

*Unofficial translation*

**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS  
IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**  
(based on mass media reports)

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**CASES OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS USE ON RISE IN NUR-SULTAN**

Two trends are noted in Nur-Sultan: the first - with a general decrease in number of drug addicts, the number of people using prohibited substances increased sporadically, the second - an increase in the use of synthetic drugs, reports Elorda Info.

Unmarried man from 19 to 37, with secondary special education. This is a portrait of the average drug addict living in Nur-Sultan. According to Natalia Ivanova, head of the Organizational and Methodological department of the Center of Narcology and Psychotherapy, there are two trends in the city: the first is an increase in the number of drug addicts with episodic dependence, the second is an increase in the consumption of synthetic drugs.

“There is a decrease in the number of drug addicts with addiction, but there is a growth with episodic drug use. These are persons who use not systematically, but periodically. Once a month, once every two weeks,” she said.

According to official data, there are 2055 drug users in Nur-Sultan. During 10 years, this number has almost halved, but in recent years other drugs of synthetic origin have appeared.

“The appearance of an addict is changing. If before a drug addict could be seen with a naked eye, now the appearance has changed. Somewhere about 3-4 years ago there was a rise in consumers of marijuana, anasha. Since 2018, it has been stable in staying at the same level, they are becoming neither more nor less”, added Natalya Ivanova.

Most are users of cannabinoids — anasha, marijuana, then go opioid lovers and the top three is closed by people who use synthetic substances.

In 2018, first addicts of synthetic drugs, salts, appeared in the capital Center for Narcology and Psychotherapy. People who use this type of drugs sporadically do not get into special institutions. At the end of 2018, overdose of these salts killed three people, and since the beginning of 2019, one person has died. According to official statistics, there are no deaths from overdose of other types of drugs.

“In 2018 there was a sharp jump. Of course, mass advertising of synthetic drugs with the help of information systems is connected with this: through the Internet, free advertising on houses, on the road, on the asphalt. The more such aggressive advertising goes, the more young people are being drawn in,” explained the expert.

Patients who arrived at the drug abuse treatment center claim that the Internet is the main drug selling point, but they are silent about specific sources.

Many citizens do not pay attention to suspicious graffiti on fences, facades of houses, but, as they say, "he who seeks will always find." Advertising websites that offer their customers to buy prohibited substances flooded the capital.

There are now 232 patients in the Center of Narcology and Psychotherapy. Each of them goes through three stages of free treatment. The first is detoxification therapy, the second stage is psychotherapy and rehabilitation, and the final is social rehabilitation. The whole process takes about 90 days.

"Patients go further into observation in the clinic with their local narcologists. Anti-relapse therapy is carried out there, outpatient psychotherapeutic groups 4 times a week. In general, we are in full and constant contact with our patients and their relatives," she says.

About 20-30% of patients return to the Center, often people themselves do not want to lead a sober lifestyle and do not follow recommendations of narcologist. Average age of synthetic drug users is young able-bodied people of 24-29 years old. Some use salt intravenously, therefore among the capital addicts there is an increase in HIV-infected. Due to a decrease in immunity, a number of people is suffering from tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C has increased.

In conclusion, the doctor advised to pay attention to strange change in behavior of loved ones: loss of valuable things, change of social circle, and constant use of gadgets. Among the signs may be drowsiness during day, waking at night, disruption in the normal rhythm of nutrition. Perhaps this is a signal that you need to act and help your loved one.

<https://elorda.info/ru/analytics/view/v-nur-sultane-uchastilisy-sluchai-potrebleniya-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov>

## TURKMENISTAN



### CADAP: TURKMENISTAN LEADS EFFICIENT ANTINARCOTIC POLICY

The Central Asia Drug Action Programme - CADAP and the Dutch Institute Trimbos (Institute of Mental Health and Addictions) held a round table in Ashgabat with participation of international experts. The meeting was devoted to key issues of implementation of the Turkmenistan National Programme to Combat Drug Trafficking.

The purpose of the event, in which the Turkmen side was represented by parliamentarians, officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health, is to create a platform to foster exchange of experience between Europe and Turkmenistan in the field of drug abuse prevention and treatment, as well as to discuss preparation of the next, 7th CADAP phase.

Daan van der Goeve, senior researcher at the Trimbos Institute, introduced the participants to the latest international changes in the field of drug policy and responses to them.

