

FESAT



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12th FESAT Newsletter April 2008

A new Board, a new start in 2008

Since the new Board started its work in January it had five telephone conference calls. The board evaluated the Lisbon conference and look into the idea of planning a the next conference in 2009 in Oslo, Norway.

The Board prepared an application to obtain grants in the framework of the European Commissions plan "Drug prevention and Information (2008-2012).

Patricia Pissara and Tom Evenepoel worked in a session in Brussels last month on the final version of the grant application.

NEWS FROM FESAT NETWORK MEMBERS



GERMANY - BASIS e.V.

IMPORTANT NEWS OR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE

The Helpline in Frankfurt/M has **changed its name** and is now called **BASIS e.V.**, which is the acronym of Beratung, Arbeit, Jugend & Kultur (a free translation: counselling, work, youth and culture). The old name "DRUG EMERGENCY" had a too strong link with dramatic connotations.

In training and supervision of the staff a special focus on gender-mainstream aspects of addiction is under way. This includes special gender reasons for critical consumption, specific expectations of female and male callers (eg. Are men indeed more interested in factual information? Do women prefer communication and support?), and **gender specific counselling**.

We are looking for other helplines throughout Europe that have specific training materials on this topic.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY NEW TYPE OF DRUG OR ABOUT OLD DRUGS USED IN A NEW WAY?

Anabolics mixed with speed (kind of methamphetamine)

A SELECTION OF THEMATIC AREAS ON THE EMCDDA WEBSITE.

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK TO ACCESS THE DOCUMENT

[DRUG USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION](#)

[HARM REDUCTION](#)

[DEMAND FOR TREATMENT](#)

[AVAILABILITY OF TREATMENT](#)

[DRUG TRENDS IN YOUTH](#)

[PREVENTION OF DRUG USE](#)

[DRUG-RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES](#)

[DRUG TREATMENT OVERVIEWS](#)

[PROBLEM DRUG USE](#)

[DRUG-RELATED DEATHS](#)

NEWS FROM FESAT NETWORK MEMBERS



FRANCE - Drogues Alcool Tabac Info Service

QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY NEW TYPE OF DRUG OR ABOUT OLD DRUGS USED IN A NEW WAY?

- Recently, we received one call about the **MACA**. The person who called us lives in Guadeloupe, a French Caribbean island. MACA is a plant from Peru. According to some Internet sites it seems that the root from this plant has stimulating properties on the intellectual and sexual functions. So it is described, by commercial sites, as a substance which effects are similar to DHEA and Viagra®. We could not figure out with this person if there was any problem with the consumption of MACA. She just wanted information about this plant.
- We also recently received a call about "**PROGESTEREX**", you also may have heard about. From time to time we receive calls or questions on the Internet about this product. PROGESTEREX is supposed to be an anaesthetic for horses that some men mix with Rohypnol® and put in the drink of young ladies in order to turn them infertile while they are raping them. **This is a hoax**. As you may know, "PROGESTEREX" does not exist. However, Rohypnol® has indeed got a reputation as a "rape drug".

IMPORTANT NEWS OR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE

Our helpline is in a big transition period.

Since January the authority responsible for Drogues Alcool Tabac Info Service (DATIS, i.e. "us") is the Ministry of Health. Previously we were under the aegis of the "Mission Interministérielle de Lutte contre la Drogue et la Toxicomanie" (MILDT), which is itself under the aegis of the Prime Minister. We have a new President. His name is Mr METTENDORF. He is the general secretary of the General Direction of Health (Direction Générale de la Santé – DGS in French).

Our helpline is actively creating its own website.

2008 is also, for DATIS, the year of a big project: creating and animating our own website about drugs and helping people through the Internet. Till now we were present on the Internet through the MILDT website (www.drogues.gouv.fr). We still are with our "Questions/Réponses" (Questions/Answers), "Adresses utiles" (useful addresses) and FAQs sections. But this is going to change and we are now working hard to create our website. We have scheduled to open it at the beginning of the second semester of this year, i.e. probably at the end of June or beginning of July. We will tell you more about it soon.

