



PORTUGAL - Annual Report on the Drug Situation 2002

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Executive Summary

1. Trends on Drugs and Drug Abuse

1.1. Drug use

In 2002, the trends which were already visible in 2001 became more clear. National surveys carried out in 2001, as well as 2002 indicators on health and legal drug use related consequences, show an increase and a regional spreading of drug abuse in Portugal, as well as some changes in the patterns of drug use. In fact, although heroin is still the most important drug linked to problematic drug use, cannabis, the most used drug among the Portuguese population, is getting also more visible in the circuits of the sanitary and legal consequences of drug use. On the other hand, the increase in the percentages of polydrug use registered since 2000 in some indicators, did not occur in 2002, as data on drug-related deaths and administrative sanctions for drug use shows. In this last context, there has been an increase in the combinations of the most recent drugs in these circuits, namely ecstasy with cannabis. Regarding the sanitary consequences of drug use, treatment demand slowed down in the last years. On the other hand, some indicators suggest more efficient answers in the harm reduction policies.

Patterns of drug use and the profiles of drug users presented to the Drug Addiction Dissuasion Commissions are quite different from those related to drug users seeking treatment: they are mostly non-addicts, cannabis users and younger.

1.1.1. Some Results of the 2001 National Surveys

The most recent available data on drug use come from the 2001 national surveys¹.

The results of the national surveys in the general population 15-64, the school population of the 7th to 9th grades of Elementary School and individuals in prison, as well as the research on the prevalence and patterns of problematic drug use in Portugal, showed that cannabis is the most used drug in the general population, and that heroin, often used in association with cocaine, is the most used drug among the problematic drug users. They also suggested some changes on that type of drug use in comparison to the results of previous studies: a wider regional dissemination of the above mentioned drugs and a general increase of drug use among the school population, in particular of cocaine. The results of the national survey on the general population aged 15-64 showed some differences in the patterns of drug use among the genders and age groups, namely higher prevalence of drug use in male groups and in younger groups. The use of cannabis, ecstasy

¹ Already published, among others, in the *Annual Report 2001* (IPDT, 2002) which also includes the bibliographic references of the specific publications on those studies.

and cocaine acquired particular importance in the younger groups, whereas the use of heroin was more relevant in the male groups aged 25-34 and 35-44.

1.1.2. Indicators on drug use-related health consequences

In 2002, the increase rate previously verified in treatment services slowed down. In comparison to 2001, the number of first treatment demands and the number of clients in waiting lists decreased, and the number of clients in treatment in the current year levelled off. Availability of and permanence in opiate substitution programmes increased again. Some indicators point towards more efficient responses in harm reduction policies, namely the decrease of injecting drug use among the clients in first treatment episodes in public services, the levelling off of drug-related spread of HIV in populations demanding treatment and the decrease of drug-related deaths, namely those related to illicit as well as to licit drugs. However, the increase of cases of Hepatitis C and B and of Tuberculosis among clients in first treatment episodes in public services remains a cause for concern.

At the level of **drug treatment demand**, in the year 2002, the growth in the availability of treatment services slowed down when compared with previous years.

The public services, in the year 2002, reported 31 835 active clients in different treatment programmes available in CATs (Specialised Treatment Centres for Drug Users) 6 241 new clients and 244 individuals in the waiting lists. The number of follow-up consultations has increased in the last years, reaching its highest value in 2002 (361 126 follow-up consultations). In comparison to 2001, once again, the number of clients in the waiting lists decreased (-53%), as well as the new clients (-29%), the number of active clients remained stable (-7%), in opposition to last year. The follow-up consultations increased 5% when compared to 2001.

On the other hand, 3 144 clients were treated in public and certified Detoxification Units (-32% than in 2001) and 2 943 were treated in public and certified Therapeutic Communities (+2% than in 2001).

As in previous years, there has been an increase of individuals in substitution programmes, that admitted 15 768 clients in public services during the year of 2002 (+23% when compared to 2001), representing about half of the clients under treatment in the current year. On the 31/12/2002, 12 144 clients were under treatment (+19% than in 31/12/2001): 84% in methadone programmes and 16% receiving buprenorphine. Currently, clients in methadone programmes can be treated in other services, decreasing the importance of the CATs as the preferred place to take

methadone: on the 31/12/02, about 51% of the clients received methadone in CATs, on the 31/12/2001 59% did so and on the 31/12/2001, 61% took their methadone in CATs.

