



Connekt

The newsletter of the Youth Network for Drug Abuse Prevention

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Angaza



teenex



Less network, More network

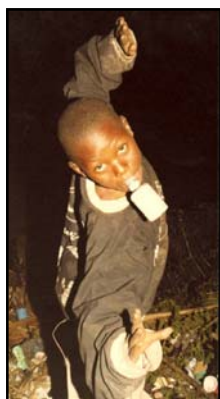
It has now been four years since we started this phase of the Global Youth Network Project. As most of you know, one of our primary aims was to establish youth, youth organizations and youth workers as important and equal stakeholders in the process of developing and delivering drug abuse prevention programmes and initiatives. During these four years, we've tried to engage with you to identify what works and what doesn't in the field of drug abuse prevention, to train some of you to apply these good practices, to exchange information on new trends in drug abuse and about possibilities for making a difference.

As you know, we have been coordinating this work from the UNODC headquarters in Vienna. Now, however, we would like some of you to take over this work. In the last few months, we have been in the process of selecting groups that will coordinate the work of Regional Successor Youth Networks. We will still be here to manage the listserv, produce Connekt and keep the website updated, but the coordination of the network, identifying and disseminating good practices and devising and conducting training will be taken over by some of you. By doing this, we hope that youth groups and NGOs will be able to establish good and strong links with our network of field offices and, through them, with all the important players in the drug field in your regions. We hope that by encouraging such close links between youth and

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ANGAZA



Angaza is a community-based, youth-run initiative in Kenya, working among the poorer communities and slum areas of the country's capital, Nairobi. These are communities where income is extremely low, unemployment is high, HIV/AIDS, crime and drug abuse are on the upswing, single parenthood is prevalent and public services are non-existent. In October 2002, young people from the Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda took part in a Global Youth Network East African Regional Workshop and supported the idea of having a network that would bring together youth organizations working to prevent drug abuse. Eventually, Angaza was recruited as the Global Youth Network regional coordinating organization. We will in turn join up with national coordinating bodies to develop national drug prevention initiatives unique to the particular background of each organization. We feel that the East African Regional Networks (EARN) MISSION is "Enhancing East Africa's resource development and youth participation in abuse and harm prevention and reduction" and that its VISION is to see "every region locally equipped because every person is in charge and empowered".



EAST AFRICA
REGIONAL NETWORK

The idea is to mobilize proactive, youth-based grassroots projects through an interactive youth-to-youth peer process, by providing opportunities to build organizational capacities and develop sustainably tangible partnerships with the private and social-enterprise sectors within the region. As the journey begins, EARN is excited about the potential for prevention. The possibilities and challenges expected in such an unfamiliar territory should spur us on as "No dream is too wild, no surprise too impossible" (Oprah, 2004). EARN looks forward to lots of possibilities, fun, learning and imagination within the field of drug abuse prevention.

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teenex High? Naturally - it's the Teenex way!

When drug worker and social psychology student Ann Stoker sat down almost 18 years ago at Brunel University to write a peer prevention programme (Teenex), even she didn't think it would still be thriving today. Peer education was certainly 'hot' back then, with much research singing its praises, and there is still real power in youth speaking to youth. What has made Teenex a lasting success is its dynamic mixture of 'fun, facts and feelings'—all delivered at a lively pace in a sustained positive atmosphere. Experiential learning—learning by involvement—is the key, and it is the reason for the 'ex' in Teenex. Part of Ann's research into peer processes showed that residential settings increased the learning benefit of trainings, and that the longer the experience, the better the impact. There's a limit to that, of course, so she opted to schedule trainings between Saturday and Sunday jobs, which many British youth have to get their spending money. The training period runs from Sunday evening to Friday night. The overall population of the training camp is around 45, and this is subdivided into 'families' of 7 to 9 people. The youth stay in these groups for the whole week and become adept in discussing subjects introduced in 'whole-camp' sessions. Serious workshops are mingled with music, drama and dance, so that by Friday night, the whole group puts on a one-hour show for an invited audience, illustrating and celebrating what they have learned during the week. Teenex has grown in its 18 years. Initially approved for British Home Office funding, programmes have since been run over several years in Poland, Portugal and Germany; they are now starting in Bulgaria, and interest is being shown by Pakistan, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and several Arab countries. A detailed evaluation was conducted by the German programme (Teenex e.V.) was very positive. More information available on the National Drug Prevention Alliance web site www.drugprevent.org.uk, or on the German site www.teenex.de.

