

**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**2003 – 2008**

## CONTENTS

1. PREFACE
2. PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH
3. ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT
4. MAIN PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY
5. DEMAND SIDE STRATEGIC TASKS
6. SUPPLY SIDE STRATEGIC TASKS
7. STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY
  - a. Delivery mechanisms
  - b. Strategic co-ordination
  - c. Drug information system *Focal Point (EMCDDA)*
  - d. Municipal Drug Councils

### Appendices

- I. Current frame of anti-drug measures
- II. Institutional framework
- III. Control of legal activities in drugs and precursors
- IV. Drug misuse data

## **Section 1: PREFACE**

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has approved the first National Anti-Drug Strategy, which is based on a balanced and comprehensive approach to problems related to drug trafficking, distribution and misuse.

The current Strategy is a manifestation of the Government's commitment to help all affected by illegal distribution of drugs.

We recognise the serious nature of the problems associated with drugs at both domestic and international level. We are also aware that we can only be successful in fighting drugs by harnessing the efforts of the Government, civil society, NGOs and international partners. As a Government we are ready to face this challenge and commit ourselves to working in partnership on the implementation of the Strategy. We are convinced that our efforts will help bring under control the growing adverse effect of drugs over society and that our country will establish itself as a country playing a full part in the international fight against drugs.

## Section 2: PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH

The experience of other European countries points to the need of uniting the efforts of state, national, regional and local level institutions and combing them with the efforts of NGOs, media and wider community in order to handle the problem of drugs within Bulgaria. There is no doubt that solving the problems associated with the misuse and distribution of drugs cannot be the responsibility of a single institution. It takes the joint efforts of the whole society to resolve those problems.

By joining the individual efforts at national and local level we are committing ourselves to transforming the isolated efforts of individual institutions into a collective effort to assist our country and contribute to the international fight against drugs and organised crime.

We are aware that our main aims and tasks will take time to develop into an effective strategy. We start out with a clear understanding that what is presented here is a first step towards achieving our strategic priorities. Therefore, with this **first National Anti-Drug Strategy** we outline the framework for our actions for the next 5 years. This strategy envisages renewal of structures to achieve delivery of our strategic aims and it will be followed in due time by a timetabled **Action Plan**. The Strategy launches a difficult but extremely important transition where the joint efforts of individual ministries and agencies will develop into strategic interaction. To build this approach the strategy includes the following 4 key elements:

- **Improving the development and implementation of a balanced policy in the drugs area**
- **Establishment of strategic co-ordination**
- **Improvement of information exchange**
- **Local policy delivery – strengthen the role of Municipal Drug Councils**

This comprehensive approach will ensure the achievement of the strategic aims and will lead to that concrete results in terms of reduced supply and demand of drugs. To develop the comprehensive nature of the strategy, however, it is necessary to work out an Action Plan that will link the National Anti-Drug Strategy with other key national reforms and strategies relevant to countermeasures against drugs demand and supply: health reform (policy), health insurance system (funding), National AIDS Strategy, reproductive health, Penal Code amendments (drug penalties), anti-corruption, judicial reform, National Intelligence Model.

An Action Plan will be developed to the National Anti-Drug Strategy, containing concrete measures, deadlines and responsible institutions. The implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy and the Action Plan will be funded by the national budget and other sources.

## **Section 3: ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **Introduction**

The strategic position of Bulgaria on the “Balkan route” determines the state policy in the field of counteraction against illegal trafficking of drugs and precursors.

The “Balkan route” is mainly used for the illegal trafficking of one of the most harmful drugs – heroin. After the 11<sup>th</sup> September events in the USA it was established that international terrorist organisations were mainly funded with money generated by illegal trade in heroin.

Having in mind the long-time commitment to international efforts against illegal drug trafficking as well as to the fight against international terrorism, the Republic of Bulgaria is firmly resolved to intensify its actions for reducing those criminal activities on the territory of the country and internationally.