Again, the districts of Faro, Beja and Setúbal reported the highest rates of active clients per total number of inhabitants and per inhabitants aged 15-39, but in 2002 the district of Portalegre reported higher rates than Beja.

Heroin is the most reported substance used among populations seeking treatment in drug treatment centres, but once more a decrease in heroin use and in injecting drug use behaviour in the last month previous to the first appointment was registered among the first-time clients in treatment in public services.

Clients are mainly of the male gender and aged 25-39. An ageing trend was registered, in 2002 as in previous years, among the population that demands treatment for the first time. This population reported a low education status and precarious jobs.

Regarding **infectious diseases**, the national Centre for the Epidemiological Surveillance of Transmissible Diseases reported a decrease in the number of drug users diagnosed with **AIDS**: respectively 62%, 59%, 57%, 54% and 46% of the diagnosed cases in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. In what concerns the total of AIDS cases notified until 31/03/2003, drug users represented 51% of all notified cases.

Regarding **HIV** transmission among sub-groups of drug users demanding treatment in the different drug-treatment centres, namely first-time clients in public services, clients in public and certified Detoxification Units and Therapeutic Communities, rates remain stable in the past three years, ranging, in 2002, between 11% and 16% in those three groups of clients. The rates of those in antiretroviral treatment ranged from 33% to 69% in those groups, and have been increasing in previous years, regardless of yearly variations.

These trends are possibly related to harm reduction policies, as some indicators suggest a decrease in injecting drug use (data on drug use patterns in the last month among first-time clients) and the uptake of drug use in adequate sanitary conditions (2 674 113 syringes collected in 2002, in the framework of the national programme "Say no to a second hand syringe").

Concerning **Hepatitis**, among those who presented themselves in the three above-mentioned types of services, the global infection rates in 2002 ranged between 8% and 10% in the case of hepatitis B and between 51% and 64% for hepatitis C, in general, higher in comparison to last year and lower than in 2000. In 2002, the global rates for **Tuberculosis** varied between 1% and 4%, being lower or similar to those registered in the last two years, except in the case of first-time clients.

According to the National Forensic Institute (NFI), in 2002, there were 156 drug-related **deaths**, that is, post-mortem tests with positive toxicological results performed in the NFI. As in 2000, decreases were verified in the number of these cases when compared to the last year (-44%), and in the rates of the positive test results.

Suspicion of acute drug-related deaths among the positive results was lower than the one verified in the previous two years: 58% in 2002, 73% in 2001 and 72% in 2000.

In 2002, 156 drug-related deaths were registered. 48%, 40% and 12%, respectively, in the forensic districts of Lisbon, Oporto and Coimbra.

Opiates are present in these occurrences (69% of the deaths occurred in 2002), although their presence has been decreasing in the previous years (81%, 88% and 95% respectively in 2001, 2000 and 1999). In 2002, an increase of cocaine (present in 44% of the cases) was registered, as well as, similarly to 2001, an increase of cannabis (present in 13% of the cases). On the other hand, there was an important decrease of cases involving both illicit and licit substances, which may have contributed to the decrease of the total number of deaths. This situation is probably due to the implementation of the adopted harm reduction policies.

Deaths occur mainly in the male gender individuals aged between 25-39. A progressive ageing of this population has been registered since 1998.

1.1.3. Indicators related to the drug use legal consequences

The population involved in these contexts shows different characteristics from those who request treatment. In fact, in 2002, and concerning the administrative sanctions for drug use, the tendency to open proceedings related only to hashish and the preponderance of provisional suspension of proceedings to the non-addict consumers was consolidated. These individuals are younger than the populations requesting treatment. In 2002, an increased weight of the processes sent to the Commissions for the Dissuasion of Drug Addiction by Court was verified as well as a two fold increase on the application of penalties, namely of those of pecuniary nature, higher rates of processes related only to hashish or of those involving ecstasy with cannabis, and the higher weight of young drug users.

Regarding the **administrative sanctions** for drug use, in the year 2002, 5580 processes were prosecuted in Continental Portugal, the highest rates per inhabitant, were registered in the districts of Beja, Faro, Portalegre and Castelo Branco.

