



# INFORMATION RELEASE

ABOUT PAST EVENTS  
IN THE ANTI-DRUG SPHERE  
(according to the media)

1-15.09.2024

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# INFORMATION RELEASE CARICC

Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination  
Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs,  
psychotropic substances and their precursors

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In the period from 1 to 15 September 2024, mass media covered 17 counter-narcotics activities in CARICC Member States (*Azerbaijan - 4, Kazakhstan - 4, Kyrgyzstan - 3, Russia - 3, Turkmenistan - 3*).

Published articles reflect information on prevention activities carried out in the regions (*Azerbaijan*), on preventive measures carried out by police officers (*Kazakhstan*), on training course for canine experts, on a preventive lecture, on the participation of the Kyrgyz MIA delegation in a meeting of CNC (*Kyrgyzstan*), on anti-drug events held in the regions of the Russian Federation (*Russia*), on cooperation between Turkmenistan and UNODC, on a meeting of CNC (*Turkmenistan*).



## REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



### TRAINING “LET’S SAY NO TO DRUG ADDICTION!” HELD FOR THE YOUTH OF LANKARAN



Training under the title “Let’s say NO to drug addiction!” was organized in Lankaran city as part of the mobile youth service project organized by the Youth Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Detailed information on risk factors of drug use, properties of psychoactive substances and harmful effects on health, effective organization of youth leisure activities, direction of the “802” hotline and other topics were discussed in the course of the training with a presentation by the deputy head of the standing working group of the State Commission on raising awareness of the problem of drug addiction among young people.

In addition, young people visited an exhibition dedicated to the “Year of Solidarity for a Green World”, drawings and paintings created with the help of artificial intelligence tools, and then practically learned how to write a “resume”.

In conclusion, the youth were shown essential awareness-raising materials “know the truth about drugs”, “the truth about marijuana” and “the truth about psychotropic substances” prepared by the standing working group of the State Commission.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3273/Lenkeran-gencleri-ucun-Narkomaniyaya-yox-deyek-adli-telim-kecirilib?lang=ru>



## SOCAR HOSTED AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT DEDICATED TO COMBATING DRUG ADDICTION



An awareness-raising event was held jointly with SOCAR and relevant governmental structures dedicated to combating drug addiction. The purpose of the event was to inform employees of the Security Service providing protection of strategically important facilities of the oil and gas industry, as well as participants from other structural subdivisions of SOCAR about the consequences of drug abuse. Along with SOCAR employees, the event was attended by representatives of relevant contracting companies, as well as governmental structures fighting drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Deputy head of the standing working group of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs Tanriverdi Aydynov informed in detail about the important steps taken by our state in the field of combating drug addiction and the measures that have been taken. Shahin Ismailov, Chief Advisor of the working group, noted that 4 state programs were adopted and successfully implemented at different times in order to more effectively combat illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, strengthen coordination of law enforcement agencies in this direction, intensive implementation of educational activities, inculcating people with healthy lifestyles.

Director General of the Republican Narcology Center Fazail Sadygov spoke about the impact of drug addiction on society and human health, about treatment and rehabilitation programs conducted to overcome this problem. He also emphasized the importance of timely measures to overcome drug addiction.

Nadir Mammadov, Head of Department of the Main Department for Combating Drugs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in his speech drew attention to the expansion of drug sales through social networks. He noted that foreign citizens contact Azerbaijani citizens through social networks and use them as “couriers” to sell drugs. Nadir Mammadov advised the participants of the event to be careful if unfamiliar citizens of foreign countries try to contact them through social networks and other means. He emphasized that in such cases there may be attempts to involve these persons in drug trafficking and stressed the importance of immediately informing the relevant authorities in such situations.

Speaking at the event, the state security officer said that drug trafficking poses a serious threat to our national security. Thus, special services of unfriendly states know well the “weak points” of drug addicts and can use them in their insidious plans against the sovereignty of our state, designed to destabilize the current situation in our country.

Ilkin Rahimov, Head of Security Department of SOCAR, speaking at the event, thanked the invited guests from relevant government agencies for their valuable contribution to the event. In his speech, he emphasized that the rapid spread of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the country poses a serious threat to strategic facilities as well. The Chief noted that additional security measures will be taken to guard the strategic sites to prevent this alarming situation. He also noted that SOCAR family is ready to provide continuous support to law enforcement agencies in the fight against drug addiction, and called on all participants of the event to be careful in this fight.

It should be mentioned that at the end of the event, the participants were given a brochure with methodological recommendations developed by the standing working group of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs to assist in identifying drug users.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3272/SOCARda-narkomaniya-ile-mubarizeye-hesr-olunan-maariflendirme-tedbiri-kecirilib?lang=ru>



## ABSSHERON DISTRICT HELD A TRAINING ON “MECHANISMS FOR COMBATING DRUG ADDICTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS”



A training on “Mechanisms of combating drug addiction in secondary schools” was held at the Heydar Aliyev Center of Absheron district on 10 September this year with joint organization of Absheron district executive power and State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Substances.