Drug trafficking is one of the most profitable activities conducted by organised crime groups along with trafficking in human beings, smuggling, economic crime and money laundering. Meanwhile, in the course of the past 10 years our country has been turning from a transit point into a final destination for a range of drugs. The involvement of local criminal groups in international drug trafficking results in increased distribution on the country’s territory and a growing number of drug users. In other words, drug trafficking and distribution are turning into one of the most serious challenges for society and especially for young people. Our efforts will be concentrated on combating drug trafficking both on the territory of Bulgaria and in partnership with international law enforcement bodies. Our aspirations will be to build upon our successful track record in heroin seizures over the past two years and at the same time contribute to counteract the activities of crime groups.

### **Risk assessment**

Bulgaria recognises the serious threat of drug trafficking within and through the country. Domestic and international organised crime groups, many of which involved in illegal trade in other commodities and in economic crimes, often alter the tendencies and models (forms/manner) for use of the territory of the country for storage and transit of illegal drugs. The structure and methods used by these groups are under constant surveillance by law enforcement agencies with a view to preventing distribution of drugs and their adverse effect on social, political, economic and culture spheres of our life.

Over the past 10-12 years the activities of these crime groups have been focused mainly on trafficking and distribution of drugs outside Bulgaria. However, they are increasingly turning to domestic supply and using the young people of Bulgaria as a target market for a range of illegal drugs, including heroin, considered to be the greatest threat. To make a scientific assessment of the current situation it is necessary to develop a drug information system that will fully serve the needs of our country. In the meantime we can use the following indicators, based on the available information (collected from a Sofia school survey; treatment cases; data about production, demand, supply and smuggling channels; MDC feedback), to assess the threat that is posed by drugs within Bulgaria and to identify the priority areas of counteraction:

Problem	Negative impact	Counteraction means
<b>Increased availability and use of heroin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ negative social impact</li> <li>⇒ increased HIV rates</li> <li>⇒ social inertia</li> <li>⇒ increased crime rate</li> <li>⇒ reflection on economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ treatment</li> <li>⇒ work with high risk groups</li> <li>⇒ prevention</li> <li>⇒ targeted law enforcement</li> <li>⇒ implementation of effective and cost-effective drugs strategy to counteract the increased availability and use of heroine</li> </ul>
<b>Refusal of/lack of demand for treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ increased number of untreated addicts</li> <li>⇒ increased crime rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ create national treatment capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Growing seizure rate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ organised crime groups using new methods and drug trafficking channels</li> <li>⇒ increased production of drugs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ comparison and management of operational information / within the framework of the National Intelligence Model/</li> <li>⇒ co-ordination of tasks of law enforcement agencies</li> </ul>
<b>Increased influence and control exercised by organised crime groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ increased international and domestic drug traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ co-ordinate the activity linked to the implementation of the Anti-drugs strategy, law enforcement and judicial reform</li> </ul>

It is important to note that the increased efficiency of law enforcement agencies, resulting in increased seizure rates, makes organised crime groups to look for and use new methods for illegal trafficking and means for influencing control bodies at the border and inside the country including by means of threats and corruption.

Given the serious nature of the problem associated with drug trafficking and misuse we recognise the need to assess to what extent the response mechanisms of competent bodies and institutions are adequate. We have identified a number of high level structural issues that have to be resolved in order to implement efficiently the National Anti-Drug Strategy.

PROBLEM	NEGATIVE IMPACT	COUNTERACTION METHOD
<b>Insufficient strategic policy co-ordination</b>	⇒ mis-direction, duplication and failure to deliver national strategy	⇒ strengthen the leading role and co-ordination of strategic policy and delivery mechanisms
<b>Weak integration of drugs information</b>	⇒ inaccurate assessments and reporting	⇒ development of DIS in line with EMCDDA standards

**Conclusion**

We shall keep the above factors under review during the course of the five-year strategy and shall conduct an annual risk assessment as part of the strategy delivery.

#### **Section 4: MAIN PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY**

- The drug issue is a permanent priority in the foreign and internal policy of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Create an efficient system for assessment of a) the risks associated with drug supply and consumption and b) effectiveness of anti-drug activities;
- Regard supply and demand reduction as equally important and interrelated;
- Strengthening the countermeasures against illegal drug and precursor trafficking is an integral part of the fight against organised crime, money laundering and corruption as well as a means for curbing funding of international terrorist organisations;
- Improve interaction and co-operation among state institutions involved in fight against drugs;
- Establish efficient interaction and co-operation among state institutions, private businesses, NGOs and civil society in order to fulfil the objectives of the Strategy;
- Wide public awareness; incorporate the drug issue in the school education system in a more active and targeted way;
- Increase co-operation with international organisations and other countries.