CHANGES IN THE DRUG LAWS IN FRANCE

- Last November, the Government adopted a decree forbidding all kind of “**poppers**” in France (but it is not sorted as a “stupéfiant”, a strictly forbidden drug) . Previously only some form of poppers were forbidden. The use of popper is not forbidden but you can't sell it and you can't possess it. Everybody was surprised by this decree that came unannounced. We still don't really now why the Government adopted such a new regulation. Some associations, especially gay associations, underline that this regulation is dangerous as it can push people using poppers towards other, more dangerous, products. They also claim that it is inefficient as everybody can purchase poppers on the Internet (but it is now forbidden). Link : [Décret n°2007-1636 du 20 novembre 2007](#)
- Since the 1st of January it is strictly **forbidden to smoke** in French bars, restaurants and discos in France, unless they have created a special room for smokers. But very few of them have done it as the creation of this rooms follows strict norms. Now, smokers can only smoke in the streets or in open terraces. Link : [Décret n°2006-1386 du 15 novembre 2006](#)
- Since a law of march 2007 and its decree of September 2007 a **new sanction for drug users** is available. It consists in compelling drug users to have a 2 days course which aim is “raising user's awareness about dangers of drug use for his health and for Society”. The charges for this course will be supported by the user up till 450 euros.
- In February the Government announced several new measures against **drunk driving**. The aim is to reduce the number of deaths due to road accidents. This measures will probably be in effect in the next months. Among this measure there is the ban of alcohol selling in gas stations. Also, somebody who his condemned a second time for driving under alcohol influence will temporarily lose his car and will be oblige to drive in a car who only can start after he used a breath test.

POLICY CHANGES

Since september the MILDT has a new President, Mr Etienne Apaire, a magistrate. He can be considered as the new “Drug Czar” in France. One of Mr Apaire's mission is to prepare the new national drug plan against drugs (2008-2011). He already announced that the role of the adults and the parents in educating the children against the use of drugs will be an important topic. Specific campaigns towards cocaine users will be developed. Research in the drug field will be also a priority.

PREPARING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNCIL (JULY TO DECEMBER 2008) :

The MILDT is preparing the French Presidency of the European Union Council. A seminar of the 27 european national drug Czars is scheduled, as well as at least 2 conferences. One about the questions around the money generated by drug trafficking and the other about addiction treatments.

NEWS FROM FESAT NETWORK MEMBERS



FINLAND - Helsinki Deaconess Institute

QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY NEW TYPE OF DRUG OR ABOUT OLD DRUGS USED IN A NEW WAY?

We have got some calls about inhalation of deodorant

CHANGES IN DRUG LAWS IN FINLAND

Since February Finland has a new law of substitution treatment. The main difference, compared the previous law, is that those patients who are in the stabile level can get their medication from their pharmacy and their psycho-social treatment from primary health care. From now on the evaluation for substitution treatment is more flexible.

NEWS FROM FESAT NETWORK MEMBERS



THE NETHERLANDS - Alcohol Infolijn & Drugs Infolijn

IMPORTANT NEWS OR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE

Dutch Alcohol Infolijn and Drugs Infolijn become one

Starting January 2008, the Alcohol Infolijn and Drugs Infolijn in the Netherlands are both hosted from the Trimbos Institute in Utrecht. In the course of the year both help lines will further join forces.

By the end of the year it is expected that both lines have merged into one. For the public however, both lines will stay open and will be able to answer calls about alcohol and other drugs in an evidence-based way. The Drugs Infolijn can be contacted through 0900 1995 and the Alcohol Infolijn via 0900 500 20 21.

Besides telephone, both lines operate an e-mailservice (drugsinfolijn@trimbos.nl and alcoholvoorlichting@trimbos.nl). In addition the Alcohol Infolijn answers questions via the internet on www.alcoholinfo.nl and the Drugs Infolijn operates a chat-service via www.drugsinfo.nl.

