Government agencies and relevant parliamentary commissions on amending the national anti-drug policies to address the country's emerging drug and HIV/AIDS problems in a more efficient way. Working and official meetings were held with the Ministries of Interior, Education, Health, the Federal Border Service, the Ministry of Press, TV and Radio Broadcasting (MPTVRB), and Committees on Health and Youth Affairs and on National Security of the State Duma (the lower house of the Parliament). Regional anti-drug programmes were also discussed at the regional level with administrations of St. Petersburg, Valgograd and Moscow regions and Altay territory.

To support the Government of Chelyabinsk region in the implementation of its anti-drug programme the Regional Office organized a mission of an international demand reduction expert to Chelyabinsk with the objective of assessing the regional drug situation and drug control policy, and working out recommendations for the local authorities. The mission resulted in the development of a UNAIDS-funded technical assistance project aimed at drug demand reduction among HIV positive drug users funded by UNAIDS.

To promote the UN joint position on the prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug users and enhance efforts to reduce drug abuse, a round table discussion on new approaches of the HIV/AIDS prevention was organized jointly with the MPTVRB and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 26th of June for the local and international press, NGOs and interested Government agencies.

In February, the INCB Report for 2002 was introduced to the Government, press and general public at a press conference organized at the National Union of Journalists.

In November 2002, in order to support the Government in mobilizing the national and regional press on raising public awareness of negative implications of drug abuse the Regional Office actively participated in organizing the First National Festival for electronic mass media that covers drug abuse and HIV/AIDS problems. During the festival, funded through the Government Federal Targeted Programme Against Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking, UNODC's mission and objectives, as well as the Regional Office activities were communicated to the press and participants. Also, UNDCP and CICP Public Service Announcements against illegal trafficking in women and "Sport against Drugs" were distributed.

Other advocacy activities of the Regional Office in the reporting year included:

Three press conferences and a number of interviews organized for the local and international press;

The placement of information on UN-ODC programmes and the UN position paper on HIV prevention among drug users on an anti-drug web site www.narcotiki.ru supported by the Ministry of Press, TV and Radio Broadcasting; and

The provision of information to the UN-ODC Internet and Intranet web sites on the drug control situation in Russia and Belarus and on the Regional Office's activities.

2. Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

a) On-going projects

- (i) In 2002 the Regional Office continued implementation of the UNDCPIWHO project GLO/E96 -uGlobal Initiative on primary prevention of substance abuse. " The project has two main objectives: mobilization of communities to prevent substance abuse among young people, and identification and dissemination of the best practice in this field. Over 70 selected NGOs and governmental institutions in Russia and Belarus received assistance for preventive activities in their communities through training and technical advice. A total of 55 prevention programmes, submitted to UNODC by local partners, were reviewed and awarded with US\$10,000 grants each.

To monitor the implementation of the funded programmes, several field missions to project sites (S.Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Tomsk, Minsk, Novorossiisk, Kaliningrad, Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Volshkij) were conducted. During the missions the local partners were provided with technical advice and recommendations on the most efficient ways of implementing the programmes.

In June, the Global Initiative Project co-ordinator attended the First Experience Sharing Meeting held in Manila, Philippines, to identify the best practice in the field of substance abuse prevention among young people at the community level. A similar meeting was organized in August in Saint Petersburg for the Global Initiative local partners from Russia and Belarus.