#### **GLOBAL AIMS**

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

## **Section 5: DEMAND REDUCTION STRATEGIC TASKS**

Based on the assessment of drug distribution within the country we recognise the threat of a wider variety of patterns of drug abuse particularly among young Bulgarians, along with the need to enhance our response.

Following the endorsement of this strategy by the Government, work will immediately commence on the development of an action plan that will establish the tasks and activities required to deliver the strategic demand reduction objectives. We have highlighted (Section 2) the need to ensure that the national strategy is comprehensive and we have also identified the need for the strategic objectives to build upon and link with a number of other strategies in the field of health and social policy, including: the National AIDS Programme; National Health Reform; National Insurance System (which will contribute to funding of treatment); integration of the National Programme for Treatment and Prevention; compliance with EMCDDA/Focal Point indicators.

Cross-ministry working groups will further develop the strategic approach to demand reduction set out here; they will be assisted by partners operating under a number of assistance programmes (Twinning, EMCDDA, World Bank).

- 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.**
- Task 6. ENCOURAGE EMPLOYMENT OF DRUG ABUSERS WITH THE MEDIATION OF EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS**
- Task 7. DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF EFFICIENT AND VARIED TREATMENT PROGRAMMES**

- Task 8. PROVIDE EASIER ACCESS TO EFFICIENT TREATMENT PROGRAMMES**
- Task 9. DEVELOP AND INTRODUCE BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTION, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND REDUCTION OF HEALTH HAZARDS**
- 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 ANTI-DRUGS STRATEGY**
- Task 12. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS IN THE AREA OF DEMAND REDUCTION**

## **Section 6: SUPPLY REDUCTION STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

Bulgaria is geographically well placed to play a significant role in enhancing the international anti-drug effort. Over the recent years Bulgaria has a leading position among European countries in terms of heroin seizures and our aim is to continue to contribute substantially to curbing and counteracting illegal drug trafficking.

It is necessary to transform the efforts of individual competent agencies into a firm barrier to drug trafficking and organised crime. The existing threat is significant and our response, supported by the international community, needs to be adequate to the gravity and scale of the problem. A detailed and comprehensive action plan will be developed following the adoption of this strategy.

A number of activities are being carried out in support of supply reduction activities which along with EU projects and bilateral co-operation programmes need to be harmonised and co-ordinated with the current strategy and the objectives set out by it. This work will be done in the course of drafting the Action Plan. This will allow outlining the concrete mechanisms for the Strategy to build upon the results achieved under the following projects - PHARE project for management of operational information system in compliance with EU standards; Operational information on drugs at local level – Plovdiv (Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Metropolitan Police, United Kingdom); National Intelligence Model– Ministry of Interior; UN Drugs control programme (UNDCP); other PHARE projects.

**Task 13. OPTIMIZE BORDER CONTROL**

**Task 14. ESTABLISH NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY DRUG INTELLIGENCE UNIT**

**Task 15. REDUCE THE “SPILL OUT EFFECT” (diversion drugs form international traffic towards inside the country) WITHIN THE COUNTRY**

**Task 16. REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DRUG RELATED CRIMES**

**Task 17. INCREASE THE ANALYTICAL CAPACITY FOR STUDY OF NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES**

**Task 18. IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF CONTROL ON LEGAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES – PRECURSORS TO PREVENT THEIR DIVERSION FOR ILLEGAL PRODUCTION OF DRUGS**

**Task 19. WIDEN AND IMPROVE CO-OPERATION AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

**Task 20. IMPROVE LEGISLATION IN THE FIELD OF DRUGS**

**Task 21. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS IN THE AREA OF SUPPLY REDUCTION**

## **Section 7: STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY**

### **7.1 INTRODUCTION**

This strategy draws upon the experience of both Member States and Candidate countries. We now need to put in place structures and mechanisms that will enable us to implement effectively the complex Aquis Communautaire in the field of drugs. Strengthening Bulgarian institutions is a necessary step towards the creation of conditions that will enable delivery of the aims and objectives contained within this strategy.

