

DECISION No 73
of 27 January 2005
concerning the approval of the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012

ISSUED BY: THE GOVERNMENT

PUBLISHED IN: THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF ROMANIA No 112 of 3 February 2005

Pursuant to Article 108 of the Constitution of Romania, as republished,

The Government of Romania hereby adopts this Decision.

Article 1

The National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012, set out in the Annex, which is a part of this Decision, is hereby approved.

Article 2

The National Anti-Drug Agency, the ministries and the other specialized bodies of the central public administration and the local public administration authorities are bound to fulfil the objectives specific to their scope, as provided for in the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012.

Article 3

The funds necessary for accomplishing the objectives set out in the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012 shall be specified by each of the public institutions involved in the field, according to the progress reached in fulfilling these objectives, their priorities and the resources available in the own budgets.

Article 4

The Action Plan for the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012 shall be approved by a Government Decision within 60 days of the entry into force of this Decision.

THE PRIME MINISTER

CĂLIN POPESCU-TĂRICEANU

Countersigns:

Acting as the Minister of Administration and Interior,

Anghel Andreescu,

State Secretary

The Minister of Public Health,

Mircea Cinteza

The Minister of Labour, the Family and Equal Opportunities,
Gheorghe Barbu

The Minister of Education and Research,
Mircea Miclea

The Minister of Public Finance,
Ionel Popescu

Bucharest, 27 January 2005.

No 73.

ANNEX

THE NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY 2005-2012

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

In the general context of the international community's focus on drug-related organised crime, the Government of Romania assumed the fight against illicit drug trafficking and use as a priority, by adopting a coordinated and multi-sectorial approach in this field, embodied in the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2003-2004. The embodiment of the conception of the Government of Romania in this field, during 2003-2004, is clearly expressed, among others, by the establishment of the National Anti-Drug Agency, as a specialized body designed to create a unitary outlook on preventing and fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use.

The extent of this phenomenon, on the background of the growing cross-national organised crime networks, shall enforce a new nationally and internationally integrated strategy, in response to this threat.

As a natural succession of an ongoing process, the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2005-2012 is drawn up according to the provisions of the new European strategy in the field and establishes the overall and specific objectives for drug supply and demand reduction, for the strengthening of the international cooperation and the development of an integrated global system of information, assessment and coordination concerning the drug phenomenon.

The experience acquired throughout the implementation of the 2003-2004 Strategy, the difficulties encountered and the shortcomings emphasized in the Assessment Reports drafted

by the National Anti-Drug Agency shall enforce a more realistic approach in fighting against the drug phenomenon and a clear assignment of responsibilities to all the institutions involved.

I.1. PRINCIPLES

The following principles govern the activity of drug supply and demand reduction:

1. **The priority principle.** The issue of preventing and fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use is assumed by the Government of Romania as a priority.
2. **The continuity principle.** The activities carried out for drug supply and demand reduction have a permanent character and are based on the previous experience.
3. **The principle of the global, unitary, multidisciplinary and balanced approach.** The measures for drug supply and demand reduction must be in line with the international outlook in fighting against the drug phenomenon.
4. **The coordination principle.** In order to ensure a unitary approach concerning the drug phenomenon, the activities of drug supply and demand reduction must be coordinated and integrated into practical programmes and instruments, according to the functional autonomy.
5. **The cooperation principle.** The fight against illicit drug trafficking and use is based on interinstitutional cooperation, both at national and international level.
6. **The legal principle.** All activities of drug supply and demand reduction shall be carried out according to the provisions of the Constitution and of the relevant national law, and according to the specific provisions of the international treaties to which Romania is a party.
7. **The principle of confidentiality.** Personal data concerning drug users shall be confidential.
8. **The principle of complementarity and transparency.** This strategy shall be implemented in a transparent manner, with the participation of the civil society in addition to the governmental institutions, in view of fulfilling the objectives.

I.2. VISION AND AIM OF THE STRATEGY

Vision

At the end of the 2005-2012 period, Romania shall have a functional integrated system of public institutions and services ensuring the reduction of the incidence and prevalence of drug use in the general population, medical, psychological and social care for drug users and streamlined activities for preventing and fighting against the illicit drug and precursor production and trafficking.

