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Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP Phase 6)

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HIGHLIGHT:

Kyrgyzstan: In the course of an assessment mission to Kyrgyzstan in 2015, the Clean Zone constructed for male inmates in the framework of CADAP 4 was shown to experts who found it very effective. Thus, the idea to construct such a zone in the only female colony #2 of the country was born within CADAP 6.

The management of the State Penitentiary Service strongly supported this idea and prepared proposals for reconstruction works inside the colony on the basis that around 30 people, together with the patients of Atlantis programme, will be treated in the female Clean Zone.

With the support of Frankfurt University (CADAP Component 4 – Treatment), it is planned to construct new facilities, including a gym and a greenhouse for growing vegetables and flowers, in addition to an accommodation building. The greenhouse is planned to be linked to vocational training purposes.

Now the tendering process for reconstruction works in colony #2 has started. The work is planned to be completed by April 2018.



Current living block at the colony # 2

Tajikistan: Medical equipment for the oblast clinical narcology centre in Khatlon oblast (Kulyab city) will be procured within CADAP 6. This narcological centre

provides urgent medical assistance to people using drugs, like drug overdoses and other conditions. The staff is involved in the capacity building initiatives provided by Frankfurt University. The equipment, which will be installed, will help patients to get higher quality services in drug treatment. The equipment will be purchased in Germany and delivered to Tajikistan in June 2017.

Uzbekistan: In view of strengthening the current and future technical implementation of CADAP in Uzbekistan, the European Union Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic authorised CADAP to allocate budget to support specific measures in Uzbekistan – to procure blood testing devices. During meetings with national partners, they raised the issue of procuring medical devices (two automatic haematology analysers) for the Narcological service of Uzbekistan. The equipment is expected in summer 2017.

“State of play in drug policy making in Central Asian countries” regional meeting held in Bishkek

During the regional meeting arranged by CADAP on 1 March 2017, country reports on the assessment of drug policies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were presented. Participants discussed current policy issues and available policy tools for drug legislation in their countries.



Participants, national partners from Ministries of Internal Affairs and Ministries of Health from Central Asian countries and representatives of international organisations made their proposals on how to adapt the existing legislation in the field of drugs and make it compliant with the international conventions and European standards. National partners were acquainted with the current EU models of drug strategies, action plans and legislation. They discussed issues of prevention and early warning systems for new psychoactive substances, internet drug trade and other topics.



Trainings on community participation and social work with drug users in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

Two experts from the German organisation Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe conducted the third national workshop for fifteen Tajik and seventeen Kyrgyz experts in community participation and social work with people using drugs in March 2017. The list of participants included representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working with drug users from Dushanbe, Khorog, Kurgan-tube, Kulyab and Pyanjakent, a social worker from the Republican Clinical Centre of Narcology, and a representative from the social work department of the Tajik National University. The list of participants in Kyrgyzstan included representatives of NGOs working with drug users from Bishkek, Karakol, Osh and Jalal Abad.

The participants discussed issues of common relevance, such as physical health of people who use drugs, infectious diseases and psychological well-being.

In Dushanbe, together with trainers the participants made a selection of the best drawings of the competition “The world around me”. The competition had been announced among drug users and social workers with the aim of using the best drawings as illustrations for the newly developed visual aids for social workers in Tajikistan.

To improve the social work practices in dealing with people using drugs in Kyrgyzstan, participants of the workshop, together with the trainers, developed the training material for social workers.



Training in psychotherapeutic rehabilitation of drug users held in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

Two experts from Germany conducted the second two-day national training on the quality of treatment and improvement of drug users’ psychotherapeutic rehabilitation standards in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in March 2017.

The trainers covered a variety of topics such as co-dependency and work with relatives, profile of social workers in Germany, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, burnout syndrome among healthcare professionals, and early detection of drug use cases by health- and social-care providers by applying the principles of interview screening and brief intervention approaches to interrupt drug use progression. These trainers also presented effective ways of improving communication and cooperation within a team and between ambulatory and hospital care.