### **7.2 STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION FUNCTION**

A Co-ordination and Analysis Unit (CAU) will be established within MoI that shall a) support NDC b) co-ordinate inter-agency delivery of the strategy; c) monitor the performance of the strategy, by drawing upon *Focal Point* and other data; d) provide forecasts, analysis and researches of the tendencies and work results and will inform NDC.

### **7.3 DRUGS INFORMATION SYSTEM/FOCAL POINT**

We are committed to strengthening drugs information systems in a way that enhances national co-ordination and reporting. This will be best achieved within the context of the current Twinning Project and expert assistance from the EMCDDA. On the basis of advice from both projects we will establish an integrated (supply and demand) Focal Point that will be able to provide data complying with EMCDDA standards. The location of the Focal Point will be the National Centre for Addictions, Ministry of Health. Its co-ordination with the CAU, will be resolved at a later stage.

### **7.4 MUNICIPAL DRUG COUNCILS**

Municipal Drug Councils (MDC) have been established in compliance with Drugs and Precursors Control Act. Their functions and tasks have been outlined in the Regulations for the Organisation and Functioning of the National Drugs Council. MDC are a key element of the National Drugs Strategy delivery. The membership of MDC includes senior representatives of all agencies, institutions and organisations dealing with drug issues in the respective Municipality.

MDC's main role and responsibility is delivery of the National Strategy and the Action Plan at local/municipal level. To this end MDC adopt municipal and regional action plans for prevention and treatment of drug users.

Prevention and Information Centres will be established at MDC as a functional element of the Municipal Councils and responsible for delivery of the set tasks and for ensuring operational co-ordination of activities. Their role will be to collect and disseminate information at local level as well as to support and co-ordinate delivery of the adopted prevention programmes.

MDC shall produce and provide annual reports to NDC on drugs situation and on implementation of Action Plans.

Municipal and regional Action Plans will be funded with a) Municipal funds, b) funds allocated to the national programmes and action plans, c) by domestic and international donors and other sources.

## **Annex I: CURRENT FRAME OF ANTI-DRUG MEASURES**

### **4.1 Legislation**

#### ***International agreements***

Bulgaria has ratified the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as well as the Protocol of 1972 amending it, the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the 1988 UN Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as to the Council of Europe Convention on Money Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime.

Bulgaria has signed bilateral agreements for co-operation in the field of customs with the UK, Greece, the USA, Turkey, Romania, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Iran.

Bulgaria has signed a total of 29 agreements for police co-operation - 8 of those are with EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, France), 6 with CEE candidate countries (Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic) and with 15 other countries (Armenia, Albania, Georgia, India, China, Lebanon, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Syria, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Croatia, Yugoslavia). The signed agreements envisage co-operation between Bulgaria and the listed countries in the field of anti-drug activities.

Under Art. 5 (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria the listed international treaties are part of the country's domestic legislation and they supersede those Acts of domestic legislation which contradict them.

#### ***National legislation***

The Penal Code specifies corpuses delicti of drug and precursor related crimes. The Penal-Procedure Code specifies the procedure for investigation and penalization of those crimes.

The Drug and Precursor Control Act has come into force as of October 1999. It was drawn up in compliance with UN Conventions for control and fight against drugs and precursors. The Act regulates the organisation, powers and tasks of the state bodies exercising control over drug and precursor related activities; measures against abuse and illegal trafficking of such substances; relevant scientific, research and expert activities. A number of sub-statutory acts have been adopted in compliance with the Drug and Precursor Control Act.

## **Annex II: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

**The National Drugs Council (NDC)** was set up in compliance with the Drug and Precursor control Act of 1999. It is the body responsible for the implementation of the national policy against drug abuse and drug trafficking. NDC is a collective body chaired by the Minister of Health. His Deputies are the Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and a Deputy Minister of Justice. The members of the NDC are representatives of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative Court, the Supreme Prosecution of Cassation, the Specialised Investigation Service and other concerned Ministries and institutions. NDC Chairman appoints a Secretary who is assisted by a Secretariat.