Aim

The aim of this strategy is to maintain at low level the drug use in the general population, in the first stage (2-4 years), and to diminish the number of new drug users, in the second stage, while reducing drug-related organised crime.

CHAPTER II

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

One of the present issues of the Romanian society is the growing drug demand in the general population and, particularly, in the youth. The proliferation of the drug use phenomenon in Bucharest and the big cities alarmed the public opinion by its magnitude and gravity.

The first surveys conducted in 2003 estimated the number of injecting heroin users in Bucharest to approach 24000 persons, representing 1% of the total inhabitants of the town.

Moreover, according to the national survey "ESPAD 2003" on tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs use, conducted on a sample of pupils aged 16, the prevalence of tobacco use was of 64%. At the same time, 80% of them had consumed alcohol at least once. In addition, amphetamine use doubled and ecstasy use tripled in comparison with 1999.

A cause of utmost concern is the injecting heroin use that will have dramatic medium and long-term consequences on public health (a growing incidence of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis A, B and C, tuberculosis, etc.) and on the rate of crime related to illicit drug trafficking and use.

Based on the experience acquired while implementing the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2003-2004 and also benefiting from the European Union recommendations, the new strategy on drug demand reduction supports the establishment and development of an integrated system of specialized institutions and services in the field. It will contribute to the reduction of drug use prevalence in the general population, particularly in the groups with high risk of abuse, to harm reduction activities, the guarantee of access for drug users to specialized medical, psychological and social care and the social reintegration of drug users.

The medical, psychological and social care system, developed at national level, shall be structured on three intervention levels, including the (primary and specialized) ambulatory and inpatient medical care system, the psychological and social services. The system shall include accredited/authorized public, private or joint units and shall be coordinated and monitored by the National Anti-Drug Agency according to the quality standards.

The first level of the system seeks to identify, invite, motivate and refer drug users to specialized services, to approach drug users' basic social and health care needs and to achieve the necessary coordination with the resources of the second and third levels.

The second level consists of specialized units in the public health system and of the Drug Prevention, Evaluation and Counselling Centres, provides specialized care, monitoring and referral to the third level; and it also ensures the necessary coordination between all the intervention levels.

The third level ensures social reintegration by specific interventions and by highly specialized services supporting the second level.

The quality of harm reduction services and the quality of medical, psychological and social care shall be improved by training, documentation and research programmes in this field, developed by the National Centre for Training, Documentation and Research on Addictions within the National Anti-Drug Agency.

Overall objective

Maintaining the prevalence of illicit drug use at a low level, as compared to the current one, and reducing in a correlated manner the prevalence of alcohol and tobacco use in the general population by enhancing the precautionary measures and by developing the public and private system of medical, psychological and social care.

II.1. DRUG USE PREVENTION

Overall objective

Raising the awareness and the involvement of the entire population, particularly of children and young people, in universal, selective and indicated programmes for drug use prevention, in order to enhance the influence of the protection factors and to reduce the influence of the risk factors.

A. School-based prevention

Specific objectives

- Developing attitudes and practices for the entire population attending a form of education, through curriculum and extra-curriculum activities, with a view to adopting a healthy lifestyle, tobacco, alcohol and drug free
- Increasing the influence of the protection factors in the early stages of life in order to avoid or at least to stall the onset of tobacco, alcohol and drug use
- Educating and raising the awareness of the school population in order to avoid experimental/recreational drug use and the transition to regular drug use.

B. Family-based prevention

Specific objectives

- Appealing to parents and raising their awareness and motivation in order to involve them actively and objectively in drug use prevention, in correlation with the other areas of preventive intervention

- Providing prevention programmes allowing parents to become active in preventing drug use within the family
- Developing parent-training programmes in order to enhance the influence of the protection factors and to reduce the risk factors related to drug use.