- (ii) In February 2002, the Regional Office started practical implementation of the joint UN-ODC/UNAIDS project RUS/G04 - Drug Demand Reduction and HIV prevention among injecting drug users in the Moscow Region". The project is intended to increase availability and accessibility of counseling and treatment for injecting drug users (IDU), and decrease the incidence of HIV infections among IDUs. The project activities e.g. outreach work among IDU and commercial sex workers, including needle exchange and counseling on HIV/STI prevention were carried out by the NGO „Return to Life", which initiated negotiations with regional health authorities on the development of a referral system which could involve both outreach workers, drug treatment providers and HIV/AIDS professionals. By the end of the year nearly 1500 local IDUs were involved in the project activities.
- (iii) Since February 2002 the Regional Office has been implementing a regional project RER/F76 - "Preparatory assistance for diversification of HIV prevention and drug treatment services for drug users in Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine". The project has two objectives: a) Assessment of HIV prevention and drug treatment services in the four countries and further development of the project document for the expanded follow-up phase (RER/F77); b) Piloting of HIV prevention and drug treatment services in Kiev (Ukraine) to establish an improved range of effective services.

At the initial stage a training workshop for the representatives of four participating countries was organized followed by assessment missions to each of the four countries to formulate recommendations on further diversification of HIV prevention and drug treatment services. Based on the assessment results the RORB prepared the project document for the expanded project RER/F77 which was later prepared and approved by the UNODC HO.

Simultaneously the RORB carried out piloting exercises in Kiev through granting of the service providers (both governmental and non-governmental) involved in drug abuse prevention/treatment/rehabilitation including HIV prevention among injecting drug users.

b) Pipeline Projects

- (i) As a follow-up to the on-going project RER/F76, the Regional Office completed the development of the project document of the expanded phase AD/RER/F77 -"Diversification of HIV prevention and drug treatment services for injecting drug users in Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine". The project document approved by the P PC and signed by the Executive Director has been submitted to the counterparts in the participating countries.

The project is aimed at the improvement/development of a needs-based range of HIV prevention and drug treatment services for injecting and other drug users (including a combination of outreach, low-threshold, out- patient and in-patient provision of HIV/AIDS prevention education, access to condoms and clean injecting equipment, counseling, detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation). Emphasis is placed on the replication of existing successful initiatives in the region, as well as on the development of referral mechanisms between the services to meet other health and social needs of the drug users. It is expected that the Regional Office will start implementation of the project in the first quarter of 2003.

- (ii) In April 2002, responding to a request of the Ministries of Education, RORB completed the development of a new initiative RER/GO6 -"Stengthening training capacities of Ministry of Education in drug abuse - HIV/AIDS prevention and rehabilitation of young drug users". Following the recommendations of the UNODC Programme and Project Committee (PPC), the project concentrates on train-the-trainer activities for the developing specialists in preventive and rehabilitation skills, who will, in turn, be able to provide training in regional and local level training institutions throughout the Federation. The project idea was approved by the P PC in June 2002.
- (iii) As a member of the UN Country Team, the RORB developed a drug demand reduction component of a joint UNCT project "Comprehensive Partnership Strategies for HIV/STI Prevention among Young People in the Russian Federation" (UNODC number AD/RUS/02/G57) funded by the UNFIP and the DFID. The project aims at prevention of the HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections epidemics among young people, primarily girls and young women, in Altay territory and Volgograd region of the Russian Federation. Within this project UNODC will assist the regional health authorities in the development of effective drug treatment and rehabilitation services, including those targeting the youth in the correction and penitentiary system. The project has been fully funded. Its execution is to be started in the first quarter of 2003.
- (iv) To facilitate cooperation with regional authorities the RORB elaborated a new pipe line project "Demand reduction among HIV positive drug users and HIV prevention in Chelyabinsk Region (Oblast)" funded through the UNAIDS Project Acceleration Fund (PAF). The project document has been approved by the P PC, UNODC and agreed upon by the Regional Administration. Execution of the project is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2003.

3. Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking

a) Ongoing Projects

In 2002, the ODCCP RORB has commenced performance of a two year project -RUS/F18 "Improvement of professional skills of law enforcement officers from CIS member States in drug law enforcement and combating organized crime" RUS/F18 (US \$1,090,500 funded by the EU). This project is intended to support the personnel training of various law enforcement agencies of the CIS countries at the Russian Advanced Training Institute of Ministry of Interior, located in Domodedovo, Moscow region (Domodedovo Training Center). According to the work plan, the RORB conducted bidding and purchased vehicles for the Domodedovo Training Center. Procurement of non-expandable equipment has also been started in close collaboration with the MIA. As of the end of 2002 US-\$ 407,800 were spent on procurement of non-expandable equipment.