About 44% of the cases were sent to the CDT (Commissions for the Dissuasion of Drug Addiction) by the PSP (Public Security Police), 28% by the GNR (National Republican Guard). 52% of the

processes opened in 2002 were suspended, 22% were pending and 26% had been filed. From the 4 358 pronounced sentences, about 91% were suspensions, 3% were acquittals and 6% were punitive, these last ones having duplicated in comparison to last year. Like in 2001, on the whole of the pronounced sentences, the provisional suspension of proceedings for non-addicted consumers (64%) predominated. In the case of punitive sanctions, the pecuniary penalties duplicated in relation to 2001, although the non-pecuniary penalties are still in majority, being of particular importance the periodic presentation at a place to be indicated by the CDT.

Once more, the majority of these proceedings involved only one substance (91%), in particular hashish (57%) and heroin (24%). Regarding last year, the weight of the proceedings involving only hashish increased, and on the other hand, the weight of those related to heroin decreased. In the proceedings involving several drugs, the combination of heroin with cocaine was predominant and there was an increase of the proceedings involving ecstasy and cannabis. In spite of the district diversity in these drugs use patterns, the proceedings related only to hashish were predominant in all CDTs, except for Beja and Leiria, where the proceedings related only to heroin were in majority.

The district differences based on the type of offences, the state of the proceedings, the pronounced sentences and the substances involved in these proceedings, may reflect the possible regional specificities of drug use patterns, as well as the performance and cooperation of the different actors in these circuits.

From the 5 123 individuals involved in the proceedings pronounced in 2002 and with no acquittal, about 5% relapsed along the year.

Mainly of the male gender and aged 16-34, the individuals involved in these proceedings were slightly younger than the population of the previous year. They were mostly of Portuguese nationality, single, without children, about one fourth had finished compulsory school and 28% were unemployed. The ones who relapsed were older, reported a lower education status and higher unemployment rates, when compared to the first time offenders.

1.2. Markets

Once again, the interventions may reflect a more effective approach of the involved law enforcement agencies: the total number of seizures decreased, but there was an increase of the significant seizures and of the quantity of drugs seized. For the first time, since 1990, the number of hashish seizures was higher than heroin seizures, a decrease of heroin in the national market was verified and an increase of other drugs, namely hashish, but also liamba and ecstasy. Some changes were reported in the main routes and a general decrease of the average prices at the retail market level, mainly for hashish and cocaine.

1.2.1. Seizures / Quantities / Routes / Prices

In 2002, the trend, visible since 2000, of a greater efficacy in this type of interventions increased: the total number of seizures decreased, but the seizures involving significant quantities of drugs increased, placing some of the seized drugs in 2002 in the first places of the decade rankings. For the first time, since 1999, hashish seizures surpassed those of heroin. The indicators suggest a decrease of heroin in the national market, but, on the other hand an increase of other drugs, mainly hashish, but also liamba and ecstasy. A change in the main routes was reported, in particular for cocaine, and a general decrease in the average prices at the retail level, mainly for hashish and cocaine.

For the first time since 1999, the hashish seizures surpassed those of heroin, the substance that was always involved in the larger number of seizures. This year, as in 2000, a decrease in the number of seizures of heroin, cocaine and hashish was once again verified (respectively about – 45%, -12%, -14%). On the contrary, the number of ecstasy seizures is still increasing (+ 16% than in 2001), however the number of liamba seizures in 2002 was higher (+ 50%) than in 2000 and 2001.

Since 2000, seizures involving significant drug quantities ² have had a growing importance in the total number of seizures, what may be related to the increase of presumed traffickers. Between 2001 and 2002 there has been a decrease in the seized quantities of heroin (- 70%) and cocaine (- 44%), and, on the other hand, an increase in the quantities of hashish (+ 8%), liamba (+ 54% and ecstasy (+ 76%). In 2002, the seized quantities of liamba and of ecstasy were the highest of the last decade, and those of cocaine occupied the third place in the decade ranking.

LSD stamps, hallucinogen mushrooms, cannabis pollen and crushed ecstasy have been seized again in 2002; the first seizures of these substances occurred very recently (in the first case in 2000 and for the other substances in 2001) and in 2002 ecstasy crystals were seized for the first time.

In comparison to 2001, there were some changes in the main countries of origin for the seized drugs in 2002, namely for cocaine (the important weight of Brazil), the changes of the routes for the seized heroin and hashish should be minimized, as they might be related to the large quantities seized of unknown origin. Regarding heroin and ecstasy, these two substances came mainly from Holland, cocaine came from Brazil, hashish from Spain and liamba from Angola.