Eighteen national experts in drug treatment (doctors and social workers) from Tajikistan are taking part in the training-of-trainers’ (ToT) courses throughout 2016-2017. Trainings are conducted by experts from Germany, Belarus and Austria. After the completion of the trainings, local experts will get certificates of the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences.



EU experts shared their experience with representatives of the penitentiary institutions in Kyrgyzstan on treatment of drug use disorders in prisons

Two experts, Heino Stoever (Germany) and Joerg Pont (Austria) conducted a two-day training workshop on 27-28 March for fourteen representatives of the penitentiary system from the State Service of Execution of Punishments and heads of Atlantis rehabilitation centres located in prisons.

The second training on this issue, which was conducted in Kyrgyzstan, focused on opioid substitution therapy (OST). The trainers discussed with the participants the social support of drug users and hepatitis B vaccination for prisoners and staff. The participants of the workshop also discussed the needle-exchange programmes in prisons and modernisation of equipment in primary health care units and rooms for psychological consultations.

CADAP 6 supports the Atlantis drug treatment programmes in the prison system in Kyrgyzstan. The Clean Zones and Atlantis centres were introduced during the previous phases of CADAP with financial support from the European Union. Trained professionals from the public health system, social workers and psychologists work with patients. Clients come to the Clean Zone voluntarily and are located in a separate building, which is equipped and supplied for rehabilitation purposes.



EU trained representatives of Tajik penitentiary institutions on the treatment of drug dependency in prisons

The same two experts from Germany and Austria conducted a two-day training workshop on 30-31 March for fourteen medical workers of the penitentiary system from Dushanbe, Kujand, Kurgantube cities and Vahdat district. A representative of the NGO “SPIN Plus” also took part in the training.

CADAP involved national partners from the Republican Clinical Centre of Narcology and a development partner, the Columbia University project ICAP, to present information on OST programme implementation in the civil sector and the national guidelines on the implementation of OST in the penitentiary system. Together with the trainers the participants discussed how to build bridges to OST in prison.

The participants also discussed the issues of harm reduction in prisons and needle and syringe exchange programmes.



A workshop to discuss the current drug situation in Central Asia held in Almaty

Twenty-five drug epidemiology and drug situation monitoring experts from five Central Asian countries gathered to discuss the current national drug situation and trends, as well as methodologies and examples of evaluation studies in drug policy interventions. The workshop was held in Almaty from 27-30 March 2017. They also planned next steps and activities at the national and regional level.

Each country prepared presentations on the recent developments and trends in the national drug situations, drug policy and drug information systems.

The trainers presented an overview of the Early Warning System on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in the European Union and Czech Republic, an evaluation of drug treatment and rehabilitation within the penal system and alternatives to imprisonment in Estonia, the general population survey on drug use in Serbia and other topics to learn from the European experience.

The study on the possible introduction of the opioid substitution therapy in Kazakhstan was presented and discussed. The participants also performed a regional analysis of the online supply of New Psychoactive Substances in Central Asian countries.



CADAP and “Mahalla” public fund discuss drug prevention in Uzbekistan

Two national seminars on the prevention of drug use among school children were organised in Gulistan and Tashkent provinces. The event gathered together 25 representatives from the “Mahalla” public fund from Gulistan and 23 participants, including chairpersons of “Mahalla” and specialists, who work with young people from Yangiyul.

During the seminars the experts from Poland, Boguslawka Bukowska and Janusz Sieroslawski, familiarised the participants with goals and objectives of the Prevention Component within CADAP and exchanged opinions with participants on their activities in “Mahalla” (small communities).

All participants provided information on prevention activities against drug use, alcoholism and tobacco smoking, conducted in their communities.

The Polish experts covered issues related to risk factor detection and prevention factors to be used for working with young people, definition of prevention strategies measures, and parents’ role in strengthening protective factors in their presentations.

The work plans on future activities were developed and accepted for implementation. Participants agreed that future trainers will be nominated by “Mahalla” for the upcoming training in June 2017.



