

**COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE  
INSTITUTIONS IN BULGARIA IN  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL  
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION POLICY -  
LESSONS LEARNT AND PERSPECTIVES FOR  
DEVELOPMENT**

*GEORGI VASILEV*

*FANI MIHAYLOVA-MOMCHEVA*

*DIMITRINA APOSTOLOVA*

*VENDA ZIDAROVA*

*47 TH ICAA CONFERENCE*

*3.11.2004 – VENICE, ITALY*

# NATIONAL ANTIDRUG STRATEGY

2003 – 2008 -

## MAIN POLITICAL DOCUMENT IN BULGARIA IN THE DRUG FIELD

1. THE STRATEGY IS DEVELOPED UNDER A TWINNING PROJECT WITH UK
2. IT IS ADOPTED BY THE BULGARIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS – MARCH 2003
3. IT IS A PART OF THE PROCESS OF BULGARIAN ACCESSION INTO EU – CHAPTER 24 “JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS”
4. IT WAS APPROVED BY THE EU COMMISSION

# MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

1. The drug issue is a permanent priority in the foreign and internal policy of the Republic of Bulgaria;
2. Create an efficient system for assessment of a) the risks associated with drug supply and consumption and b) effectiveness of anti-drug activities;
3. Regard supply and demand reduction as equally important and interrelated;
4. Strengthening the countermeasures against illegal drug and precursor trafficking is an integral part of the fight against organised crime, money laundering, corruption and a means for curbing funding of international terrorist organisations;
5. Improve interaction and co-operation among state institutions involved in fight against drugs;

# MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY (2)

6. Establish efficient interaction and co-operation among state institutions, private businesses, NGOs and civil society in order to fulfil the objectives of the Strategy;
7. Wide public awareness; incorporate the drug issue in the school education system in a more active and targeted way;
8. Increase co-operation with international organisations and other countries.

# GLOBAL AIMS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

1. Stop the increase of drug usage through the provision of effective treatment and prevention;
2. Reduce the supply of illegal drugs through improving the efficiency of law enforcement bodies
3. Reduce the volume of illegal trade in chemical substances (precursors) used for illegal production of drugs;
4. Establish a national unit for drug intelligence to support the work of national and international institutions fighting against illegal drug trafficking;
5. Provide effective drugs policy co-ordination and management and establish efficient information systems.

# **DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

**Task 1. PREVENT THE INCREASE OF THE NUMBER OF NEW DRUG ADDICTS**

**Task 2. REDUCE ABUSE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS**

**Task 3. REDUCE ABUSE OF NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES USED FOR MEDICAL AND VETERINARY PURPOSES**

**Task 4. OVERCOME SOCIAL ISOLATION AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION OF HIGH-RISK GROUPS**

**Task 5. LIMIT THE SPREAD AMONG DRUG ABUSERS OF DISEASES WHICH HAVE AN IMPACT ON SOCIETY: BLOOD-TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (HIV/AIDS, HEPATITIS B, C), TUBERCULOSIS, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, ETC.**

# **DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (2)**

**Task 6. ENCOURAGE EMPLOYMENT OF DRUG ABUSERS WITH THE MEDIATION OF EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS**

**Task 7. DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT PROGRAMMES**

**Task 8. PROVIDE EASIER ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE TREATMENT PROGRAMMES**

**Task 9. DEVELOP AND INTRODUCE BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS IN PREVENTION, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND HARM REDUCTION**

**Task 10. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMMES FOR SOCIAL REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

**Task 11. ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TO THE BENEFIT OF THE NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY**

**Task 12. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS IN THE AREA OF DEMAND REDUCTION**

# **NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF ADDICTIONS IN BULGARIA 2001 - 2005**

- 1. ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS –  
MARCH 2001**
- 2. IMPLEMENTED MAINLY BY THE MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH**
- 3. IT WAS AUDITED AS RESULTS AND  
IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GENERAL AUDIT  
OFFICE**

# MAIN AIM OF THE PROGRAM

To restrict the spread of drug addiction and its high health and social costs for Bulgaria's young generation

# STRATEGY AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

The National Programme for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Addiction in the Republic of Bulgaria views drug abuse as a complex phenomenon with a multifactor genesis in the context of the bio-psycho-social model

# MAIN AREAS OF INTERVENTION

1. PREVENTION
2. TREATMENT
3. REHABILITATION
4. HARM REDUCTION
5. INFORMATION AND INFRACTURAL DEVELOPMENT

# **STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY**

- **STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION FUNCTION**
- **NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL**
- **DRUGS INFORMATION SYSTEM/FOCAL POINT**
- **MUNICIPAL DRUG COUNCILS**
- **ANTIDROGA COALITION**

# ***DRUGS AND PRECURSORS CONTROL ACT***

## **CONTROL BODIES**

- 1.** The Ministry of Health shall exercise control on the production, processing, import, export, transit, trading, storage, reporting, transfer, transport and use of the plants and drugs when the substances concerned is restricted to medical purposes.
- 2.** The production, processing, storage, trading within the national territory, import, export and transit, transfer and transport of drugs shall be carried out under licence for activities, buildings and premises issued by the Minister of Health under the terms and procedures specified by a regulation of the Council of Ministers.
- 3.** The licence may be issued only if the use of the substances concerned is restricted to medical purposes.