C. Community-based prevention

Specific objectives

- Initiation and development of public-private partnership projects of local interest by the local public administration authorities assisted by the County Drug Prevention, Evaluation and Counselling Centres for the anti-drug protection of their own communities
- Encouragement and support, including financial support, granted by the local public administration authorities for the initiatives of non-governmental organizations carrying out activities for preventing drug use in local communities
- Drawing up and conducting programmes financed from the state budget for drug use prevention in regional areas of interest, differentiated by the number of drug users, drug use habits, occupational status, features of the groups at risk, particularities of the economic, tourist, infrastructure and environmental development, etc.
- Initiating and developing adequate projects and programmes for the benefit of local communities for enforcing the civic, cultural and spiritual education as an alternative of healthy life, advocating for drug abstinence, alcohol and tobacco included, encouraging the development of a social environment preventing stigmatization and marginalization of drug users
- Creating opportunities and encouraging mass media participation in supporting, through specific means, the anti-drug programmes, projects and campaigns
- Developing information and awareness raising programmes so that the entire population should acquire a tolerant attitude in order to diminish marginalization and stigmatization of drug users, as well as a responsible attitude in preventing drug use
- Developing an integrated and individualized system for the assessment and monitoring of children and youth in risk situations, that should favour their growing up process, social integration, education and vocational training
- Appealing to all mass media sources, informing and raising their awareness so that to convey preventive anti-drug messages based on scientific evidence
- Developing anti-drug information and education programmes intended for all persons accomplishing military service, as well as for other occupational categories, implying public responsibility and risk
- Broadening education programmes for promoting a healthy lifestyle and for preventing drug use among all the persons in penitentiaries
- Improving the legislative provisions in order to implement the anti-drug and anti-doping protective measures for athletes;
- Creating and developing an integrated national system of specialized services for preventing drug use, as well as a national vocational training system in the field, including the drawing up and validation of the minimum quality standards for drug prevention services.

II.2. MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CARE, HARM REDUCTION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Overall objective

Increasing accessibility by a qualitative and quantitative development of integrated medical, psychological and social services and measures, individualized through assessment, planning, monitoring and permanent adjustment for each drug user, in view of interrupting drug use, of eliminating the physical and/or mental addiction and/or reducing drug-related risks, finally aiming at the social reintegration of drug users.

A. Harm reduction

Overall objective

Ensuring the drug users' access to harm reduction services, by promoting and developing adequate programmes and policies necessary in the medical care system, outside it and in the penitentiary system

Specific objectives

- Creating and continuously improving the organizational framework in order to ensure all the measures for harm reduction (exchanges of sterile medical equipment, including needles and syringes, psychological and pre/post-test counselling, substitutive treatment programmes, etc.), intended for drug users and addicts in the medical care system, outside it or in penitentiaries
- Developing Community and professional measures allowing the access to all drug users groups, with a view to enhancing the support granted to them and diminishing their social marginalization
- Creating the organizational and regulatory framework necessary to ensure the epidemiological vigilance
- Developing and improving the framework for basic, specialized and continuing vocational training of professionals working in the field of harm reduction.

B. Medical, psychological, social assistance and social reintegration

Overall objective

Ensuring the universal access of drug users and drug addicts to the integrated programmes of medical, psychological and social care, by developing adequate and necessary programmes and policies intended for the general population, drug users and drug addicts in the medical care system, outside it and in penitentiaries, aiming at the drug users' social reintegration and reinsertion.

Specific objectives

- Developing the integrated medical care system for drug users and drug addicts on at least three levels, providing a resource network (starting from the pattern created in centres of excellence) and guaranteeing the access of drug users and the general availability of these services
- Enhancing the availability of services, with respect both to their diversity, multi-disciplinary character and to the territorial spreading, and adjusting these services to the drug users' individual needs and to the type of drug use (single drug use or poly drug use)
- Developing the resources necessary for the active interventions to attract drug users who do not interact with the integrated medical care system or are not prepared for a behaviour change, and providing them with basic medical and social care

- Customizing the medical, psychological and social interventions by means of multidimensional assessment and case management, applied to the drug users interacting with the medical care services in a coordinated framework
- Developing the policies and measures, ensuring the resources and legal framework for the development and strengthening of the ambulatory services (2nd level of medical care) – a central element of the public system of medical, psychological and social care – in order to guarantee access of all drug users to this level of medical care
- Ensuring and implementing the legal framework for the development and definition of the specific and specialized roles of the 3rd level resources, as a constitutive and essential part of the public system of medical, psychological and social care for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users in ambulatory centres
- Developing the legislative and institutional framework ensuring the general and early access of children and young people to psychological, medical and social services, specific for drugs use
- Developing an integrated programme of medical, psychological and social care providing a network of resources and guaranteeing the general access and availability to all drug users in the penitentiary system, aiming at their social reintegration
- Developing and implementing the standardization of the medical, psychological and social care system, thus allowing the monitoring and assessment of processes and its outcome
- Developing and improving the framework of basic, specialized and continuing vocational training of professionals working in the field of medical, psychological and social care for drug users.