With a view to implementing the policy, NDC shall establish Municipal Drugs Councils. Their functions and tasks shall be defined by the Regulations for the organisation and functioning of NDC.

**National Drugs Service** at the Ministry of Health is the national competent body for control over all drug-related activities listed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the Law for Control of Drugs and Precursors used for medical and scientific purposes. The National Drugs Service is assisting the Minister of Health in exercising control on fulfilment of obligations ensuing from international treaties Bulgaria is a party to.

Drug Inspectors with the Regional Health Centres exercise control on the territory of the country. They receive methodical guidance by the National Drugs Service.

### **National Drug Addictions Centre**

The National Drug Addictions Centre is a body responsible for co-ordinating and providing methodical guidance on prevention, treatment, reduction of medical damages and rehabilitation of drug users and addicts. The National Drug Addictions Centre acts also as a body exercising specialised control of treatment; it is also a drug addictions expert body.

### **Interdepartmental Committee for Precursor Control attached to the Minister of Economy**

An Interdepartmental Committee for control of chemical substances (precursors of narcotic substances) used for illegal production of drugs was set up under the Drugs and Precursors Control Act.

The Committee issue licences and registration certificates for precursor-related activities as well as export and import licences for those chemicals. The Interdepartmental Committee for Precursor Control is the national competent body for control over all precursor-related activities in compliance with Art. 12 the 1988 UN Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

## Law enforcement bodies

The **Ministry of Interior** and **“Customs” Agency** at the Ministry of Finance are the law enforcement bodies responsible for fighting illegal drug trafficking and distribution in Bulgaria.

Under the Ministry of Interior Act the specialised services of the Ministry of Interior which are entrusted with tasks related to drug trafficking are the following:

***National Security Service*** – its functions are related to protection of the national security against activities of foreign intelligence services, organisations and individuals directed against national interests; they perform their functions by conducting surveillance, detection, counteraction, prevention and neutralisation of activities related to illegal production, production and distribution of generally dangerous drugs, psychotropic substances and opiates;

***National Police Service*** conducts within the framework of their function, operational and investigation activities; performs organisational and methodical functions related to reduction, detection, counteraction and prevention of drug related crimes;

***National Service for Combating Organised Crime*** – in compliance with its tasks performs operational and investigative Service, information and organisational activities for counteracting organised crime activities related to illegal trafficking, production and dealing in drugs and substances used for production of drugs;

***National Border Police Service*** - responsible for guard of national borders; the Service exercises control over observance of border regime; prevents, detects and participates in investigation of crimes related to illegal trafficking of generally dangerous materials in the border zone, border check points, international airports and ports.

***Security Service - Military Police and Military Counter-Intelligence*** with the Minister of Defence, in compliance with its legally defined powers, performs activities for prevention and detection of crimes, related to drugs and precursors, committed at the Ministry of Defence and the Bulgarian Army, as well as identifying the perpetrators.

**Bulgarian Customs authorities**, in compliance with their powers, organise and carry out activities of prevention and detection of illegal trafficking of drugs and precursors. A **“Customs Intelligence and Investigation of Drug Trafficking”** Department has been established at a national level. *Specialised units for fight against drug trafficking* operate on territorial principle in all **customs offices** across the country; these are **“Customs Intelligence”** and **”Specialised groups”** directly accountable to Heads of Customs across the country.

The cleardefinition of the responsibilities of the competent institutions, the parameter of their actions and coordination mechanism among them in the process of implementing the National Strategy will contribute to the effective fight against illegal drug trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic substances.

### **Annex III: CONTROL OF LEGAL ACTIVITIES IN DRUGS AND PRECURSORS**

- Production and processing

Narcotic substances are currently produced and processed by 6 pharmaceutical companies licensed for activities in drugs.

- Trade

Wholesale trade within the country and import of drugs containing narcotic substances listed in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Drugs and Precursors Control Act is carried out by 53 companies licensed for activities in drugs.

Retail sale of drugs containing narcotic substances listed in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Drugs and Precursors Control Act is conducted by 1908 private pharmacies licensed for activities in drugs.