An international expert for curricula development has been selected and visited Moscow in late January 2003. A group of 6 Russian police instructors from the Domodedovo Training Center was identified for the first study tour. For the moment the RORB is negotiating the possibility of sending this group to the Bramshill training Center, UK.

b) Pipeline projects:

RER/F59 "Strengthening of interagency drug enforcement capacities in the regions adjacent to the Russian/Kazakh border". This project developed in cooperation with the ODCCP Regional Office for Central Asia, is intended to strengthen the anti-trafficking capacities of the law enforcement units on both sides of the Russian-Kazakh border, and to build increased cross-border cooperation. The project is still under consideration by the governments involved. The final version was submitted to the Russian MFA in November 2002.

RUS/F69 "Strengthening of interagency drug enforcement capacities in the North West region of the Russian Federation". The project document has been approved by the P PC UNODC, signed by UNDCP DOA Director and submitted to the Finnish Embassy in Moscow for further processing at the Finnish MFA. RORB also submitted the project document to the Russian MFA and MIA for their final consideration.

Annex 1 B:

EU-Commission: Drug related TACIS projects in Russia, incl. HIV and AIDS

DRUG RELATED TACIS PROJECTS in RUSSIA, incl. HIV AIDS (ongoing/in the pipeline) *March 2003 update*

RUS Counter- part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
1. Russian Ministry of the Interior	State Customs Committee, Federal Border Service, Federal Security Service and other law enforcement bodies of CIS countries	Improvement of professional skills of law enforcement officers from CIS member states in drug law enforcement and combating organized crime	Training, retraining and improving professional skills of law enforcement personnel of the Ministry of Interior and other law enforcement agencies from Russia and other CIS countries in fighting against illicit drug trafficking and organised crime; Development of methodological recommendations for operational units of the Ministry of Interior, State Customs Committee, Federal Border Service, Federal Security Service of Russia and the law enforcement bodies of the CIS member states which can help to organise activities against illicit drug traffic; Collection and analysis of data and scientific research concerning illicit drug	Moscow (Russian Interior Ministry's Inter-Agency Training Centre at Domodedovo)	€1.2 million Feb 2002-Feb 2003

RUS Counter- part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
			trafficking in Russia and other CIS member states.		
2. Public Foundation Novaya Zhiznl		Promotion of social awareness about consequences of drug addiction and rehabilitation in Samara	Promotion of information campaigns through mass media, schools, medical and social institutions To ensure social and psychological support for the rehabilitation of former drug addicts and current drug abusers.	Samara	Bistro project <€100,000 Start: Jan 2003
3. Kostomuksha Town		The preventive campaign against drugs-abuse in the city of Kostomuksha-ANTINARKOTA	To increase general level of knowledge about dangers and consequences of drug- and intoxicant-abuse among young people; to introduce models of alternative actions and to design and produce preventive materials for the use at school, homes by active young people and authorities as well as by mass media.	Towns of Kostomuksha (Russia) and Kaijaani (Finland)	€169.848 CBC (Cross Border Cooperation) project 18 months (appr. October 2002 – December 2003)
4.		Development of a conceptual model of preventing drug abuse among students		Voronezh	<€100,000 Bistro project Expected start: end of May 2003
5. Association Spaseniye NGO, St. Petersburg		Prevention of Youth Drug Addiction (PYDA)	The project aims at training Russian NGO personnel to improve its capacity to cope with growing drug addiction. Target groups are mainly Russian NGOs and young people who will be involved in	St. Petersburg	€ 191.479 (EC contribution: €153.183) IBPP (Institution-