NEWS FROM FESAT NETWORK MEMBERS



BELGIUM - De Druglijn

IMPORTANT NEWS OR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE

In January, the DrugLijn launched a new online service via its new website: www.hoeveelisteveel.be. "Hoeveel is te veel" is Dutch and translates "How much is too much?". It offers people the opportunity to do a brief evaluation of their use of alcohol, illegal drugs, gambling, internet en medication and the risks associated with that use. All it takes is to answer ten to twenty questions, which can be done anonymously, without cost and only takes a few minutes.

The result is a score which indicates how high the risk is that people might experience addictive problems because of their use of alcohol or drugs. The score is combined with basic advice: on how they can reduce risks, find more information, contact a specialist for further advice,... Of course the DrugLijn also offers those who took this online self-assessment test the possibility to contact our helpline directly via e-mail or telephone for further answers or advice.

An evaluation of this new online service will follow in June, but the results indicate that there are a lot more people visiting the new website than initially expected. Most popular are the tests about alcohol, cannabis and internet use.

As this project is a collaboration between the two Belgian drug helplines, the DrugLijn for the Dutch speaking and Infor-Drogues for the Frenchspeaking; the same eight online tests will be found on the Infor-Drogues website shortly.

"Hoeveelisteveel" isn't the first in its kind, but it is once more a nice illustration of the role that alcohol and drug helplines can play in promoting online brief interventions which aim at preventing drug use into abuse.

Releases from the EU Drug Agency in Lisbon

The following two reports are available via EMCDDA-website:

1. GHB AND ITS PRECURSOR GBL: AN EMERGING TREND CASE STUDY

Concerns are increasing in the EU about the use of chemicals employed in the manufacture of the recreational drug GHB. The statement comes in a new report GHB and its precursor GBL: an emerging trend case study, published today by the EMCDDA as part of its E-POD project to track new patterns of drug use in Europe.

We draw your attention to the fact that FESAT was involved in this E-POD-project by providing relevant data for our monitoring activities and via participation to the expert group meetings.

2. NEW DRUG BZP (1-BENZYLPIPERAZINE, STIMULANT) TO BE PLACED UNDER CONTROL ACROSS EU



GREECE - OKANA SOS HELPLINE
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AUSTRALIA

**FESAT is happy to welcome
it's first non-European Member !**

**THE NATIONAL CANNABIS INFORMATION
AND HELPLINE**

CONTACT: [HTTP://NDARC.MED.UNSW.EDU.AU](http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au)

FUTURE CONFERENCES BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION BY OUR MEMBERS



FRANCE:

- **6th meeting of „field addictology”**, Nimes, 14-15 & 16 of may 2008. *„Le corps à vide/avide”* (the empty body, the greedy body): this meeting is about body-centred approaches in the addiction field. Link: <http://www.alcoologie.org/ANPAA-ELSA-F3A-SFA-6e-CARREFOUR-DE.html>
- **25th meeting of Reims**, Reims, 6-7 of june 2008. *„L'envers du toxicomane”*: these 2 days are about the *other* problems that go with the addiction problem : how addiction Centres can deal with such problems? Link : http://www.cast.asso.fr/IMG/pdf/Plaqueette_journees_de_Reims_2008.pdf
- **National meeting of the National Association of the People working in the Drug Field** (ANIT in french), Nimes, 12-13 of June 2008. *„Addictions au quotidien, l'ordinaire des addictions”*. Various themes around addictions. See the website for more informations : <http://www.anit.asso.fr/journees/journees.php>



NORWAY:

European Outreach Work Conference: Perspectives on outreach work in Europe

Reaching youth at risk - working towards social inclusion

Oslo, Norway 22 - 24 April 2008, <http://www.outreachwork.no/home.cfm>

NEWS FROM FESAT NETWORK MEMBERS



BELGIUM - Infor-Drogues

IMPORTANT NEWS OR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SERVICE

Sensitising campaign “Alcohol and other drugs” In 2008, a lot is going on in Belgium!

To begin with, the minister of Public Health entrusted the responsibility for a nationwide and bi-lingual media campaign on alcohol and drugs to the very people working in drug prevention, drug care and addiction treatment. Even so remarkable was the fact that a considerable budget (1 million euros!) was equally left to the responsibility of these non-governmental organisations, allowing a campaign on a controversial topic as alcohol and drugs without any political interference!