- 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).

- **Precursors**

At present 105 single proprietors and legal persons in the country are licensed for activities with precursors in accordance with Drugs and Precursors Control Act

Drug precursors are chemicals which are widely used both in pharmaceutical production and in industry as a whole. Large quantities of them are legally traded but they can be a key element in the illegal production of psychotropic substances and opiates. Synthetic drugs like, for example, amphetamine and Ecstasy, which are produced illegally in many parts of the world, are wholly produced of chemical substances.

Chemicals which can be used for illegal production of drugs are used by many companies in Bulgaria in their production process; they are produced or obtained as a by-product; companies trade in them. There is always a risk of diversion of chemicals for illegal production of drugs. Therefore, there is a world-wide control on legal trade in those substances.

The control of the 25 chemicals is based on international law - Art. 12 of the 1988 UN Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The national legislation, including Drug and Precursor Control Act and Ordinance for control of precursors, was developed in compliance with EU legislation in that area.

Apart from the 25 chemical substances which are currently under control the number of precursors used for illegal production of drugs is constantly growing. EU member states experience and international experience as a whole indicate that it is not efficient to exercise strict administrative control over the constantly growing number of those chemicals.

Therefore, the national policy in that area has a main objective to establish a mechanism for monitoring of chemical substances with the active and voluntary co-operation of companies.

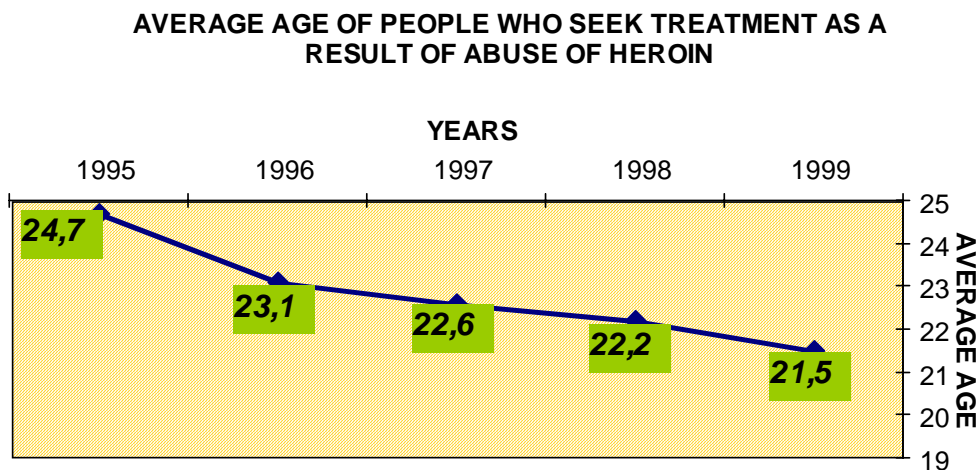
## Annex IV: DRUG MISUSE DATA

### Demand side data

Currently almost the whole range of illegal narcotic substances is on offer in Bulgaria. That trend results in significant increase of the percentage of drug abusers both among the general population of young people and among students in particular. The most widely used drug is marihuana – according to a representative survey conducted in 2000, 24% of secondary school students in Sofia have tried cannabis at least once. This accounts for a three-fold increase compared to 1995 (9.2%).