CHAPTER III

DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION

Starting with 1990, factors such as the geographical setting, the opening of the state borders and, last but not least, the military conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and the former Yugoslavia have turned our country into an active segment of the “Balkan Route” for trafficking in narcotic drugs and drug precursors and, in the past years, also into a drug market.

At present, Romania is the main section of the second “Balkan Route” for transporting drugs towards Western Europe, starting in Turkey, crossing Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, arriving in Germany and Netherlands.

Another variant of the second “Balkan Route”, including also a maritime section, starts in Istanbul, via Constanța, Bucharest, towards Hungary.

The relatively stable character of the transportation routes does not exclude other variants that might cross Romania, whose identification depends mainly on the competence of the institutions involved in fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use and, particularly, on the way these institutions cooperate with similar institutions in other states.

The last years’ experience indicates that, for synthetic drugs, routes might emerge from the West (Netherlands, Belgium, Germany) eastwards (Romania), but also from the North (the Baltic States, Ukraine) for synthetic narcotic drugs (amphetamines, MDMA, LSD and others) that would become active on the Romanian territory.

According to the previous assessment, Romania is mainly a transit area, as only a part of the transited drug quantity remains in Romania for drug use. At the same time, Romania has

recently started to be used also as a storage territory where drugs introduced, namely, across the Southern border are stored in for different periods and are finally directed towards West European countries with high drug use rates.

The fast escalation of drug-related crime became obvious after the '90s and ever more staggering after 2001. For instance, in 2003 the number of drug-related crimes increased by 13.2% as compared to 2002 and by 118% as compared to 2001.

In certain periods, the results obtained in fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use were affected by the repeated reshuffles of the specialized structures, the lack of an adequate vocational training, the turnover of specialists, the poor technical facilities and the limited staff outpaced by the evolution and dimension of the drug phenomenon.

The extent and the concrete forms embodied by the drug phenomenon implied the adjustment and modernization of the legislative and institutional framework, premises necessary for keeping this type of crime under control.

This continuing process, whose dynamics must be in line with the evolution of crime in the field, has registered a remarkable progress after 2000, a year marking the beginning of a correlation stage between the national and the European law.

At present, the institutional system for drug supply reduction is characterized by competition and not by complementarity and it requires an efficient coordination, as well as the adjustment of the staff to cope with the operative situation, the training of the staff into professionals, the improvement of the material supply and interinstitutional cooperation, thus allowing an adequate response to the evolution of drug-related organised crime, delineation of attributes and management in partnership of the information resources.

Tendencies

The main tendencies concerning the evolution of drug-related crime phenomenon are:

- escalation and diversification of cross-border crime phenomenon;
- permanent changes of drug routes and of the types of trafficked drugs, depending on the demands of the illicit drug market;
- the spreading of the drug-related crime phenomenon across the entire national territory;
- increase and diversification of crime related to drug use;
- diversification of the methods of money laundering, where money derives from the illicit drug operations by involving financial-banking experts and corrupting civil servants;
- increase in the number of drug users, particularly of those who prefer amphetamines and cannabis.

Risk factors

The evolution of crime is strongly influenced by the situations, conditions and/or internal and external elements that need to be identified, analyzed and representing landmarks for establishing the strategy on countering this phenomenon.

The main risk factors that may influence the level of drug supply are the following:

- Romania's setting at the crossroads of the main traditional routes used by international drug traffickers and the fact that starting with 2007 our country will be the Eastern border of the European Union;

- the increasing flow of immigrants towards Romania and other Member States of the European Union;
- the intensification of trades at border posts decreasing check time;
- the increase of drug use and, particularly, of synthetic drugs use;
- the involvement in acts of corruption of civil servants who are directly in charge of border control activity;
- the proliferation of terrorist networks interested in obtaining funds from the illicit drug trafficking;
- the insufficient cooperation between the institutions responsible for drug supply reduction.