RUS Counter- part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
			action to raise awareness of the drug problem. Indirect beneficiaries will be, besides the local population and schools, local authorities, who will now have a competent partner for the discussion and implementation of social policies. The main project activities will be to survey the existing drug addiction situation in the region, create an NGO network, train NGO personnel in working out how to raise awareness among young people.		Building Partnership Programme)-Civil Society Duration: 18 months Start: 11 Dec. 2002
6. Ural Foundation for Social Innovation – UFSI, Ekaterinburg NGO		Improvement of URAL drug information helpline capacities	Aims of the project: 1. Contribute to the reduction in the number of young drug users in the Ekaterinburg area. 2. Inform and provide legal and psychological assistance to teenagers and their families confronted with drug issues. 3. Improve Ural helplines' professional consultants' capacities in all aspects regarding drug issues for teenagers including psychological and social support. Target groups: i. Helpline consultants from Ekaterinburg and other cities in the region. ii. Teenagers and their families asking for	Ekaterinburg region	€142 900 (EC contribution: €114 320) IBPP-Civil Society Duration: 18 months Start: 21 Dec. 2002

RUS Counter-part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
			support. Activities: a. Training consultants in child and teenage behaviour, drug addiction and prophylaxis. b. Publishing methodology booklets for consultants. c. Organisation of consultant teams, schedule and psychological support.		
7. St. Petersburg Regional NGO Centre "Innovations"		Development of drug and alcohol education programmes for children in St Petersburg	The project aims to establish a multi-skilled team of drug and alcohol educators who will provide interactive, child-centred health education programmes and training in St Petersburg. The programme will be adaptable for different client groups. In the 2-years of the programme, drug and alcohol education will be delivered to five distinct groups: i. Children in mainstream education; ii. Teachers and parents; iii. Children in residential centres; iv. At-risk children accessing services at drop-in centres; v. Staff at drop-in centres.	St. Petersburg	€ 184, 595 IBPP-Civil Society Duration: 24 months Start: 17 Dec. 2002
8. Ministry of	Federal Ministry of Health	Preventive Health Education	To develop preventive health care teaching methodologies, curricula and materials for	Moscow + pilot regions	€ 3 million

RUS Counter- part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
Education		(AP2000)	teachers, training institutions and schools. Preventive health care programmes will be introduced in pilot regions. Health promotion campaigns will be developed. It will contain a component on educating 6-16 year old youth on the risks of drug abuse, including contracting HIV/AIDS.		Start: Jan. 2003 1.1.1.1.
9. Ministry of Labour		Improvement of Policy design for the Most Vulnerable groups of the Population in the Field of Social and Employment Policy with Particular Reference to Social Dialogue and Social Cohesion		Federal level	€ 593 833,77 IBPP-Key Institutions Project not yet contracted Duration: 12 months In the pipeline
10. Federal Ministry of Health	Health care administrations of 3 pilot regions: Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Archangelsk	North West Health Replication (AP1999)	To systematize and use the results and lessons learnt from previous health projects at Federal level and replication of reform effort to 3 regions of MW Russia. The priorities identified for the 3 regions are:	Moscow Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Archangelsk	€ 2 million

RUS Counter-part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
			<u>Kaliningrad</u> : Primary Health Care; Prevention of Drug abuse; Maternal and child health <u>Murmansk</u> : Primary Health Care; Prevention of CVD <u>Archangelsk</u> : health Care management; Prevention of CVD		April 2001 – April 2003
11. Pskov regional public organization "Kamen" (Stone)	DanChurchAid, Copenhagen; Association Christian Interchurch Diaconal Council, St. Petersburg.	Strengthening the Fight Against The Russian Drug-Aid Epidemic	To reduce the spread of HIV/ AIDS in Russia by increasing the capacity of Pskov and northwest Russian NGOs working in this sector and by establishment of new prevention and rehabilitation services. The target group is youth at risk of drug addiction, already drug-dependent marginalized youth at high risk of being HIV infected or drug addicts who are HIV+ or who have developed AIDS.	Pskov, St.Petersburg	€266.146 (EC contribution €200.000) IBPP project Duration: 24 months Start: 13 Dec. 2002