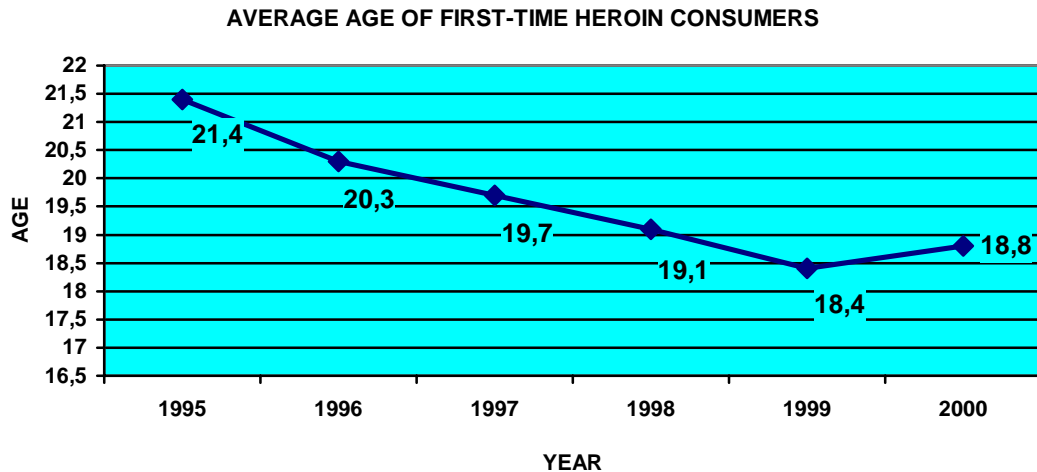
Heroin presents the most serious threat to public health; over the past 5-6 years it accounted for over 90% of the cases when drug abusers sought treatment by the specialised units in Sofia. In most of the cases (over 75% of abusers during the same period) heroin is taken intravenously. The average age of those who sought treatment due to abuse of heroin in the period 1995-2001 has dropped from 24.7 down to 22.5 (Fig. 1).

Figure 1



There is a very dangerous tendency of reduction of the age of first-time consumption. The average age of first-time heroin consumers is going down from 21.4 to 18.8 over the past 7 years. (Fig. 2)

Figure 2

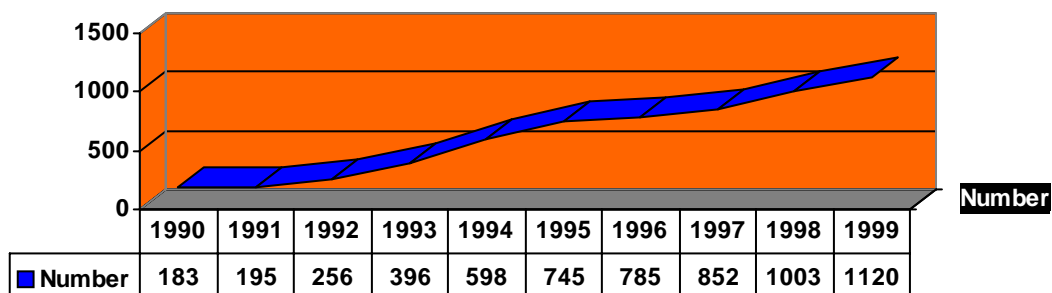


Being confronted with drugs at an age when one's personality is still unstable results in quick and grave dependency and early social alienation as well as in risk syringe and sexual behaviour. Therefore about 1/3 of the treated heroin addicts in the past few years are without secondary education and in 2001 about 90% of them have not had a permanent job over the past year.

It is very worrying that in 2001 the percentage of the Hepatitis C infected people among the treated intravenous heroin addicts went beyond 70%. The increased percentage of Hepatitis C carriers is an indication of the real public and health risk of an outbreak of AIDS epidemic; it is also an indication of the progressive somatic damage and the necessity of complex health care for those people.

All those factors increase the burden on the country's health system. During the past 6 years alone there is a two-fold increase of the number of drug related cases treated at hospitals. In the period 1990-1999 their number has increased more than 6 times. (Fig. 3)

**Fig. 3 NUMBER OF HOSPITALISED DRUG ADDICTS (ICD-CODE 304) FOR TREATMENT OF METNAL DISEASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN THE PERIOD 1990-1999.**



Generally, there is a tendency of marginalisation of individuals (consuming mostly heroin) at a much faster rate; an evidence of that is the early dropping out from school and the growing crime rate. This constitutes a group of growing number of young people who will need a greater number and a wider range of medical, social, legal, educational, employment and other services and care. All that combined with their criminal behaviour results in a fast growing cost which society has to pay for drug abuse and drug addiction.

## **SUPPLY SIDE DATA**

### **Illegal drug and precursor trafficking**

Bulgaria has achieved considerable results in fight against illegal drug trafficking and mainly against heroin and thus has contributed to the financial and organisational destabilisation of crime groups. During the period 2000-2001 there were more than 300 cases of prevented attempts for illegal traffic and illicit cultivation of narcotic substances and precursors; a total of 17 655 kg of drugs were seized, 19 200 tabs and 13 373 litres.