Belgium has three umbrella organisations on alcohol and drugs. One for the Dutch speaking community (VAD, Vereniging voor Alcohol-en andere Drugproblemen) and two for the French speaking community (one in Brussels: FEDITO, Fédération Bruxelloise des Institutions pour Toxicomanes and one Walloon: FEDITO Wallone). Over the years however the points of view regarding drug use and the policy to cope with drug problems have grown to differ between the French speaking and Dutch speaking communities.

Making these differences match was the big challenge in setting up one common and bi-lingual campaign. Eventually this resulted in a campaign named “Alcohol and other drugs. The facts and the fiction.”

The central idea behind the campaign was as set of questions on so-called common knowledge and/or misconceptions on alcohol and drugs. Each question was then combined with an answer that sets things straight.

For more information, advice or help, all campaign materials mentioned the names, websites or numbers of the two Belgian drug information and helplines: De DrugLijn and Infor-Drogues.

The campaign involved TV-commercials, 20m² billboards in the streets, a set of free postcards and a set of posters distributed in doctors cabinets (practitioners) and all kinds of social and health care centres.

At this moment the campaign is running to its end. Afterwards an external evaluation is planned and Infor-Drogues will of course keep you informed about the results.

Information on the campaign is still to be found on www.infor-drogues.be and www.druglijn.be

SHARED SPACE: New FESAT Member



AUSTRALIA - National Cannabis Information and Helpline

In common with other western nations, cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug in Australia. In response, the Australian government has created the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC). The work of the Centre will be directed to the reduction of the demand for cannabis by preventing uptake and harms associated with its use in the Australian community. This will be achieved by providing the community with high quality, evidence-based information on cannabis use, and building the capacity of service providers to respond to the information and intervention needs of cannabis users and their families.

NCPIC is a consortium of seven partners and based at the University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia. One of these partners is Lifeline Australia who provide the free national Cannabis Information and Helpline (CIH), one of our most important projects. The CIH provides a nationally available free call service for people using cannabis themselves or those concerned about the cannabis use of a friend or family member. Callers receive evidence-based information and support and targeted advice on communication and intervention engagement strategies for users.

Lifeline Australia has been operating a national 24 hour counselling service for more than 40 years. Every year almost 450,000 calls are taken by the line, which is staffed by 3,500 trained volunteers in over 60 sites around Australia. In addition to the well known Lifeline service, they operate a number of other specialist telephone information and counseling services nationally. High quality support and supervision is integral to the CIH practice model and NCPIC provides initial and ongoing training and support to the telephone counselors.

The Cannabis Information & Helpline operates 2-11pm Sunday to Friday (including public holidays). After hours all calls are directed to a message service as well as to Lifeline 13 11 14 as an alternative contact. Callers will be advised that the call may be monitored but the number will not appear on most major Telco bills. In addition, call tracing will be available from the technology platform where there is a serious suicide risk.

The CIH can accommodate people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples and people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Provision for the National Relay Service (for people who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech impairment) are provided on the service as well as the ability to engage interpreters where necessary.

NCPIC communicates with communities via a monthly electronic magazine which provide updates on the latest cannabis research and media. There will be rigorous process and outcome evaluation of the CIH and the findings will be published in future NCPIC E-Zines and Bulletins. In addition, our website www.ncpic.org.au will be live by the end of March 2008 and will contain lots of information on cannabis topics for the community and treatment providers.

We welcome the opportunity to be a join FESAT and are proud to be your first international member. We hope to meet some of you when you visit Australia and if you wish to join our free electronic E-Zine and Bulletin distribution list, please contact me at J.Copeland@unsw.edu.au.

Jan Copeland (Professor and Director, NCPIC)

This newsletter is a compilation of news sent by several FESAT Associated Services and news researched and compiled by the FESAT.
The Board of FESAT acts as an editorial committee.

Our thanks go to those services that took the time to contribute to this issue.

If you want to stay informed keep us informed!

Help us spread this information amongst drug helpline staff and volunteers across Europe and beyond.

Do not hesitate to photocopy or forward this newsletter to your colleagues or any other relevant persons.