RUS Counter-part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
12. Ministry of Justice	Federal Ministry of Health	Prevention and control of communicable diseases in North West Russia (AP 2001)	The objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Justice in the designing and the implementation of a comprehensive strategy to curb and prevent the spread of communicable diseases in prisons and penitentiary institutions in North West Russia. It will involve training of relevant personnel of the penitentiary institutions, promotion of health prevention strategies regarding AIDS and TB as well as other communicable diseases. It will also raise awareness of high-risk populations on diseases.	Moscow + pilot regions located in NW Russia	€ 2.5 million Expected start date: April 2003 1.1.1.2. In the PIPELINE
13. Federal Aids Centre	Federal Ministry of Health	HIV/AIDS Prevention and combating (AP2002)	The objective of the project is to support the development of a comprehensive awareness strategy and information campaign for the prevention of the HIV epidemic. Design and implement specific as well as multi-sectoral advocacy campaign for HIV/AIDS prevention targeted at major decision makers including political and social leaders, health officials, media, civil society.	Moscow + pilot regions	€ 2.5 million Expected start date: second half of 2003
14. Yaroslavl branch of	Stichting Mainline, Amsterdam.	Building a bridge for drug injectors to HIV health	To bridge the gap between health services and the high-risk group. The project will access and recruit IDUs for HIV risk	Yaroslavl	€239.346 IBPP project Duration:

RUS Counter- part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
Russian women's charity for an AIDS-free future, Yaroslavl		services in Yaroslavl, Russia	assessment and education. The project will also implement a comprehensive training programme for medical professionals.		24 months Jan. 2003
15. Kaliningrad City		The Kaliningrad/ Malmo cross border cooperation on Mother-to Child HIV prevention ("New Beginning")	Development and building a base of knowledge within health institutions concerning HIV-infected women and their children, to minimize the risk of vertical transmission of the disease from an HIV-infected woman to her child; to develop social and health policy for identifying and referring HIV-infected pregnant women.	Kaliningrad (Russia) and Malmo (Sweden)	€200,000 CBC (Cross Border Cooperation) project February 2001 – August 2002
16. - St Petersburg Regional Social Charity Foundation "Equal Opportunities"; - St Petersburg Public		Developing a model of prevention, rehabilitation and care services to improve the life opportunities for children from extremely vulnerable groups	The project aims to develop a model for improving the life opportunities of children who are abandoned or at risk of being abandoned to maternity home No 16 by providing family based care. Maternity home 16 has a particularly high rate of child abandonment due to referrals of mothers from high risk groups (extreme poverty, drug and alcohol addicted HIV/AIDS infected, mental health problems, homelessness. The project aims to build the capacity of Parents Bridge and NGO Equal Opportunities. To enable these	St. Petersburg	€ 187,200 IBPP-Civil Society Duration: 24 months Start: 31 Dec. 2002

RUS Counter- part	Other partners	Project title	<i>1.1.1. Project objectives / activities</i>	Geographical location	FUNDING/DURATION /ON-GOING/PIPELINE
Charitable Fund "Parents' Bridge"			organisations to extend their existing services to these children, many of whom are born with special needs through emergency specialised support to families and provision of family based care. At all times focus will be placed on linking up existing statutory and voluntary services and sharing experiences and training with relevant state institutions and services.		

U.S. POLICY INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS and focussed projects

U.S. Policy Objectives. The principal U.S. goal is to help strengthen Russia's anti-narcotics law enforcement capacity to help meet the challenges of international drug trafficking into and across Russia, and to help strengthen and develop Russian law enforcement personnel with the goal of developing reliable Russian law enforcement partners for U.S. law enforcement.