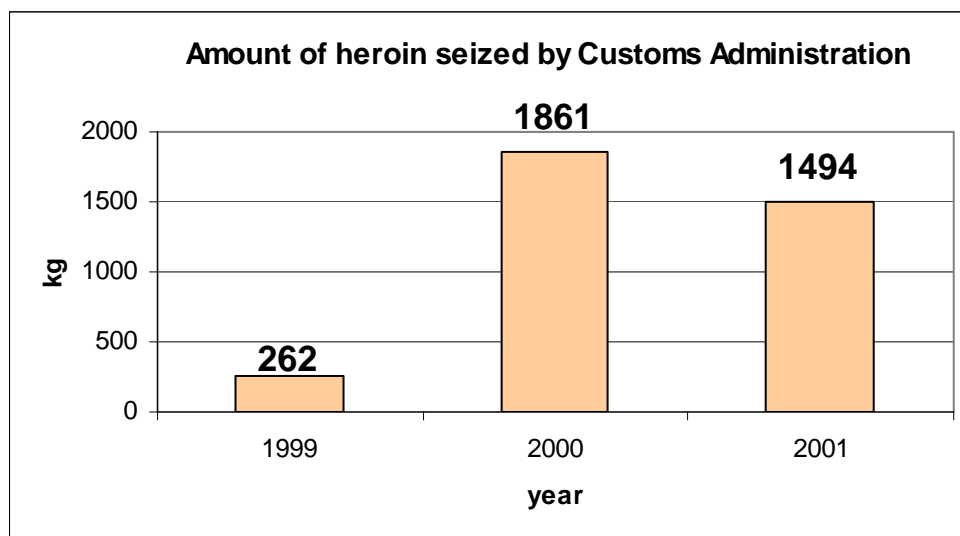
In 2000 and 2001 Bulgaria took a leading position in Europe in terms of seized amounts of heroin – 2067 kg for year 2000 and 1 548 kg for year 2001.

### **Statistics of the main narcotic substances seized by Ministry of Interior Services - National Service for Combating Organised Crime and National Police Service**

Type of drug	1999	2000	2001
Heroin	29,5	206	54
Cocaine	15,2	2,4	3,6
Cannabis	1 018,3	2 168,5	21 503
Synthetic drugs Amphetamine, Medicines	61,7	189,5	209,9
Opium	4,5	-	1 715
Hashish and hashish oil	-	8	17,6

### Statistics of the main narcotic substances seized by the Customs Administration

Type of narcotic substance	1999	2000	2001	Total amount
Heroin [kg]	262	1 861	1 494	3 617
Cocaine [kg]	13	2,6	9	24,6
Cannabis [kg]	0,02	687	446	1 133,02
Synthetic [kg]	992 pills	4,7+10 822 pills	56	60,7+11 814 pills



### Statistics of precursors seized by Customs Administration and the Ministry of Interior

	1999	2000	2001	Total
Precursors [l]	2 278	13 088	285	15 561
Acetic anhydrite [l]	2 233	9 891	-	12 124
P2P /BMK/ [l]	45	31	285	361
Ephedrine	-	1.034	50	51.034

### **Diversion (spill-out effect)**

The spill-out effect is a diversion of amounts of drugs from the main route known as the Balkan route. The amount of diverted drugs depends on the quantities of drugs illegally transiting the country.

The past 3 years have been marked by a tendency of increasing transit of narcotic substances as a result of activated criminal activities of international crime organisations. Local crime groups and organisations deal with the diverted drugs in the country.

### **Production and processing of drugs**

Given the well-developed chemical and pharmaceutical industry in Bulgaria, the available technologies for production of medicines and the qualified experts (part of them having lost their permanent jobs), there is a serious risk of illegal production of some substances which are subject to control. Over the last 3 years the Ministry of Interior uncovered and stopped the functioning of 10 illegal laboratories for production of synthetic drugs. There is a tendency for production of synthetic drugs of pre-precursors which are not subject to administrative control and for law violations which are not subject to prosecution. As far as legal production and trade in precursors is concerned no cases of diversion have been registered.