

UPDATES

161 country focal points

We continue to build the global network of focal points, which has now reached 161. Warm welcome to our recent colleagues, (left to right) Bernadica Juretic for Croatia (Zajednica Susret), Aja Ramos for Palau and Guam (WestCare Pacific Islands), Sudaba Shiraliyeva for Azerbaijan (Center Women and Modern World), Youssouf Koné for Mali (Konexion Culture), Mahamat Ali for Chad (African Union Youth Commission) and Paulo Lopes (additional focal point for Portugal - Ares do Pinhal).



Prevention shortage in the EU region

The European Union Drugs Agency organized a civil society consultation in the margins of Lisbon Addictions on October 22. Several voices stressed the need to shift towards strengthening science-based prevention among the European Union's countries. Cressida De Witte from the WFAD showcased the Global Initiative on Drug Use Prevention as a contributing instrument towards this goal.

5th Istanbul Initiative Summit



On October 8 and 9, international experts participated at the 5th Summit of the Istanbul Initiative organized by Turkish Green Crescent Society, which is also the focal point in Türkiye. Very fruitful debates on drug demand reduction strategies were held. Evidence-based prevention was greatly emphasised as a central component in drug policy and the Declaration of Oviedo was highlighted.

Broader civil society as part of the solution

Governments and grassroots organizations cannot solve drug-related problems alone. Main agents of broadened civil society need to be engaged to set up effective and amplified preventive systems such as families, schools, private sector, unions, media, among others. In the picture, "la Caixa" Foundation, which has fostered social, health, scientific and cultural development in Spain for more than a century, also endorsed the Declaration of Oviedo. "la Caixa" Foundation is the main owner of CaixaBank, one of the biggest banks in Spain. More information: <https://lacaixafoundation.org/en/>



Chile at the forefront of prevention policies

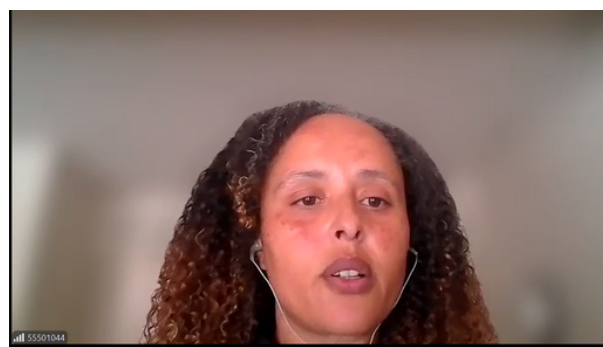
Chile has a long history of rigorous work on drug use prevention policies that can be a reference in the region.

SENDA (government of Chile), headed by its director Natalia Rizzo, received Jorge Olivares (FLACT president and our Latin American representative) and Selva Careaga (country focal point) to discuss the proposals of the Oviedo Declaration and how to use them to reinforce Chilean drug policy throughout its all regions.



Parliament of South Africa

Chantelle Pepper intervened under the Committee on Social Development of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa on October 16th to extensively present the amazing work done in Western Cape on drug demand reduction in which drug use prevention is embedded. The Declaration of Oviedo was announced. Moreover, the declaration has been presented in other regional and local forums by Chantelle Pepper and Alison Crosbie.



New network in South Sudan

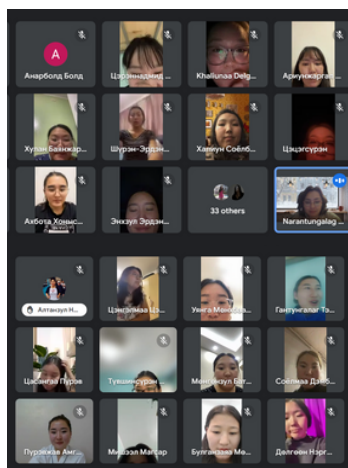
The first national network on drug use prevention in South Sudan has been registered and will be soon be launched. The focal point Baby Omer, executive director of Youth Hands for Development Organization (YHDO) and youth activist, is leading this process with other organizations. The new network will be called Sustainable Drug Prevention Consortium (SDPC).

Anyone interested in taking part and supporting please contact Mr. Omer at babyomer3@gmail.com



Mongolia and the role of academia

Dozens of universities have endorsed the Declaration of Oviedo worldwide. Academia and scientific groups play a key role to improve the effectiveness of the practicing of drug use prevention. In the picture (right), the focal point in Mongolia, Dr. Narantungalag Dorjsuren, professor at the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, who has also coordinated the translation of the declaration into Mongolian. The prevention initiative was presented as a session with students (left).





National Council on Drugs in Dominican Republic

We were honoured to meet Lohadis Ureña recently in Barcelona for a study visit. She is the director of Prevention of the National Council on Drugs, the prime body to coordinate drug policy in the government of Dominican Republic. This was also important as Lohadis Ureña is one of our country focal points, and expressed great interest in using the guiding proposals to reinforce the national strategy on drugs.

Mexico

We want to acknowledge relevant institutions contributing to the widespread reach of the initiative in Mexico: the renowned Dr. Nora Frias, María de los Angeles Fromow (CinemaPark Mexico), UNAM, the judiciary in the States of Chihuahua, Mexico, Nueva León or Morelos, Centros de Integración Juvenil, Universidad Latinoamericana, Asociación Mexicana de Justicia Terapéutica, CONSEGU, Monte Fénix and up to a hundred more. Moreover, several Mexican embassies are also active in promoting overseas. Disseminating events and meetings with stakeholders are planned in the coming months.

34th FEBRACT anniversary

Congratulations! An event was organized for the 34th anniversary of the Brazilian Federation of Therapeutic Communities (FEBRACT). The Global Initiative on Drug Use Prevention was explained. FEBRACT plays a decisive role in Brazil with over 150 members and, as focal point, is also involved in demanding more science-based prevention for Brazil. Furthermore, they are organizing with WFTC and FLACT the world conference on therapeutic communities on November 12-14 in Sao Paulo-Campinas

More information <https://29wftc.com.br/>



Read the Europe Report

The Europe Report summarizes the main messages and calls for action from the speakers of the Europe Hearing on Drug Use Prevention held virtually on September 13th, organized by Association Proyecto Hombre, WFAD and SEIRIOS.

It has been published to the website:

<https://www.oviedodeclaration.org/more/official-events/>



Translations of the Declaration of Oviedo

The Declaration of Oviedo has been translated into Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bengali, Catalan, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, English, Euskera, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Kurdish, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malay, Mongolian, Nahuatl, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Quechua, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Urdu. More translations are on the way. We encourage translating the declaration into more languages to make it more accessible.