

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE RE-VIEWED DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS IN CENTRAL ASIA**

A two-day Regional Conference to discuss implementation of drug abuse prevention campaigns in Central Asia was held during 26-27 March 2009 in Tashkent.

Participants from all five Central Asian countries presented their national campaigns' results and shared best practices that could be used during implementation of future anti-drug public campaigns.

To inform the general population of the risks of drug abuse and related HIV/AIDS infection, national public awareness campaigns were organized in five Central Asian countries within the framework of the "Drug abuse prevention campaign with the media" (MEDISSA) project of the EU-UNDP CADAP assistance programme.

The project also created and reinforced an information service on substance abuse within each Ministry of Health to provide in-depth information on drug abuse to support access by drug users to public health services through a website, a hotline and a documentation service.

**THE EUROPEAN UNION'S DRUG ACTION PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA HANDED OVER TWO CONSTRUCTED BUILDINGS TO THE KYRGYZ GOVERNMENT**

Two newly constructed buildings of the social support bureau and "a half-way house" for drug addict prisoners at prison # 10 in Jalalabat were handed over to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Justice on 19 March 2009.

The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Justice alongside with local authorities, UNDP and CADAP representatives.

In addition to the infrastructure provided, CADAP also granted support to prisoners by creation of "half-way houses" after their release from prison.

The objective of the "Prisons" project is to initiate "Atlantis" drug treatment projects in selected pilot prisons in Central Asia. "Atlantis" is based on a twelve-step approach to ending drug dependence. Based on the initial success of the "Atlantis" programme in prisons, prison authorities in Central Asia agreed on development of "Clean zones".

The so-called "Clean zones" are separate areas within prisons offering better living conditions and education and vocational training. Prisoners can move to a "Clean Zone" subject to their agreement to give up all drug abuse. In all Central Asian

countries NGOs were contracted to provide renovation/reconstruction works and equipment for providing social support in prisons.

Later, on 24 April 2009, CADAP handed over a car (Lada Niva) to the Department of Correctional Institutions under the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. The car is intended to be used by CADAP's beneficiary representatives in charge of preventing drug abuse amongst prisoners.



*The overall objective of the CADAP Programme is to foster a public health approach to drug demand & an interdiction approach to drug supply in line with the European Commission drug strategies. The Programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. CADAP is a multi-annual assistance Programme funded under the EC TACIS instrument.*