In an interview with ORIENT, CADAP project manager Ernest Robello noted that the next phase of the programme will be based on results and achievements of its previous, 6th stage, main trends and causes of spread of drugs, prevention of their consumption, treatment of addicts, and data collection.

An important direction of the CADAP programme is identification of new types of drugs, as well as ways of their online distribution. According to Robello, for effective control of these substances it is necessary to classify them at the national level.

— We must pay tribute to Turkmenistan for the work done on prevention of drug use, especially among young people, as well as prevention of smoking and alcohol consumption, the expert stressed.

Ernest Robello said that 6th phase of CADAP, main goal of which is to strengthen capacity of Central Asian countries to combat drugs in the region, is coming to an end in September 2019, and before the end of the programme, Turkmen specialists will take part in a number of drug addiction prevention and treatment activities.

<http://orient.tm/cadap-turkmenistan-vedet-effektivnuju-antinarkoticheskiju-politiku/>

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### BELARUS



#### **TIME TO COME OUT OF SHADOWS. MIA: EXPERIMENTAL CENTER FOR ASSISTANCE WITH DRUG-ADDICTED MAY APPEAR IN 2019 IN BELARUS**

Main Directorate for Drug Control and Combating Trafficking in Persons (GUNIPTL) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs explained that today 28 days of rehabilitation are being carried out for drug addicts. It is well known how much a person degrades when using drugs. They lose elementary social skills, therefore it is impossible to cure them in such a short period of time. “During this period, doctors only manage to clear body of remnants of drugs and provide minimal psychological and psychiatric care. That's all. After 28 days, the drug addict goes to where he or she came from. They have the same social circle, the same problems, no work and no money. As a result, according to our observations, a week later, another person returns to the former way of life,” says Ekaterina Shelegova, deputy head of the First Main Directorate of the GUNIPTL of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, about the problematic practice.

It is believed that after 28 days a patient should not return “to the initial place”. Public organizations and social services need to continue working with them. “Ideally, we would like to come to the conclusion that such a person was assigned a specialist in labor and employment, selected profession and accompanied until the final return to a normal life. It is necessary to take care that in the state system of narcology with the support of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection public organizations provide long-term rehabilitation,” Ekaterina Dmitrievna suggests a solution.

And in Belarus they are already going this way.

In November 2018, at an interdepartmental coordination meeting, it was decided to work out the question of creating an experimental center or department for conducting long-term rehabilitation and treatment of drug addicts, providing them with psychological and psychotherapeutic assistance in accordance with mandatory socialization program.

The experiment aims to provide addicts an opportunity to return to a full life. Now interested state bodies are discussing the question of where such an object will be located. It would be logical to launch the pilot project in a Republican Medical Center. Perhaps this will be the Center for Mental Health: area and the number of beds allow for it. "The process is not fast, there are a number of sticking points that need to be overcome, but we think that by the end of 2019 we will achieve our intended goal," Ekaterina Shelegova shares her assumption.

A separate problem is reluctance of drug addicts to seek help. Why? The point is not even that they do not want to get rid of dependence. People are afraid to register with a narcologist. If you apply anonymously, then you need to pay a lot of money. These are the reasons that affect the reluctance to leave the shadows. Creation of new centers takes into account this state of affairs. They will be free of charge, the issue of reducing social restrictions for patients of such institutions is also being considered.

If a person agrees to a long-term rehabilitation, then this will not be a reason for registering with a doctor narcologist.

"We want to see how this will affect the solution of the problem of latent drug addiction. In many ways, therefore, the center is considered experimental," explains the deputy head of the Drug Control Department.

It is possible that to improve quality of rehabilitation, relevant Belarusian departments will also study other approaches. The process of creating an experimental center is already underway, but the Ministry of Internal Affairs is open to cooperation with any public institutions on prevention of drug addiction and illicit trafficking in prohibited substances. Even the most ardent critics of drug policy of our state are invited to dialogue aimed at the project implementation.

Gennady Kazakevich, Head of GUNiPTL MIA:

— Preservation of the drug market, growing latency of drug addiction suggests that it is necessary to change approaches and methods not only for prevention, detection and suppression of crimes, but also for treatment, rehabilitation, socialization and re-socialization. This will greatly improve situation in the long term.

<https://www.sb.by/articles/vremya-vyyti-iz-teni546546.html>

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