

**Drugs and Crime Programmes -
Technical Cooperation**
Annual Project Progress Report
Project: XEEJ20
For Period: 01/01/2006 - 31/12/2006
Region: Central and Eastern Europe
All amounts are in US\$ unless indicated
otherwise

Project Title	HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
Project Number	XEEJ20
Responsible Office	DO/PDB/EWCAS
Report Type	Annual
Duration	2006 - 2010
Total Budget	5,000,000
Donor	Netherlands

I. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE(S)

Objective 1: Build national and regional consensus on effective implementation strategies to address HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users and in prisons
Objective 2: Increase coverage of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services among injecting drug users and in prison settings
Objective 3: Generate and share strategic information to keep the programme on track and to respond appropriately to the evolving HIV/AIDS epidemics among injecting drug users and in prison settings

II. IMPACT OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS REALIZATION OF IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

Project commencement meetings in Latvia and Lithuania demonstrated commitment of the major stakeholders to the project and endorsed the initial workplan.

III. MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR YEAR UNDER REVIEW

In September, a UNODC HQ Expert travelled to Lithuania to establish working relations with UNDP Lithuania and ensure smooth and fast commencement of the project. Talks have been held with the Minister of Health of Lithuania and other officials, their comments and content with the overall strategy received. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNODC and UNDP Lithuania on the working parameters, including the establishment of a UNODC Project Office within the UN House in Vilnius. Financial and administrative questions were discussed and agreed upon.
In October, further consultations with the national authorities of the three countries continued, clarifications were provided.
In November, the project document was signed by the Government of Lithuania and UNODC. Representatives of the Dutch Donor were present at the signing ceremony in Vienna. The event was covered by local press in Lithuania.
In November, Regional Project Coordinator was recruited and the Project Office was opened in Vilnius, Lithuania. Recruitment of Project Assistant was started. The Project Coordinator participated in an extensive HIV/AIDS training organized at Vienna HQ and received advise from technical and regional desks.
In December, the Government of Latvia joint the project. Talks continued with the national authorities of Estonia, and their signature was received in January 2007.
Also in December, project commencement meetings were convened in Latvia and Lithuania with participation of the Project Coordinator. Both meetings were attended by all major stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministries of Health and Justice, national AIDS and drug treatment agencies, prison authorities and civil society organizations. During the meetings the project was presented, and the draft national workplans were discussed. The participants underlined the importance of upscaling HIV prevention services in communities and the need to improve HIV prevention and care in prisons.
The initial workplan was endorsed with a need to further develop achievement indicators and verification methods.