INFORMATION

on measures, national strategies, action plans, legislative acts, etc. implemented in order to reduce recidivism


These documents envisage the application of new methods directed at strengthening the fight against illegal trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and drug addiction, anti-narcotics propaganda, a number of measures to prevent the illegal circulation of narcotics and the spread of drug addiction, including prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and education, implementation of individual rehabilitation and reintegration into society of children affected by narcotics, prevention of non-medical use of drugs, treatment and rehabilitation of such persons.

The 2019-2024 State Program on combating illegal trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and drug addiction envisages implementation of measures to improve the quality of narcology service, to increase the number of narcologists and medical psychologists, drug treatment facilities, to establish rehabilitation centers, to conduct inquiries about the situation related to the illegal circulation of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and the spread of drug addiction, as well as to conduct social studies in order to detect the prevalence of drug addiction among different age groups, summarize the results and take appropriate measures, to timely detect persons who abuse narcotics and psychotropic substances, to increase attention to the education, employment, efficient organization of free time of drug addicts, minors and the youth, to create conditions for them to engage in sports, art and socially useful work, to take timely preventive and prophylactic measures for drug addicts, as well as to organize propaganda work for the purpose of public awareness-raising among citizens about the intake of narcotics, psychotropic substances and related problems.

At the same time, in the 29 June 2001 Law "On Narcological Service and Control", the measures implemented in the field of narcological service and control have been determined, aiming to prevent narcotic diseases and the negative medical and social consequences caused by them, as well as cases of harm to people who are affected by these diseases and those around them.

According to the Law, for the purpose of providing drug assistance, measures are taken on assessing the health of people who abuse substances that affect the human psyche and, if necessary, providing them with specialized drug assistance, assessing the health and psychological state of narcological patients, determination of the diagnosis of narcotic disease (medical examination), treatment of narcological patients, implementation of replacement therapy, further monitoring of the health of narcological patients and psychological rehabilitation and psychological correction of such patients.
Also, according to the Law, in order to ensure the goals of the narcological service, provision of social care and protection of their rights to children of drug addicts deprived of parental care, social protection and protection of rights of drug addicts and their family members, appropriate measures necessary for reintegration of drug addicts into society (providing narcological patients with jobs or professional knowledge, as well as temporary shelters for narcological patients without a place of residence) is ensured; in order to reintegrate drug addicts into society, it is ensured that people who are voluntarily treated for drug addicts acquire various professions and certain places are allocated for their employment, narcological patients without a place of residence are provided with temporary shelters, and mutual assistance groups of narcological patients and their family members are organized.

At the same time, according to the said Law, for the purposes of drug control, the following measures are taken: promotion of a healthy lifestyle, campaigning against the spread of drug-related diseases, identification of persons with a high probability of suffering from drug-related diseases, conducting warning reviews (inspections), raising public awareness about the consequences of the consumption of psychoactive substances for the health of the individual, family and society, effective measures that can be taken in order to reduce the damage caused by substances affecting the human psyche, possibilities of control over the health of narcological patients.

The "Program on treatment, rehabilitation and resocialization of drug addicts" was approved by the 13 August 2014 No. 276 Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the purpose of reducing the demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by involving people suffering from drug addiction in complex treatment-rehabilitation and resocialization measures, regulating complex rehabilitation and resocialization processes of drug users, and raising public awareness about the harm of drug addiction.

The said document regulates issues such as treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, involvement in programs for detection, treatment, rehabilitation and resocialization of drug users.

In addition, according to the "Conditions and Rules for the Application of Replacement Therapy Programs Used in the Treatment of Persons Suffering from Drug Addiction", approved by the 25 January 2006 No. 21 Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, replacement therapy shall be applied to people suffering from drug addiction, in order to create favorable conditions for social rehabilitation and reintegration measures.

The "Action Plan for Prevention and Treatment of Drug Addiction" was approved by the 25 February 2010 Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, envisaging a number of measures on development of new methods and procedures in order to solve the problems related to treatment and subsequent social rehabilitation of drug addicts, raising the quality of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation methods, and increasing their types.

The "Rules on implementation of preventive measures against persons held liable for the illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors" was approved by the 3 March 2015 No. 54 Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, for the purpose of combating illegal processes occurring in society during the illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, prevention and reduction of violations in this area.
The Rules regulate issues related to detection and elimination of the causes of the commission of relevant violations of law and the circumstances creating the conditions for it, with the aim of preventing the actions of persons prone to illegal behavior, providing individual preventive effect to such persons and those in close contact with them, conducting awareness and propaganda work regarding the negative effects of drug use on the human body and the threats they pose, organizing relevant seminars and conferences, taking appropriate measures to return to a healthy lifestyle persons who have been held responsible for the illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and have suffered from drug addiction, and to prevent the repeat commission of such acts.

Moreover, it shall be informed that realizing the negative impact of drug addiction and related criminality on the development of society, and aiming to implement fundamental social and legal measures against this dangerous phenomenon, the State Commission for Combating Drug Addiction and Illegal Trafficking in Narcotics was established by the 25 August 1996 Presidential Decree.

At the same time, within the framework of the fight against the illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and the spread of drug addiction, a number of acts related to the illegal circulation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances have been criminalized in Chapter 26 of the Criminal Code, as well as Chapter 22 of the Administrative Offenses Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It shall be informed that purposeful work is being carried out among sentenced persons for the purpose of preventing illegal circulation of drugs and the spread of drug addiction through anti-narcotics propaganda and education, returning drug addicts to a healthy life by treating them, further improvement of activity in the field of treatment and recovery, achieving positive results in getting rid of this social problem. Social signs, leaflets and brochures with warning information and special slogans about drug addiction and side effects thereof, prepared by the Working Group of the State Commission for Combating Drug Addiction and Illegal Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, were distributed in prisons. Training seminars on “Strengthening of propaganda about the harm of drug addiction to society and human health” were held with the participation of representatives of the Working Group, Anti-Narcotics Department General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Narcological Center of the Ministry of Healthcare, the Medical Departments General of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population and of the Ministry of Justice, and the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Also, preventive recommendations have been sent to law enforcement bodies for the purpose of detection of illegal cultivation of plants with narcotic composition and the areas grown in the wild, destroying such plants, as well as the prevention of problems that may arise due to the presence of strong substances in the drugs taken by citizens for weight loss.

Ministry of Justice
Republic of Azerbaijan