² For heroin and cocaine, quantities above 100g and for cannabis above 1000g, according to the criteria used by the United Nations Organisation. For ecstasy, and according to the criterion used by the Criminal Police, the most significant seizures involved quantities over 50 pills.

Most seized drugs were destined to the national market, except for cocaine, which was destined to the external market. The highest quantities of heroin and liamba were seized in the district of Lisbon, of cocaine in the district of Oporto and of hashish and ecstasy in the district of Faro.

The average prices of the seized drugs at the retail market registered a general decrease, mainly for hashish (€ 2,45/g in 2002 and € 4,06/g in 2001) and cocaine (€ 38,57/g in 2002 and € 53,51/g in 2001), which for the first time reported a lower price than heroin (€ 43,78/g). This situation may be related to a higher availability of drugs in the market, mainly in the case of hashish, considering also the other reported indicators which point towards an increased availability of this substance in the market.

1.2.2 Other Trafficking-Related Indicators

In 2002, regarding the individuals involved in the law enforcement, judicial and prison circuits for offences concerning drug trafficking and drug trafficking-use, the indicators suggest a reinforcement of the repression directed towards trafficking indicated by a slight increase of the number of traffickers in these circuits. On the other hand, there have been changes regarding the substances possessed by these individuals: a decrease in the situations involving heroin and an increase of cases related to polydrugs and of those related only to hashish and only to cocaine. Concerning the socio-demographic profile of these individuals, the ageing of these populations verified in previous years was reversed in 2002 for the group of presumed offenders.

In 2002, the law enforcement agencies identified 5 255 **presumed offenders**, 2 318 as presumed traffickers and 2 932 as presumed trafficker-users. In comparison to last year, there has been an increase in the number of traffickers (+ 14%) and a decrease of traffickers-users (- 6%). Since 1998 the number of trafficker-users has been higher than the number of traffickers, however, in the last three years the importance of the trafficker-users decreased in favour of presumed traffickers.

The districts of Faro, Lisbon, Oporto and Setúbal, as well as Madeira and Azores, registered once again in 2002, the highest rates per inhabitant of these presumed offenders.

About 62% of these individuals possessed only one type of drug; for the second year, hashish (33%) was predominant in relation to heroin (17%), contrarily to what happened until 2000. The decrease of the relative importance of cases related to heroin in favour of the situations related only to hashish or polydrugs has occurred since 1996, and in these last three years there has been an increase of the situations related to liamba and to ecstasy. The duplication of the percentages of cases related only to cocaine registered between 2001 and 2002 also reflects the

decriminalisation of drug use and the absence of drug users in these circuits. In the cases of polydrugs, the association of heroin with cocaine is still predominant, but, since 2000, has been losing importance in relation to other associations, which shows a wider diversity of drugs in the national market. The trafficker group continues to register higher percentages of situations involving polydrugs than the trafficker-users group, the weight of these situations being higher in the first group than in the second one. On the other hand, concerning the situations related only to one substance, those related to heroin are still predominant in the traffickers group, although its importance is diminishing, favouring mostly cocaine. In the trafficker-users group hashish is the predominant substance since 2001, as the cases involving heroin decreased.

The majority of presumed offenders identified by the police in 2002 was of the male gender, aged 20-39 and of Portuguese nationality. In comparison to last year, the percentage of younger individuals has increased (contrarily to the slight ageing verified in the previous years) as well as the number of individuals from the female gender and of foreign individuals.

On the basis of data from the **judicial decisions** under the Drug Law, in 2002, 1 640 processes involving 2 791 individuals were finalised. 72% of the individuals were convicted, 16% were acquitted and in 11% of the cases the criminal processes were filed. From the 2 014 convicted individuals, about 92% were convicted for trafficking, 7% for trafficking-use and 1% for use³. There were no significant fluctuations in the last three years⁴ in the number of convictions for trafficking and trafficking-use.

Faro, Lisboa and Bragança were the districts with the highest rates of these convictions per inhabitants, followed by Porto e Setúbal.