Overall objective

Reducing at the lowest level drug crime and drug related crime, by streamlining the activities of the institutions qualified for fighting against drug-related organised crime, as a result of the improvement and extent of the national and international interinstitutional cooperation, the legislative and institutional reinforcement, further staff training and guarantee of the necessary resources.

Specific objectives

1. Improving the response capacity of the specialized institutions to illicit drug trafficking and use by:

(a) operative documentation on crime activity perpetrated by organised drug traffickers' networks, the links and routes they use, their *modus operandi* and ways of committing drug-related criminal offences;

(b) correlation between the activities for fighting against illicit drug trafficking, the activities related to drug use and the medical care measures intended for drug users;

(c) correlation between the activities for fighting against drug micro-trafficking and the activities for preventing and fighting against drug cross-border trafficking;

(d) development of the system for the operative information analysis.

2. Counteracting risks by the institutions qualified for fighting against illicit drug trafficking by:

(a) collecting data in an IT system, monitoring such data and developing the strategic analysis;

(b) developing the scientific research activity and the drug phenomenon prognosis activity;

(c) developing the risk analysis system;

(d) implementing the border management at European standards and developing specific anti-drug activities;

(e) improving the quality of the customs control.

3. Streamlining the activity of the bodies involved in drug supply reduction and increasing their effectiveness by:

(a) the adoption and development of the methodological framework for carrying out the anti-drug activities, in connection with the European activities in this field;

- (b) extended use of modern investigation techniques and means;
- (c) facilitating access to the databases necessary for carrying out the activity of drug supply reduction;
- (d) a better flow of the online exchange of information between institutions at national and international level and the accomplishment of the exchange of experience and good practice in the field;
- (e) extending and improving the interinstitutional cooperation.

4. Fighting against international drug and precursor trafficking by:

- (a) intensifying the operative actions of international cooperation aiming at identifying and annihilating the international drug trafficking networks involved in criminal activities throughout the country;
- (b) intensifying the actions for identifying new synthetic drugs and extending national and international interinstitutional cooperation to this end;
- (c) participating in joint international actions seeking the annihilation of drug traffickers' networks, by including Romanian experts in the joint action teams;
- (d) developing the international cooperation in order to prevent the deflection of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and of drug precursors used for the illegal production of such substances from the legal circuit into illicit drug trafficking;
- (e) the active participation of Romania in interstate operations: TOPAZ, PURPLE, PRISM and others.

5. Intensifying the measures for the identification, seizure and confiscation of the goods used in committing criminal offences for the illicit trafficking of drugs and drug precursors and the products of such criminal offences and efficiently using the funds obtained through their disposal in order to support the activities of drug demand and supply reduction.

6. Preventing and fighting against money laundering practices, where money derives from criminal offences related to drugs and drug precursors through joint measures taken by the anti-drug bodies together with the National Bank of Romania and the Anti-Money Laundering National Office.

7. Preventing and fighting against the deflection of precursors that can be used for the illegal production of narcotic drugs and products and psychotropic substances and products.

8. Improving the cooperation between the institutions and bodies qualified for fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use and establishing an integrated information network at the national level on drug-related crime, by implementing the Programme „The Great Romanian Anti-Drug Alliance” (M.A.R.A.).

9. Improving the legislation and the institutional framework in the field by adjusting them in relation to the evolution of concrete forms embodied by the criminal activity in the field and according to the provisions of the *acquis communautaire*.

10. Upgrading to international standards the technical facilities necessary for the institutions qualified for fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use.

11. Developing managerial skills and training experts in the field in order to become professionals through international cooperation programmes.

CHAPTER IV

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The accession to the European Union accounts for the special significance that Romania provides to its relationships with the Member States of the European Union and with the European institutions.

The “candidate country” status and, starting with 2007, the “Member State” status imply a permanent coordination with the objectives and actions of the European Union.

With respect to the fight against drugs, Romania shall actively participate in joint initiatives and it shall ensure a coordination as good as possible of its own activities with those carried out by its European partners, both in the planning stage and in the implementing and assessment stages of such activities.

Moreover, Romania shall intensify the cooperation with the countries of origin of drugs, as well as with countries situated on the international routes of drug trafficking, permanently acting for the purposes of a global approach and for concerted actions against drug traffickers’ networks.