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Y.C.A.B

Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (YCAB)



Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (Institute of Loving the Nation's Children or YCAB for short) is a non-profit NGO concerned with drug abuse prevention. Established on 13 August 1999, YCAB has become the leading anti-drug organization in Indonesia, enjoying support from UNICEF, UNODC and The Colombo Plan as well as the involvement of 184 active volunteers who assist in all aspects of YCAB's work. The main beneficiaries of YCAB's programmes are Indonesian youth, who are at the highest risk of drug abuse. So far, the NGO has reached well over half a million young people through its various programmes, including the Youth Against Drug Abuse (YADA) programme, in which youth become trainers of other youth; the Interschool Campaign, which teaches school going children about the dangers of drugs in an open and fun filled environment; an adapted version of the Life Education Programme, franchised from Australia, which teaches drug education based upon each school's unique need; community-based outreach to mosques, churches, shopping malls, community leaders, etc, to teach drug education and prevention; Public Service Announcements (PSA) on television, radio and in newspapers and magazines; and, research and counselling departments.

YCAB has recently been nominated as the coordinator for the Global Youth Network in the ASEAN region. We hope that the ASEAN branch of the GYN will continue to function long after the programme deadline, and we would like to establish a network that can work closely together on a common problem. We think that information exchange will be vital for the long-term success of the network in the region, allowing expertise to be swapped so that the capacity of small NGOs can be developed. That is why we will plan most of the activities of the network to exchange regional best practices and expertise.

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DJ Dinamismo Juvenil



Dinamismo Juvenil (Youth Dynamism) is an NGO established in February 1999 among young people of disadvantaged communities in Mexico City. In our projects, youth develop the Capacity to transform their social reality to avoid risk situations, while also learning leadership.

Through educational, cultural and sport activities, our projects seek to reach children, and young people, providing space to share experiences, construct new ways of cooperation, learn pacific resolution of conflicts, and identification and development of skills. We would like young people to develop five specific skills: "learning to learn", "learning to think", "learning to do", "learning to be" and "learning to coexist". Young Educators (Promotores Juveniles) have the challenge to provide the necessary guidance and support to all our community-based projects.

Dinamismo Juvenil will coordinate the successor regional network to the Global Youth Network in Mexico and Central America. We intend to base our coordination upon the reality of the region, where there are already several well functioning NGO networks working on drug abuse prevention and other related social issues, such as STD/HIV/AIDS, crime prevention, human rights, etc. However, we think it is important to reinforce the links between drug abuse prevention and other related issues to improve the quality and impact of programme and projects implemented in the region.

To start with, we are going to have a youth meeting in November in Nicaragua with youth organizations representing each country of the region. In general, we will identify and exchange best practices, especially for using the Internet. We would also like to design and operate an Intranet, where the members of the regional youth network can socialize, draft and disseminate news about their joint efforts and activities. Moreover, we would like to develop materials to increase the job quality of youth organizations in the region—for example, an interactive module to self-evaluate the impact of a community-based project and a manual on project management and fundraising.

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Y-PEER

Y-PEER is an innovative distance learning network established by UNFPA in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to provide a more efficient and effective means of disseminating information on adolescent reproductive and sexual health, to improve training resources available for peer education and to strengthen the knowledge-base of peer education trainers and peer educators. The network is based on electronic communication (email lists and listservs) and is complemented by an interactive web site (in English and Russian) and a distance learning tool, available on-line and through a CD-ROM. Members of Y-PEER are all active peer educators and trainers of trainers who contribute to and benefit from the resource materials and training programmes available on-line. Nearly all peer educators use the electronic network on a regular basis. As of August 2004, Y-PEER linked 1,064 members from 27 countries, and it continues to grow as more peer educators join. The Network provides peer educators with access to the state-of-the-art information and techniques on peer education, prevention of STDs, HIV/AIDS and other sexual and reproductive health-related topics.



The Y-PEER Network also collaborates on a number of advocacy campaigns and events. In commemoration of the World Aids Day on 1 December 2003, through the Y-PEER national networks in Serbia and Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania and the Russian Federation (and in collaboration with the British Council, MTV, YouthNet, USAID and the World Bank), UNFPA coordinated a day-long programme of activities, which included a two-hour worldwide video-conference special on the AIDS pandemic. The video-conference, moderated in New York, included the cities of Washington DC, Belgrade, Bucharest, Sofia and Moscow. As part of the collaboration with MTV, UNFPA supported the translation of MTV's staying alive web site into Russian. This site was immediately popular, becoming the most accessed web site of the Staying Alive Campaign.



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DPNA

Drug Prevention Network of the Americas



The Drug Prevention Network of the Americas/ Red Interamericana para la Prevención de las Drogas (DPNA/ RIPRED) was created to fulfill the recommendation for regional cooperation among NGOs at the World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction sponsored by the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand, December 1994. DPNA is a network of concerned citizens, organizations and professionals engaged in the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse. Our guiding principles are: to promote a healthy lifestyle free of drugs; to advocate against the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and solvents; to oppose legalization of drugs; and to support the United Nations conventions and treaties concerning drugs and psychotropic substances.