As for the type of conviction applied to the convicted individuals, effective imprisonment predominated (49%), followed by suspended imprisonment (44%). Effective imprisonment (52%) and suspended prison (45%) were the most applied penalties for trafficking, and suspended prison (47%) and effective fine (36%) for traffic-users. About 9% of these individuals were convicted for more than one crime (10% of the traffickers and 1% of trafficker-users), a slightly lower percentage when compared to last year.

The convictions related only to one drug were in majority (70%), being heroin the main substance involved (41%), followed by hashish (20%) and cocaine (7%). Since 1998, and in particular since 2000, the importance of heroin has decreased, mainly in favour of hashish and polydrugs. In the last two years there has been a slight increase of cocaine-related cases. The situations involving polydrugs, as well as the situations involving only hashish and cocaine, were more often related to

³ The situation foreseen in article 40.º from Decree-Law n.º 15/93, of the 22nd January, planting/growing, is still a crime.

⁴ According to the methodological criterion used in previous years, the data related to 2002 will be updated in the next year and the decisions related to 2002 and sent to IDT between 31/03/2002 and 31/03/2004 will be registered.

trafficking convictions, on the other hand, the situations involving heroin were mostly related to the convictions for trafficking-use.

The majority of these convicted individuals were of the male gender and aged 20-39. There has been an ageing of this population in the last years, but, at the same time, there has been a slight increase of individuals younger than 20. The majority of the convicted individuals were of Portuguese nationality, single and with no children, low education status and precarious jobs. When compared to 2001, there were higher percentages of foreigner individuals and unemployed individuals, mainly in the trafficker group.

Under offences committed against the Drug Law, on the 31st of December 2002, there were 3 967 **convicted individuals in prison**. In the last two years there has been an increase of the total number of these convicted imprisoned individuals, despite the slow, but continuous decrease in the percentage of these individuals within the total number of convicted individuals in prison (41% of the total of convicted imprisoned individuals in 2002, 42% in 2001 and 43% in 2000).

The crimes of traffic are the main responsible for the convictions of this group (92%). During the last three years, apart from the gradual increase in the number of convicted imprisoned individuals for traffic, crimes related to criminal association also increased and on the 31st December 2002, they involved a higher number of convicted imprisoned individuals than the crimes for trafficking-use.

These convicted imprisoned individuals under the Drug Law are mainly of the male gender and aged 25-49, particularly 30-39. About 17% were foreigners, most of them convicted for trafficking, which represents an increase in comparison to previous years.

2. Main Activities Developed in 2002

In 2002, the National Action Plan for Drugs and Drug Addiction - Horizon 2004 continued to be implemented. On the 29th November, Decree-Law 269-A/2002, merged the Portuguese Institute for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the Service for the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Abuse (SPTT) in a single institution to cover all areas of intervention in the fight against drugs and drug addiction. The new agency, IDT, (Institute for Drugs and Drug Addiction), has a mandate to guarantee the planning, conceptualisation, management, control and evaluation of the different phases in prevention, treatment and reintegration.

Concerning the legal framework, several diplomas have been published in the field of supply reduction, which originated the setting up of a national maritime authority and the reorganization of the Criminal Police – adapting the responses to the new challenges posed by the evolution of criminality and the organization of the criminal investigation –the Criminal Police having the exclusive responsibility on the investigation of organized crime.

Regarding **Primary Prevention**, in 2002, significant increase of the number of Municipal Plans for Primary Prevention was verified, apart from the 59 projects already integrated in 36 Municipal Plans, 100 new projects were integrated in 51 Municipal Plans, representing a € 1.791.364,28 investment. The Framework for the support of Prevention Programmes - *Programa Quadro Prevenir II* (PQP II)- funded 118 projects (49 in 2001), corresponding to a € 2.486.365,02 investment. Last year, the financial support of PQP I and of the National Rehabilitation Programme amounted to € 617.227,80. In 2002, the number of schools integrated in the National Network of Health Promoting Schools increased from 1.957 schools and health centres in the school year 2000/2001 to 3.407 in the school year 2001/2002. The Programme Safe School (*Programa Escola Segura*) has recruited a larger number of female agents, 39, which is considered as an important factor for the training and awareness actions carried out in schools located in areas with a high rate of criminality, and in the legal support given to minor female offenders.