At regional level, Romania shall use its good relationships existing with all the neighbouring countries in order to promote and develop measures aiming at a joint and integrated approach of the drug phenomenon, both in the fight against drug trafficking at the border and in the exchange of good practice in the fields of drug use prevention, treatment and socio-professional reintegration of drug addicts.

Having regard to the similar national circumstances, marked by similar historical developments in the past decades, the experience of Romania in the field of anti-drug institutional and legislative structure may be relevant for the states in the area, as potential candidates to the accession to the European Union.

Overall objective

International recognition of Romania as a reliable partner in the global effort to reduce drug demand and supply, both in its relationships with the Member States of the European Union and with the European specialized structures, and within the larger framework of the international fora and relationships with the drug producing states, with states situated on the cross-national drug routes and states that have a relevant expertise in fighting against this scourge

Specific objectives

1. Developing relationships with the partners in the Member States of the European Union and with the specialized bodies of the European Union, particularly by:

(a) the corresponding transposition and implementation of the provisions of the *acquis communautaire* relevant for the national legislative and institutional framework;

(b) developing partnership relationships in the field of international relationships, accomplished by the national institutions involved in drug demand and/or supply reduction, with counterpart entities in the Member States of the European Union, in order to ensure an effective transfer of data, information, expertise and good practice and to carry out joint actions;

(c) the active participation of Romania in the activities carried out by the institutions of the European Union (EMCDDA/REITOX, the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, EUROPOL, EUROCUSTOMS, EUROJUST etc.) in the fields of the prevention and fight against drug trafficking and use.

2. Intensifying the relationships with other states and international structures involved in the fight against drugs, by:

(a) the participation of Romania in the activities carried out by the international institutions, organizations and fora aiming at the fight against drug trafficking and use (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, CND, INCB, Interpol, etc) and harm reduction (UNAIDS, WHO, etc);

(b) strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation with states of origin of drugs or with states located on the international drug routes;

(c) developing partnership relationships with states having relevant expertise in the field of drug demand and supply reduction, with a view to ensuring the mutual exchange of expertise and know-how.

3. Participation in international programmes on drug demand and supply reduction, by:

(a) participating in the programmes of the European Union on preventing and fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use, harm reduction, the treatment and/or socio-professional recovery of drug addicted persons;

(b) participating in the programmes for fighting against drugs, launched by the international organizations or the governmental and non-governmental structures in other states;

(c) supporting the participation of the Romanian public institutions and non-governmental organizations as partners in international projects;

(d) ever more active involvement of local communities (by local institutions, local authorities and representatives of the civil society) in international projects (exchange of good practice, exchange of experts, bilateral, regional or international fora, etc.).

CHAPTER V

INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

The Romanian Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction was set up within the National Anti-Drug Agency and it ensures the connection between Romania and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction based in Lisbon, establishing, according to the requirements of the European Union, the indicators and criteria for assessing the drug phenomenon at national level.

These indicators, grouped into key epidemiological indicators, drug supply indicators and social indicators, are monitoring tools recommended to be developed and used in all the Member States and candidate states for the accession to the European Union. The five key epidemiological indicators are the following: treatment demand as a result of drug use, infectious diseases related to drug use, prevalence and establishment of the patterns of drug use in the general population (population surveys), prevalence and establishment of the patterns of problematic drug use, death as a result of drug use and mortality within drug users. The supply and social indicators include: drug availability and supply on the illicit drug

market, drug price in the streets, drug purity in the streets, drug-related crime, registered arrests, the number of drug seizures and the quantity of drugs seized by all law enforcement agencies, social exclusion and social costs related to drug use.

During the implementation of the previous strategy, the absence of the own data collection network, based on the above-mentioned indicators, caused inadequate responses to the national and European requirements.

The current data collection system gathered aggregate data, influencing the data structuring and separation. In this context, one of the requirements for the immediately following period is to establish a system for monitoring illicit drug trafficking and use. The Romanian Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction shall further implement all the indicators of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction in Lisbon, a process started in 2004, with the following indicators: treatment demand as a result of drug use, prevalence and establishment of the patterns of drug use in the general population (population surveys), prevalence and establishment of the patterns of problematic drug use.

