

INFO
on the CSTO's anti-drug activities in 2020-2023 with regard to eleven challenges identified by the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

(to be used in the preparation of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs mid-term review in 2024)

Countering the threats posed by illicit drug trafficking and their non-medical use remains a priority for the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO or the Organization). Accordingly, a system of anti-drug activities has been established within the Organization, which includes administrative bodies, resources and means for planning and implementing anti-drug measures.

Thus, based on the **conducted analysis of the activities of the CSTO member states drug treatment services**, in November 2020 the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly adopted **Recommendations on the common approaches formation of the CSTO member states regarding the new psychoactive substances state registration**.

On February 20, 2021 the CSTO Collective Security Council approved the **Anti-Drug Strategy of the CSTO member states for 2021-2025**. In the same year, the Coordinating council of the heads of competent authorities for countering illicit drug trafficking of the CSTO member states developed and approved a list of practical measures for its implementation.

The Strategy is based on the definition of the CSTO member states coordinated approaches in the sphere of countering the drug threat, it has paid comprehensive attention to various aspects of countering the spread of drugs in the CSTO areas of responsibility, in particular, legislative, law enforcement, preventive, economic, health, scientific, ideological and organizational parts.

From January 2020 to December 2023, a number of the CSTO subregional anti-drugs operations were conducted in the CSTO format, accommodating the International Coordinating Headquarters for their management: in 2021 «**Kanal - Granite bastion**» in Dushanbe, in 2022 «**Channel - Second Barrier**» in Osh, «**Channel - Nevsky Shield**» in St. Petersburg and «**Channel - Neman**» in Grodno, in 2023 «**Channel - Araks**» in Yerevan and «**Channel - Interception**» in Almaty.

As a result of which **more than 9 tons and 700 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were seized** from drug dealers.

Representatives of UNODC, OSCE, EAG, SCO, CARICC, INTERPOL, relevant structures of CIS, China, Iran and Syria participated as observers.

In September 2021 a special exercise «**Thunder - 2021**» was held on the Republic of Armenia territory, which involved special units of the anti-drug agencies, internal affairs agencies and special services of the CSTO member states, included in the special forces of the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Forces. The training tasks of search, detection, prosecuting and neutralizing an armed criminal group of drug smugglers and clandestine drug laboratories were exercised.

The exchange of best practices and methods in the field of prevention of the psychoactive substances use and of drug-related disorders took place during the Coordination meeting of the chief narcologists of the CSTO member states in Dushanbe in April 2021. Three main directions of preventive measures organization were identified, in particular, with students in educational organizations, with workers of labor collectives and with patients of general somatic network clinics. Participants of the CSTO member state chief narcologists meeting visited the State agency «National Center for Monitoring and Prevention of Drug Addiction», State agency «Republican Clinical Center of Narcology named after Professor M.G. Gulyamova» and State agency «Republican Centre for Medical and Social Rehabilitation «Tangai».

The Chairman of CMCN initiated the development **of the CSTO model law «Prevention of non-medical drug use»** in March 2022.

The Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education «Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL)» with the direct participation of the Moscow State public health institution «Moscow scientific and practical center of narcology of the Moscow Department of Health» were the main developer of the CSTO model law on prevention.

On December 19, 2023, this model law was supported at the plenary session of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly.

The document sets out the basic principles and priorities for preventing the

non-medical use of drugs and identifies the drug addiction risk factors. In addition, procedures for the provision of drug abuse treatment to drug users who use drugs for non-medical purposes have been defined, and the «framework for international cooperation and coordination of drug prevention activities» have been established.

The Coordination Meeting of the Chief Narcologists of the CSTO member states was held in Yerevan on September 8-9, 2022.

During the meeting, the heads of the CSTO member states drug treatment services studied the experience of Armenia's narcology policy, and familiarized themselves with the material and technical support for drug addiction practice in the country. The participants of the event visited the National Addiction Treatment Center of the Armenian Health Ministry, got acquainted with the structure and activities of this main specialized medical organization and its subdivisions (clinical-diagnostic and chemical-toxicological laboratories, inpatient drug treatment units, dispensary department, offices of doctors - drug specialists, psychologists and social workers).

In November 2022, the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers adopted a **Statement on cooperation in combating the global drug threat.**

The **II Scientific and Practical Conference in memory of Professor A.L. Igonin «Narcology and Law»** was held in Moscow on November 30, 2022, which was attended by heads of the CSTO member states drug treatment services. The conference was co-organized by the CSTO Secretariat.

This conference is an annual platform for discussion of normative legal support issues and regulation of drug treatment on a multidisciplinary basis in order to improve the quality of preventive, treatment and rehabilitation, social and legal assistance for people with narcological diseases.

In January 2023 the «**Compendium of the CSTO member states national normative legal acts, regulating the organization of drug abuse treatment**» was prepared (2 parts, 102 pages).

On September 7, 2023, Minsk held the Coordination meeting of the chief narcologists of the CSTO member states, where the role and place of interdepartmental cooperation in the organization of comprehensive medical and

social assistance for persons with drug-related disorders, aimed at reducing the prevalence of non-medical drug use, drug's trafficking and negative social consequences were discussed.

State protection measures for children in dysfunctional families, in cases where social disadvantage is the cause of distress, have been talked about.

The participants of the meeting visited the State agency «Republican scientific and practical center of mental health». They got acquainted with the organization of activity of the center, of other medical institutions providing narcological assistance to the population and of the institution «Therapeutic and labor preventorium № 4» under Office of the Penal Correction Department of Belarus Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Vitebsk region to familiarize with the organization of medical-labor dispensary activities.

On May 18, 2023, the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly Council adopted a **Statement on counteracting drug use among children and young people.**

The following materials were sent to the CSTO member states as part of the intersessional activities of the Coordination meeting of chief narcologists:

- guidelines on the illicit drug use prevention and related diseases and conditions, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences (2020),
- guidelines of alcohol abuse prevention and related diseases and conditions, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences (2020);
- standard regulations for the health professionals' interaction in preventing the use of psychoactive substances and related diseases and conditions, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences (2020);
- standard regulations for the alcohol abuse prevention and related diseases and conditions, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences.

The documents of the COVID-19 pandemic period emphasize the importance of preventing the spread of a new coronavirus infection among drug-related patients and personnel in medical organizations that provide specialized medical care.

Comprehensive monitoring of the situation related to illicit drug trafficking in the CSTO area of responsibility continued during this period, according to its results Analytical reviews of the drug situation in the CSTO member states were drawn up

and published annually by the Siberian Legal Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, which is the basic educational institution of higher and additional professional education for training specialists in drug trafficking control for the CSTO member states.