# ***DRUGS AND PRECURSORS CONTROL ACT***

## **CONTROL BODIES**

- 4.** A licence shall not be required for limited quantities of plants and substances used for purposes of medical or scientific research and teaching purposes
- 5.** Import and export of drugs is done in compliance with the international system for trade in drugs based on import and export licences issued by the National Drugs Service. The system monitors substances on Lists I and II of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) and Lists I, II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971).

# **NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY 2003-2008**

- **IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATORY REGIMES INTRODUCED BY LAW ON THE CONTROL OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DRUGS USED FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES.**
- **Reduce the abuse of drugs and their substances used for medical purposes by raising the efficiency of control and co-ordination of the activities of control units.**
- **Intensity of regular control increased.**
- **Joint control activities with the specialised services of the Ministry of the Interior for combating drugs provided for.**

# **SUCCESS STORY – THE BULGARIAN EXPERIENCE IN HARM REDUCTION**

- 1. SOUND LEGISLATIVE GROUND –**
  - a. HARM REDUCTION IS POINTED AS A MAJOR PART OF THE DEMAND REDUCTION POLICY IN THE DRUGS AND PRECURSORS CONTROL ACT**
  - b. SPECIAL DIRECTIVE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS**
  
- 2. LEADING STATE INSTITUTION SUPERVISING THE FIELD – NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADDICTIONS – MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
  
- 3. NGO INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIELD – LEADING NGO “INITIATIVE FOR HEALTH” FOUNDATION**

# **SUCCESS STORY – THE BULGARIAN EXPERIENCE IN HARM REDUCTION**

**4. INVOLVEMENT OF KEY PLAYERS – POLICE AND  
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES**

**5. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORK OF NGOS**

**5. INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS**

**a) OPEN SOCIETY**

**b) GLOBAL FUND**

**6. DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY, STRATEGY AND  
WORKING PLANS – SUSTAINABILITY**

# **NON-SUCCESS STORY – THE BULGARIAN EXPERIENCE IN PRIMARY PREVENTION**

- 1. FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS –**
  - a) PREVENTION RECOGNISED AS A MAJOR PART OF THE DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION EFFORTS**
  - b) PREVENTION POINTED AS MAJOR PART IN SEVERAL NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS – SEXUAL HEALTH, DRUGS, YOUNG PEOPLE, HIV/AIDS ETC.**
  - c) CLEAR PUBLIC INTEREST IN PREVENTION AND ITS DEVELOPMENT ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS**

# **NON-SUCCESS STORY – THE BULGARIAN EXPERIENCE IN PRIMARY PREVENTION**

## **2. RESULTS –**

- a) HEALTH EDUCATION – STILL NOT EXISTING**
- b) PREVENTION ACTIVITIES – CHAOTIC AND NOT COORDINATED**
- c) MASS PREVENTION – NOT BASED ON CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC MODELS AND SUCCESS MODELS**
- d) PREVENTION ACTIVITIES – NORMALLY NOT EVALUATED**

# **NON-SUCCESS STORY – THE BULGARIAN EXPERIENCE IN PRIMARY PREVENTION**

## **3. PROBLEM AREAS –**

- a) LACK OF CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY – PREVENTION IS DONE BY MANY MINISTRIES – EDUCATION, HEALTH, SPORTS, YOUTH, ETC.**
- b) LACK OF GENERAL GUIDELINE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK**
- c) MANY NGOS – OFTEN CONFLICTING**
- d) NO SINGLE STATE INSTITUTION**
- e) WEAK HORIZONTAL NETWORK DEVELOPMENT**

# **GENERAL PROBLEMS IN DEMAND REDUCTION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN BULGARIA**

- 1. LACK OF NATIONAL OPERATIVE  
COORDINATING BODY**
- 2. UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF HORIZONTAL  
OPERATIONAL NETWORK FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION OF DRUG POLICY**
- 3. INSUFFICIENT HUMAN CAPACITY BUILT**
- 4. INSUFFICIENT CONSENSUS  
METHODOLOGY**
- 5. NOT DEVELOPED FINANCIAL  
MECHNISMS FOR PREVENTION**