Concerning the **Dissuasion of Drug Addiction**, the work carried out by the Commissions for the Dissuasion of Drug Addiction (CDDA) was centred in technical and juridical supervision of the respective activity, harmonising the procedures and the reinforcement of partnerships. At the request of the Regional Governments of Azores and Madeira, the IPDT carried out internal training actions for the CDDA, as well as awareness and information sessions for the police authorities and for the prison staff. In Continental Portugal, that activity was developed at district level, by establishing a network capable of responding through the optimisation of resources and the reinforcement of interinstitutional cooperation.

Regarding **Treatment**, there was a tendency to consolidate the approach, initiated in recent years, of reaching out to subpopulation of drug users that do not seek treatment, go to health centres or demand social support. An example of this type of approach is the setting up of low threshold services and outreach work in local premises near the “territories” attended by these subpopulations.

In 2002 the national public network of drug use treatment centres registered a total of 367.367 consultations, corresponding to an increase of 4,3% in comparison to last year. The number of patients in treatment decreased from 32.064 to 31.835 and the number of first treatment episodes decreased from 8.743 to 6.241, corresponding respectively to decreases of 0,7% and 28,6%. The SPTT, in cooperation with the General Directorate of Prison Services, guaranteed the interface and the continuity of treatment/intervention among drug users in prison. In comparison to the previous year, in 2002, there was an increase of prison establishments (40) that provided treatment to the individuals in prison in close co-operation with the SPTT.

The Programme for the Prevention and Fight against Drug and Alcohol in the Armed Forces registered a decrease in the number of treatment episodes (903) and individuals in inpatient care (93).

In a perspective of Health Promotion and Education, the National Commission for the Fight Against AIDS continued the setting up of a national network of Centres for Counselling and Early Detection of Infection by HIV in all districts, and implementing a new funding programme for the actions developed by NGOs.

In the field of **Risk Reduction and Harm Minimization** there has been an increase of the National Network for Harm Reduction previously set up by the Programme “Say no to a second hand syringe” with the implementation of 23 outreach work projects. In 2002, the mobile units, known as Contact Points, made it possible to reach previously inaccessible risk areas of the Lisbon city and to perform, for the first time “pill testing”, at experimental level.

The National Commission for the Fight Against AIDS in cooperation with the National Association of Pharmacies continued the Programme “Say no to a second hand syringe”, which amounted to € 1.040.581,30. 29 new cooperation protocols were set up with other organisations in order to implement the programme among risk populations. The Evaluation Study of the Programme on the Exchange of Syringes, presented in July 2002, concluded that the implementation of this Programme avoided 5.000 new HIV infections for each 10.000 Programme clients, an average of 80 avoided infections each month.

The **Social Reintegration** of drug users was specifically concentrated in the development of the National Employment Programme – *Programa Vida-Emprego* - , a partnership between the IPDT

and the Institute of Employment and Professional Training (IEFP), of the National Rehabilitation Programme Framework and of the activities developed by the IEFP and by the Institute of Solidarity and Social Security. Altogether, it should be pointed out the major role that these several programmes and projects represented in the social reintegration of drug users. NGOs working in this area were also adequately funded by the Government.

In relation to the **Fight against Illicit Traffic of Drugs and Money Laundering**, main activities in 2002 included the coordination procedures carried out by the Criminal Police at operational level and its adaptation to the new forms of organised crime, especially crimes of money laundering and international organised crime. Co-operation with the Portuguese financial system was also reinforced, as well as the mechanisms for international co-operation. The activities carried out by the Public Security Police and the National Republican Guard contributed to prevent and discourage traffic, mobilising the community through awareness and information sessions in cooperation with schools and local communities.

The **International Cooperation** sector was managed by the IPDT, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and aimed at intensifying the Portuguese participation in the international *fora*, to coordinate and rationalize the Portuguese intervention at international level and to develop cooperation activities, including the commitments related to the international treaties and conventions, as well as the participation in the European Union.

Scientific Research developed in 2002 allowed the monitoring of the situation and was mainly aimed at supporting decision makers and professionals in the field as well as complying with European and international commitments.

Information, Publication and Information activities are a decisive factor for the collection, organization and dissemination of knowledge; new services in this field were set up, making use of the most recent technologies thus meeting the needs of professionals and students in a proactive way.

Training is of fundamental importance and includes programmes developed by agencies set up for a specific purpose actions created specifically and external programmes for general training. The I National Meeting of the IPDT and the VI Training Programme of the SPTT in Drug Abuse Prevention were the main initiatives in this area.