Among the activities of DPNA, are building community coalitions and providing training and technical assistance. For example, together with the Drug-Free America Foundation, Inc., we sponsor 'Forging Leadership Forjando Liderazgo', a training-of-Trainers initiative focusing on drug policies, prevention education and community coalition-building in Latin America and the Caribbean. Together with Texas A&M University through the TexLinc Student Engagement Initiative, we engage students on college and university campuses in peer mentoring activities with youth from kindergarten through high school to improve their academic performance, encourage them to pursue higher education and discourage them from using drugs, as well as teaching them to avoid other negative coping behaviours.

DPNA also actively sponsors international seminars and conferences, promotes "best practices" and works to build consensus for effective drug demand reduction via international declarations and resolutions. Finally, we maintain a web portal (www.dpna.org/www.ripred.org) to support the exchange of information among the international drug prevention community. Communiqués are sent to network members on an on-going basis.

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What's On

Training-of-Trainers in Human Rights Education with Young People, 2-11 November 2004, Budapest, Hungary.

The training is organized within the framework "Youth promoting human rights and social cohesion".

This course aims to develop the competence of trainers in working with human rights education at the national level and to enable them to act as trainers for human rights education.

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First Asia/Pacific Women, Girls & HIV/AIDS Best Practices Conference, 29 November-1 December 2004, Islamabad, Pakistan.

The Conference is the first focusing on girls and women affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It will bring together eminent regional speakers, leading researchers and Clinicians, programme managers and participants from across the Asia/Pacific region and around the world.

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World's AIDS Day, 1 December 2004, Hargeisa/Somaliland, Somalia.

Day long activities will be held to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Activities range from public addresses at Khayria, football matches at the stadium, a concert at the national theatre and a documentary film at Nagaad Premises featuring the world HIV/AIDS.

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West African Youth Leadership Training Programme, 15-30 November 2004, Sierra Leone.

The objective of the programme is to enhance the skills of young people to respond effectively to the complex challenges of social transformation. It seeks to train young people who are willing, able and ready to make a meaningful contribution to the creation of open societies in West Africa.

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International Young Professionals Summit, 29 November-3 December 2004, Brisbane, Australia.

The Summit has been designed to bring together young professionals aged 18-35 to develop workable solutions and implement development activities related to its two key themes: sustainable livelihoods and science and technology for development.

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International Youth Conference on the Challenge of Youth in Fostering Human Rights, Democracy and Ethics in Society, 20-23 December 2004, Mbarara, Uganda.

The conference will include discussions about the status of human rights, democracy and ethics in the world today. The participatory approaches of the various non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, democracy and peace will also be discussed to determine how young people can be influenced to advocate for human rights, democracy and ethics.

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www.adolescentul.ro/nodrugs/index.html. You may find in this site information about the Civil Society Drug Demand Reduction project and drug prevention. It includes useful links and weekly updated information.

www.yacsa.com.au. YACSA of South Australia is the foremost body for youth affairs. It is a membership-based organization representing young people and the youth sector.

www.youthlink.co.uk. YouthLink Scotland aims to support the development of accessible, high quality youth that services promote the well-being and development of young people.

www.kaynet.nitc.org.my. KAYNet stands for "knowledge-Asian Youth Network" and is an ASIAN regional hub for youth ranging from the ages of 13-30. It aims to provide a platform for ASIAN youth to interact, learn, share and exchange information and knowledge.

DISCLAIMER. Highlighting non-UN events and web sites in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by UNODC. These sites are provided here as a resource for young people and youth workers. The views expressed in these sites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNODC.

Regional Networks, Successor Groups

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important stakeholders, we will be able to ensure that their genuine views, constraints and ideas will be taken into account by "the powers that be" when they take decisions on drug abuse matters.

This issue of Connekt is a good opportunity to let some of these new Regional Successor Groups present themselves, their work and their ideas and to give you their contact details, so that you can be in touch right away. And since we are talking about networking, we thought we would present the work of other networks that you might be interested in joining! We do not have much space, so we are not presenting all of the Regional Successor Groups (we are still in the process of selecting some, anyway) and are including only a few other networks. We can always present others in the future!

In the meantime, I hope you will be as excited as we are about this. We really think this is a great opportunity to give prominence to regional concerns and also to develop contacts in regions where we have had difficulty so far because of the language. I know we can count on your energy and enthusiasm to make our cooperation at the regional level as meaningful and fruitful as the one at the global level. As usual, if you have questions about the process, please write to us at youthmail@unodc.org.

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Giovanna Campello

Jouhaida Hanano

Your Global Youth Network Team

NETWORKS
GROUPS
GLOBAL YOUTH
NETWORKS
REGIONAL

This is your newsletter. Tell us how we can improve it and what you would like to read about. Send us your comments and suggestions at the address given above.