Bilateral Accomplishments. In 2002 the U.S. Department of State negotiated an LOA with the Government of Russia allowing direct assistance to the Government of Russia in the area of counter narcotics. The U.S. provided technical assistance in support of institutional change in the areas of criminal justice reform, Mutual Legal Assistance, anti-corruption and money laundering as well as DEA (Drugs Enforcement Agency) provided INL-funded counter-narcotics training to over 200 students in 2002. These were primarily enforcement personnel in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) , the Federal Security Service (FSB) and Customs. INL-funded community police programs also contained a significant anti-narcotics component, and several NGO programmes that focus on this aspect of community relations.

A controlled delivery in 2000 proved to be a significant confidence-building measure for Russian-U.S. law enforcement, and strengthened and deepened our cooperation resulting in a greater number of joint investigations and a freer sharing of counter-narcotics intelligence in 2002. In the aftermath of September 11, this cooperation deepened to extend to intelligence sharing on terrorists and narcotics. U.S. and Russian law enforcement, including DEA and MVD, worked together to share tactical drug intelligence in enhanced cross border enforcement efforts with 19 countries in Operation Containment. This operation reportedly resulted in the seizure of 445 kilograms of Afghan heroin in 2002.

The Road Ahead. Russia gives an increasingly high priority to counter-narcotics efforts and has indicated a desire to deepen and strengthen its cooperation with the United States and other bilateral and multilateral international anti-narcotics efforts. We will continue to encourage and assist Russia to implement their comprehensive, long-term national strategy against drugs.

With our Russian counterparts we developed multidisciplinary sustainable law enforcement assistance projects that combine equipment, technical assistance and expert advisors in a concerted effort to develop and strengthen the investigative, enforcement and interdiction capabilities of law enforcement units responsible for drug control in Russia. We will continue to seek support from Congress for continued support for implementing these programs which are funded and authorized in the Law Enforcement Letter of Agreement to allow a deepening of bilateral cooperation in counter narcotics.

**FY 2001-2002 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET
FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**1. BORDER SECURITY / ANTI NARCOTICS AGENCY DEVELOPMENT \$450,000 for
2001 \$ 200,000 for 2002**

Funding is provided to strengthen the law enforcement counter narcotics capability of the Government of Russia by providing equipment, vehicles, technical assistance and specialized training to anti-narcotics units based near the Russian-Kazakh border.

Progress toward achievement of the project goal will be measured in the first year by the identification, equipping and training of recipient border units. Subsequent years measures will include sharing of law enforcement information related to narcotics trafficking on the southern border, as well as such possible indications as increased numbers and quantities of drug seizures and arrests, or indications of decreased incidents of criminal activity in areas covered by project. Methods of verification will include official records of seizures, arrests or narcotics trafficking incidents, and observations by operational liaison on both sides.

2. RUSSIAN SEAPORTS PROJECT \$350,000 for 2001 \$150,000 for 2002

Funding is provided to Astrakhan and Novorossiysk Customs and other anti-narcotics units to combat trafficking in narcotics and precursor chemicals, commercial smuggling, and trafficking in persons by providing x-ray equipment, scanners, computers and technical assistance and specialized training, to increase the capability of Russian narcotics and customs units to conduct searches to identify and seize contraband and gather law enforcement information related to criminal activities associated with illegal movements of persons or contraband through these ports.

Progress toward achievement of the project goal will be measured in the first year by identification, procurement, installation of equipment and training of personnel; in subsequent years may include increased identification, interdiction of trafficked or smuggled persons and increased seizure of contraband, or evidence of reduction in incidents of trafficking or smuggling.

Methods of verification will include observation by USG and GOR personnel, official records of seizures, arrests and interdictions.

3. NORTHWEST CUSTOMS REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT \$400,000 FY 2001

Funding for this multi-agency, interdisciplinary regional project will provide training, technical assistance and equipment to Customs and other anti-narcotics units, including drug equipment for existing x-ray vans.