Meetings of CADAP representatives with national partners in Uzbekistan

On 20 April 2017 Ernest Robelló, CADAP Project Leader and Sarah David, CADAP Advisor met with national partners from the National Coordinating Unit of the European Commission’s Technical Assistance Programme, the National Informational-Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan and the Tashkent City Narcological Centre. Ernest Robelló informed the national partners that after handing over two sets of automatic haematology analysers for the Narcological service of Uzbekistan, training for its staff will be arranged. The extension of CADAP’s current phase till October 2019 was also discussed by the meeting’s participants. After a decision on the extension will be made by the Government, activities to be implemented will be defined. The issue of holding the next steering committee meeting will be discussed closer to the end of 2017.

Polish experts evaluated results of the drug prevention programme in Tokmok and Bishkek

During meetings on 20-21 April in Tokmok and Bishkek, experts from Poland met with Kyrgyz experts, teachers of local schools responsible for the drug prevention programme implementation, local authorities of the city of Tokmok, and local departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education.

The meetings focused on the presentation of the prevention programme “Closer to Each Other – Further from Risky Behaviour” for adolescents who have initiated experiencing the use of psychoactive substances but are not substance dependent yet. The Polish experts presented results of the survey, which was conducted among parents and together with participants, and they discussed and brainstormed how to assure the institutionalization of the programme.

The prevention programme was addressed to



parents of school children and was worked out by the Polish experts in close cooperation with the working group of national experts. It consists of three sessions for parents which were implemented by teachers during parental meetings in school settings.

In Kyrgyzstan, a pilot project was implemented in 57 schools in four localities: Kyzyl-Kiya, Kadamjay District, Tokmok, and Chuy District. In total, 65 instructors were prepared to train teachers, and about 750 teachers participated in the training. It is estimated that about 11 000 parents participated in the programme.

EU experts trained Tajik and Kyrgyz drug treatment specialists

Two German and Austrian experts conducted a two-day training workshops during 24-25 April and 27-28 April for national specialists in the fields of narcology and psychology, social workers and former drug users in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.



The second training on this issue, which was cascaded in two countries, focused on different aspects of the treatment of patients with disorders related to the use of psychoactive substances. The participants discussed the general principles of medical ethics and the ethical code of a psychiatrist/narcologist, alcohol dependency as comorbidity among drug users, and new psychoactive substances.

The participants analysed complex cases from their working practice, focusing on the use of ethical principles. The trainers also discussed with the participants to which extent the topics covered during the two seminars were suitable for the participants' professional practice.

A regional training for press services' staff held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Twenty-one participants of the training, state ministries' press services staff from Central Asia, together with the trainers, Janusz Sieroslawski and Dawid Krawczyk, discussed various topics related to their daily work. The workshop aimed at training and refreshing participants' skills and expertise in covering drug issues was arranged on 3-5 May 2017.



They discussed various topics such as myths about the drug problem, drugs and public opinion, cooperation between journalists and state agencies providing the information, and studied examples of effective methods of information dissemination.

The participants were trained on how the information on drug issues should be prepared and disseminated so that it would be interesting for their audiences.

They also focused on the collection of data on drugs, processing and analysing it, as well as disseminating the information through the press services.

Screening tools development to identify youth at risk national seminar conducted in Tashkent

From 10-12 May, national partners, representatives of ministries and government agencies participated in the seminar. The participants discussed the following issues: organisation of the screening test and its administration in several reference groups, training in basic skills needed for conducting motivational interviews, and an overview of evidence-based strategies in drug prevention work with young people. The Polish experts presented the methodology and preliminary results of POSIT questionnaire held among the Uzbek young people.



The Europe Day celebrated in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan

The Europe Day held in May every year celebrates the peace and unity in Europe. In May 2017,



CADAP together with the other EU-funded projects celebrated the Europe Day in Bishkek and Astana. On May 12, the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic hosted a reception where an exhibition of twenty EU-funded projects was held. All the visitors were able to learn about the projects. The event was attended by heads of diplomatic missions, members of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Members of Parliament, representatives of state institutions, international organizations, business associations and the non-governmental sector. On 31 May 2017, the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan held the EU projects fair where CADAP participated.



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