

Issue I: Use of the Internet for drug-related activities

Recommendation 1

Governments should be encouraged to ensure that their law enforcement agencies are well informed, professionally trained and suitably resourced so as to be effective in the investigation of cyber-related offences and the related use of the Internet for illicit trafficking.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

- Shortage of experts in this area and lack of staff at the local level
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of information and support from State bodies for education and awareness-raising, including among young people
- Need for staff training with the involvement of national and international experts

Recommendation 2

Governments must work together to overcome the obstacles encountered in undertaking the investigation of cyber-related trafficking offences across multiple jurisdictions and introduce the changes needed in legislation, practices and procedure to expedite information-sharing, enquiries with Internet service providers and the transfer of evidence.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Information-sharing is of great importance given the international nature of such offences.

To make the necessary changes in legislation and practices in order to expedite information-sharing, enquiries with Internet service providers and the transfer of evidence.

Recommendation 3

Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to develop the specialist skills that will support the investigation of cyber-related offences and lead to successful criminal prosecutions.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Criminals are using increasingly diverse modi operandi, not only with respect to drugs.

Issue II: Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety

Recommendation 1

Governments are encouraged to make full use of alternatives to imprisonment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system, particularly at the time of their arrest and at the pretrial stage.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 2

Governments are encouraged to promote and implement institutional mechanisms, including through induction and training programmes, that enable the police to screen, assess and refer appropriate cases to treatment facilities, taking into account their dual role as the first responders and the first criminal justice actors encountered by people with drug use disorders when they come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 3

Governments are encouraged to adopt or amend legislation, policies, and guidelines that allow flexibility when handing down sentences for drug-related offences that take into account the nature and gravity of the offence as well as the personality and background of the offender.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

In implementation of its policy on drugs for the period 2019-2026, the Republic of Moldova has undertaken to amend national legislation with a view to defining mechanisms and simplifying the application of alternatives to criminal punishment for drug users.

A draft of the new national strategy for combating drugs for the period 2019-2026 and a draft national plan of action to combat drugs for the biennium 2019-2020 have been drawn up.

Recommendation 4

Governments are encouraged to employ a multidisciplinary approach in providing treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to conviction or punishment and to promote and develop the capacity for institutional coordination between justice, health, and social services authorities.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

In the Republic of Moldova, treatment and rehabilitation services are provided to drug users who voluntarily seek those services.

Criminal law does not provide for treatment in a specialized medical institution as an alternative to conviction or punishment.

Recommendation 5

Governments are encouraged to implement measures to increase public awareness of the benefits of using alternatives to imprisonment.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Information on the introduction of alternatives to imprisonment and the benefits of those alternatives is provided to the general public as part of campaigns carried out to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June).

Recommendation 6

Governments are encouraged to collect and analyse gender- and age-disaggregated data on the use of alternatives to imprisonment and, if applicable, to undertake periodic evaluation of existing initiatives to provide treatment as an alternative to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Issue III: Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes

Recommendation 1

Governments are encouraged to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data to obtain more information about the situation and circumstances of women drug users and the various roles women assume in drug-related crime and in organized crime groups with a view to developing and implementing effective and comprehensive policies and programmes.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Recommendation 2

Governments are encouraged to ensure non-discriminatory access to health-care services for women, including in prison, and to develop gender-sensitive prevention, primary care, treatment and reintegration policies and programmes, particularly for pregnant women and women with caretaking responsibilities.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

In order to reduce the risk of drug dependence, psychosocial programmes are implemented in prisons, information hours are organized and individual counselling is provided. Key programmes include rehabilitation for drug users (194 participants, compared to 138 in 2016) and health education (508 participants, compared to 374 in 2016). The methadone substitution therapy programme operates in 13 penal institutions, including 4 temporary detention facilities, and a total of 439 people have participated in that programme (since its launch in 2005). A therapeutic community service for drug users has been in operation in one penal institution since June 2018. There were 11 residents in the community at the end of 2018.

Recommendation 3

Governments are encouraged to ensure close cooperation and collaboration among all relevant national authorities in developing and implementing gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Issue IV: Money-laundering, illicit financial flows and effective countermeasures

Recommendation 1

In support of the investigation of money-laundering offences and the recovery of the proceeds of crime, Governments are encouraged to enable access by their law enforcement authorities to the information held by their financial intelligence units.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Either to give access or to eliminate current bureaucratic requirements in the process of information exchange.

Recommendation 2

Governments are encouraged to ensure that evidence gathered through investigations of money-laundering offences by their financial intelligence units has legal standing in their courts if used in prosecutions brought by other law enforcement agencies.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Moldova.

Recommendation 3

Governments are encouraged to make use of the tools available for training and building the capacity of their law enforcement authorities, financial investigators and prosecutors available through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other training institutions.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Personnel of State authorities and the military, police and security forces are required to improve their skills on a continuous basis.

Recommendation 4

Governments are encouraged to share with UNODC the results of their national money-laundering risk assessments to facilitate a coordinated global response and to strengthen the capacity of competent authorities and financial institutions to thwart attempts at money-laundering.

Any action taken YES NO

Comments:

Information-sharing between the Republic of Moldova and UNODC should be reciprocal.