Progress toward achievement of the project goal will be measured in the first year by identification of units, personnel and equipment, assignment of counterparts and procurement of equipment. Second year measures will include training of personnel and readiness of units to implement enhanced inspection, and may include increased numbers of seizures and interdictions of contraband and illegal movement of persons, or evidence in reduction of incidence of trafficking or smuggling in areas affected by project.

Methods of verification will include observation by operational liaison and by co-operating personnel of both governments; and official records of arrests, seizures, interdictions, and destruction of narcotics contraband.

4. INTERNET CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ENFORCEMENT

\$ 100,000 FY 2000 funding expired for this project \$ 100,000 to be requested FY 2003

Funding for this project will create the capacity to support the development of a GOR Child Pornography Internet undercover operation. The Project will provide computers and other technical assistance, including technical experts and training in the U.S. in interdiction of child pornography over the Internet. The project will also provide equipment for the investigators in the unit.

Progress towards the achievement of the project goal will be measured in the first year by the identification of personnel and space to be devoted to the project, the training of identified personnel, and the procurement of equipment. The second year measures will include increased identification, disruption and dismantlement of child pornography sites originating in Russia and increased identification of manufacturers, distributors and purchasers of child pornography.

Methods of verification will include observation by USG and GOR personnel, review of computer records, arrest and seizure records.

5. ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE \$130,000 FY 2001 \$200,000 FY 2002

Funding is provided to establish a U.S.-Russia international task force to investigate trafficking in women and children and promote the development of Russian task forces directed at crimes involving violence against women and children. The funding will also develop a network among relevant Russian law enforcement agencies, and governmental and non-governmental organizations, and will include equipment and relevant materials, technical experts, and relevant support services.

Progress towards the achievement of the project goal will be measured in the first year by identification of task force location and members, formation and initial training of task force members and identification and procurement of equipment and services. Second year measures will include increased identification, disruption of and prosecution of traffickers and trafficking activity.

Methods of verification will include observation by USG and GOR personnel, arrest records, court records and official statistics.

6. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE SUPPORT \$175,000 FY 2001, \$ 1,100,000 FY 2002

Funding for this project will promote the development of support for the judges, prosecutors, court administrators and defense bar and investigators who will have to operate under the newly revised Code of Criminal Procedure. This will include equipment, materials, legislative assistance, training for all of the above,

and funding for conferences on jury trials, warrants, adversarial systems and other elements of the new Code.

Progress toward achievement of the project goal will be measured in the first year by identification of institutions and individuals to train, development of training curricula and materials, development of a cadre of qualified trainers. Second year measures will include progress toward actual implementation of jury trials in 80 regions.

Methods of verification will include observation by USG and GOR personnel, student records and court records, receipt and review of materials, observations of training and trials.

7. MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT \$300,000 FY 2001 \$50,000 FY 2002

Funding for this project is provided to create and support

mechanisms for strengthening mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, as established by the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) , in fighting crime, especially in criminal procedure, organized crime, and law enforcement aspects of terrorism, such as money laundering.

The funds will go to prosecutorial exchanges; conferences, symposiums, courses, academic conferences, seminars and consultations on legal issues; prosecutorial and investigative training; exchange of specialists designed to familiarize both parties with the practical measures required for prevention, suppression, investigation and prosecution of crimes, as well as proceedings related to criminal matters; development and dissemination of programs, methods and materials involved in legal education; exchanges of information; joint consultative and research activities.

Goals shall be the facilitation and acceleration of mutual legal assistance, the establishment of points of contact; establishment of curricula for both sides and familiarity with both systems.

Measures of effectiveness shall include reduction in average time of response to mutual legal assistance requests on both sides, and reduction of backlogs of requests on both sides.

Methods of verification shall include evaluation by both sides, based on official records and statistics and observation of participants and liaisons.

8. FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT DEVELOPMENT/ ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING, \$300,000 FY 2002

The New Financial Monitoring Committee has been operational since February 1, 2002 and has acquired staff and procured hardware in accordance with its approved implementation plan for its operations. FMC requires further software development and support for other technical development and related training.

This project will endeavor to supplement existing USG provided technical assistance and infrastructural development and to provide the specific and discrete components currently lacking from the completed systems architecture.

The goal of this project is to identify and procure specific software required to process and extract third party data, analyze large volumes of data to detect patterns and other indications of money laundering, and case management software to aggregate the data and manage cases for referral to law enforcement and monitoring progress of cases.

Progress will be measured using observation by operational liaison and statistical reporting from the FMC management reporting, number of cases referred based on official statistics.

9. LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION \$200,000 FY 2002

This project offers support to Duma, Legislative working Groups, law enforcement and NGOs involved in drafting new anti- trafficking legislation to comply with standards set in the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, to which both parties are signatories. Activities will include conferences and exchanges with legal and operational experts working in other source and destination countries; consultations with parliaments in countries with successful Palermo compliant trafficking legislation; consultations with judges lawyers and prosecutors handling trafficking cases in the US and elsewhere; and consultation between the Duma working group members and the US congress.

Goals of the project are the drafting and introduction of legislation which criminalizes the practice of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as defined in the Palermo Protocol cited above.

Second year goals include the training of prosecutors and law enforcement personnel in the successful use of this legislation to prosecute traffickers.

Measures may include the observations of liaison personnel on both sides, Duma records, court records, and arrest records.

The funding available for these projects for FY 2001 is \$1,805,000.

The funding from FY 2002 is \$2,200,000

Project information provided by The United Kingdom and France**United Kingdom**

The Department for International Development has committed £ 25m over the period 2002-2009 for a programme of integrated projects which aims to convince the Russian Government of the need to make a timely and effective response to preventing HIV/AIDS by targeting vulnerable groups. At present over 80% of HIV infections in Russia is concentrated among injecting drug users and commercial sex workers, but the risk of a generalised epidemic is real. The World Bank has estimated that HIV prevalence in the adult population could be as high as 10% by 2020 and depress GDP by more than 1% per year.

DFID's HIV Prevention Programme in Russia is concentrated in three areas: knowledge generation about the nature of the epidemic; scaling up HIV prevention activities in a limited number of regions; and advocacy for policy development. Projects already underway include:

- a £ 4.1m grant to the Open Health Institute to expand their network of over 40 harm reduction sites across Russia;
- a £ 2.5m project, co-funded with the United Nations Foundation, to expand and develop integrated HIV and STI (sexually transmitted infections) prevention services to vulnerable groups in Volgograd Oblast and Altai Krai, with a particular focus on young women;
- a £ 1.5m grant to Imperial College, London University, to develop knowledge and improve local capacity in the following areas, with a view to informed policy making at federal level: HIV/STI surveillance and epidemiological modelling; social and sexual behavioural research and research into the economic consequences of HIV;
- a £ 0.5m project on building police support for harm reduction, managed by a member of the Metropolitan Police with specialist knowledge of working with IDUs/CSWs on secondment to a UK managing agent.

Projects under design include:

- a large-scale, £ 10m plus project which will operate in two Russian regions (to be announced) and in partnership with a range of Russian federal partners including the ministries of Health, Justice, Interior, Economic Development and Education and with civil society organisations to develop integrated and comprehensive HIV prevention activities at a scale necessary to contain the epidemic;
- Support for the establishment of a Russian-led High Level Working Group on HIV/AIDS, to be channelled through UN funds and agencies, principally WHO and UNAIDS.

France

Two topics which can be reported, under the french line:

- a very large meeting will be hold by the end of May 2003, in Paris, gathering 53 countries with the topic "Les Routes de la drogue".
- the only cooperation, from our ministry of internal affairs in Russia will be the implementation of a two week training within the russian police academy in NIJNI NOVFGOROD this year by the end of june.