Central and eastern Europe programme

Situation analysis

The central and eastern European countries face increasing problems associated with the traffic and transit of illicit drugs, as well as with the rise in local drug abuse. In the 1990s, most countries in the region experienced an increase in drug (mostly heroin) transit. Criminality has also increased in terms of both the number of drug-related offences committed and the number of drug-trafficking groups and networks originating from south-eastern Europe and from the Balkan region. In addition, criminal groups in the member States of the European Union have diverted their trafficking routes through the central and eastern European countries. In recent years, the peace process in the territory of the former Yugoslavia has led to a revival of the traditional Balkan route. Drug-trafficking activities were disturbed again in 1999, due to the war in Kosovo; yet with the current process of normalization, it can be assumed that this route is being revitalized once again.

Central and eastern Europe continues to be a transit region for cannabis destined for the member States of the European Union. Studies show that cannabis is the most widely used drug in the central European countries and evidence suggests that there has been a noticeable increase not only in the illegal traffic, but also in the cultivation of cannabis in the region. The transit role of the region in cocaine trafficking developed further in recent years. There is also the danger of a growing popularity of synthetic drugs among the young, with associated violence among the large number of juveniles involved with criminal groups that traffic in and sell drugs. Illegal laboratories have been dismantled in almost all of the countries in the region.

In the process of enlargement of the European Union under the pre-accession strategy, the candidate countries adjusted or reoriented their drug control actions towards adoption of the European Union norms in the drug field. Efforts are being made by the countries concerned to adapt their legislation to meet the European Union standards.

Despite the fact that the necessary legal and institutional frameworks in most of the central and eastern European countries are in place, the overall capacities to implement effectively the adopted measures, as well as the allocated resources, remain limited. The effectiveness of policy implementation is impaired by the operational shortcomings of the national coordination mechanisms and weaknesses in regional cooperation. In most of the countries, this affects the capacity of the institutions concerned to tackle the problem and constrains their ability to participate effectively in international cooperation measures.

Objective

The objectives are to support the central and eastern European countries in developing effective drug policies and measures, to foster cooperation among them to counter the supply of and illicit trafficking in drugs, and to reduce illicit demand.

Strategy

UNODC will continue to work to organize cross-border cooperation in various areas of drug law enforcement, by promoting professional networks and the establishment of mutual trust and cooperation between institutions. UNODC drug programmes are being designed in close contact with both recipient countries and interested donors and are focused on key drug control issues. The programme will emphasize sustainable institution-building based on best practices in administration, management and operational aspects. They also address technical support elements including: computerized systems for criminal
intelligence analysis; surveillance teams; national systems for registration and use of informants; computer-based training for law enforcement and customs officers; strengthening international precursor control efforts; strengthening national demand reduction capacities; and improving public awareness.

**Results**

Outcome: **criminal intelligence networks established.** Objectively verifiable indicators: database on drug trafficking and organized crime; increased seizures of drugs; identification of criminal groups and activities; joint operations with law enforcement agencies of other countries.

Outcome: **national monitoring systems for drug abuse.** Objectively verifiable indicators: reports of drug abuse assessments available; epidemiological networks established; training courses introduced; EMCDDA connections established.

Outcome: **increased national capacities to develop and implement drug abuse prevention and treatment policies and strategies.** Objectively verifiable indicators: establishment of national networks and centres for the development and introduction of new prevention methods and managerial models; rehabilitation centres available for young drug abusers.

Outcome: **enhanced public awareness of the socio-economic implications of the drug problem and related crime problems.** Objectively verifiable indicators: number of media campaigns with drug prevention components; number of references in the media.

Outcome: **HIV/AIDS prevention among injecting drug users.** Objectively verifiable indicators: launching of media campaigns with drug prevention components; services for HIV-infected drug users; availability of services providing information, education and counselling for injecting drug users.

**Budget and funding**

An analysis of the likelihood of funding priority activities under the programme results in a biennial budget for 2002-2003 of $1.7 million. The table below provides a breakdown of that budget by thematic area, ongoing and pipeline activities and general- and special-purpose resources. Should additional, currently unanticipated, resources become available in a timely fashion, a further $400,000 in activities could be implemented during the biennium. That amount has not been included in the present budget estimate.
Central and eastern Europe programme budget for 2002-2003
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic area</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Pipeline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy support, legislation and advocacy</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>115.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention and reduction of drug abuse</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>240.0</td>
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<td>Suppression of illicit drug trafficking</td>
<td>250.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1307.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>1679.8</strong></td>
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