Overall objective

Improving the capacity of the Romanian Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction to collect and process the data necessary for drawing up the Annual National Report on Drugs according to the indicators recommended by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction in Lisbon and the UN forms on the annual and biennial drug situation.

Specific objectives

1. Monitoring the drug situation by setting and developing an information system based on the use of specific instruments (indicators, standard tables, questionnaires) with a view to reaching some data quality standards on:

- (a) the drug use in the general population, the young population and the problematic drug use;
- (b) the number and features of the persons admitted to treatment as a result of drug use and the related pathology;
- (c) the number of death cases and mortality as a result of drug use;
- (d) the tendencies of criminal offences concerning drugs and drug use;
- (e) the drug availability on the market.

2. Conducting national surveys, at least every two years, funded from the state budget and coordinated by the National Anti-Drug Agency, on the population at risk, the level of drug use and its consequences

3. Conducting independent assessments of the response policies on the fight against illicit drug trafficking and use, adopted by the public and private institutions/organizations, by monitoring the interventions in the following areas: drug use prevention, integrated medical care to drug users (occasional users and drug addicts) and drug supply reduction

4. Dissemination of information to the institutions/organizations involved in reducing drug demand and supply, by facilitating the access to information and communication among them and between them and all the other institutions/organizations involved, with a view to adjusting the response policies to the identified needs, by:

- (a) matching the identified needs and the applied response policies;
- (b) ensuring the necessary expertise to create and/or develop the data collection network.

CHAPTER VI

INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

The adequate response to the social, economic, health and security challenges brought about by the drug scourge is conditioned by a balanced vision, translated into a unitary policy that cannot be achieved unless all institutions and organizations involved in drug demand and supply reduction and international cooperation in the field coordinate their efforts.

For these purposes, the coordination activity supposes the existence of a strong, equidistant coordinating institution, of a unitary strategic vision and of effective tools to implement such vision.

Overall objective

Ensuring a unitary strategic vision, coordinating its implementation, monitoring and assessing the activities of drug demand and supply reduction, as well as the international cooperation activities, data collection, processing and transmitting to all international bodies by the National Anti-Drug Agency

Specific objectives

1. Developing the institutional and operational capacity and strengthening the role of the National Anti-Drug Agency as the national coordinator of the fight against illicit drug trafficking and use
2. Developing cooperation of the law enforcement institutions, and between these and the social services, public health services and the structures of the civil society
3. Monitoring the indicators with a view to their standardization according to the European statistical indicators and data transmission to the international drug control bodies
4. Developing the scientific research activity of the drug phenomenon
5. Monitoring and assessing the activities of drug demand and supply reduction carried out by the institutions involved in order to underlie the anti-drug policies
6. Providing information to the international bodies on the evolution of the drug phenomenon
7. Developing the activities related to drafting, coordinating and monitoring the programmes and projects on drug demand and supply reduction and identifying resources for the implementation of such programmes and projects
8. Ensuring the representation of Romania at international level in all matters related to the drug phenomenon
9. Reinforcing and implementing the Great Romanian Anti-Drug Alliance by cooperation of all the institutions involved

10. Further promoting the anti-drug policies through modern communication systems
11. Extending the cooperation with mass media.

CHAPTER VII

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The fulfilment of the strategic objectives relating to the prevention and fight against illicit drug trafficking and use requires an adequate financial support, otherwise any attempted response to the drug phenomenon, although good in concept, would be ineffective in practice.

The implementation of this strategy involves the responsibility of the Romanian Government for ensuring the financial mechanisms that are required in programmes and actions carried out in order to fulfil the strategic objectives.

The strategic concept of fight against the drug phenomenon also implies a new stance on the allocation of financial resources necessary for supporting this fight.

Specific objectives

1. Identifying the natural and legal persons, as well as the international institutions and bodies interested in providing financial support for the prevention and fight against illicit drug trafficking and use (international donors)
2. Setting up an association of domestic donors (“domestic donors” means Romanian individuals or institutions that are willing to make financial contributions to the fight against drugs)
3. Attracting internationally funded programmes supported by the European Union for training the staff responsible for preventing and fighting against illicit drug trafficking and use
4. Fundraising activities through structures of the civil society.