The event was attended by Gulnar Rahimova, deputy head of the Absheron District Executive Authority, Vasif Guliyev, executive officer of the standing working group of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Ramin Allakhverdiev, psychologist of the Republican

Center for Narcology of the Ministry of Health, Minara Sabzalieva, trainer-psychologist, Minara Sabzalieva, head of the Department of Drug Prevention and Narcology of Absheron District. 200 people participated in the event, including teachers and school psychologists of secondary general education schools of the district, class teachers, as well as volunteers of Absheron district.

In her speech, Deputy Head of Absheron Ri Gulnar Rahimova noted that the fight against drug addiction and illegal drug trafficking in the Republic of Azerbaijan is defined as a national task, a comprehensive fight is being conducted to solve the problems of illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and drug addiction.

Then Vasif Guliyev, officer of the permanent working group of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Drug Trafficking, psychologist of the Republican Narcological Center, addiction specialist, psychotherapist Ramin Allakhverdiev, trainer-psychologist Minara Sabzalieva and psychologist of Digakh rural school of Absheron district Vusala Safarova made speeches. methods of combating drug addiction, risk factors of using these substances in order to raise the level of knowledge and professionalism in the field of drug addiction, extensive information was presented on the properties and harmful effects of psychoactive substances on health, stages of drug addiction, individual explanatory work of school psychologists with adolescents at risk, the importance of anti-drug propaganda, methods of combating drug addiction, as well as discussions around issues of interest to the participants.

In conclusion, the participants were given methodological recommendations prepared by the standing working group of the State Commission “to assist in the identification of persons abusing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances” and the necessary promotional material.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3274/Abseron-rayonunda-Orta-umumtehsil-mekteblerinde-narkomaniyaya-qarsi-mubarize-mexanizmleri-movzusunda-telim-kecirilib?lang=ru>



## REGULAR EXERCISES ORGANIZED IN ABSHERON DISTRICT



A training on “Mechanisms of combating drug addiction in secondary schools” was held at the Heydar Aliyev Center of Absheron district on 11 September this year with joint organization of Absheron district executive power and State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Substances.

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<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3275/Abseron-rayonunda-novbeti-telim-teskil-olunub?lang=ru>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



ABOUT 2 THOUSAND STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT THE HARM OF DRUGS IN TURKESTAN



Police officers held a meeting on drug prevention with participation of about 2000 students in Turkestan region.

Officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Turkestan Region Police Department held a meeting on drug abuse prevention with students of the International University of Tourism and Hospitality and the K.A. Yasawi International Kazakh-Turkish University.

The event was attended by the head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime, Police Colonel Amangeldy Burkhanov, prosecutor of the regional prosecutor's office Olzhas Altynbaev, narcologist Doskhan Shalapov, teachers

and about 2 thousand pupils and students of educational institutions.

Main goal of the event is to promote a healthy lifestyle, to form a negative attitude towards drug use among young people, to encourage them to take up sports and to avoid bad habits.

Invited guests speak in detail to young people about the dangers of synthetic and other drugs, as well as psychotropic substances and the consequences of crimes related to their possession and sale. These actions can have a negative impact on the life and health of young people.

In addition, students were shown videos on the problem of drug addiction and drug use, as well as on police efforts to curb drug trafficking.

At the end of the meeting, students had an opportunity to ask their questions to the specialists on the topics discussed and receive qualified answers. The police officers also urged young people to lead a healthy lifestyle and comply with the law.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/turkestanskije-politsejskie-proveli-vstrechu-so-studentami-po-profilaktike-narkomanii/>

## ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN HELD BY POLICE AT KOSTANAY RAILWAY STATION



A campaign “Drug-Free Future” was held at the railway station of the regional center. It was organized by officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Police Department together with a representative of the transport prosecutor’s office.

According to Nurlan Kushkarbayev, head of the Criminal Police Department of the Line Division, since the beginning of the year, four crimes related to illicit drug trafficking have been suppressed at railway stations. More than 100 grams of illegal substances were seized during operations.

For instance, a local resident was detained in June in Kostanay on railway tracks and during a search they seized a polymer package with white powder. Expert analysis determined that it was a synthetic drug - mephedrone. A criminal case was initiated on this fact.

During the campaign, police officers conducted explanatory talks with visitors of the station and distributed T-shirts and baseball caps with the inscription “No to Drugs”.

Departing residents were given a demonstration performance by the police department’s canine service dogs. At the command “search”, the service Belgian shepherd dog Tesla began to perform the task - it had to find a dead drop in one of the suitcases. The police dog first sniffed all possible “hiding places” and then stopped at the right suitcase. For this, dog handler Dias Iglikov encouraged her by giving her her favorite toy.

In addition, Tesla specializes in searching for narcotic substances. All her skills were trained at the Almaty canine center.

Organizers of the preventive campaign were not limited only to the building of the railway station. The event was also held in the carriages of the train traveling on the route Kostanay - Almaty.

While police officers were telling the passengers about the dangers of drugs, Tesla was sniffing their bags for illegal substances. Thankfully, all passengers were law-abiding citizens.

- Since the beginning of the year, more than 60 kg of various narcotic drugs, including about 4 kg of “synthetics”, have been seized in the region, - said Aigul Eradilova, senior operative commissioner of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Police Department.

This kind of awareness-raising activities will be conducted by police officers more frequently.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/antinarkoticheskuyu-aktsiyu-proveli-politsejskie-na-vokzale-kostanaya/>



## A SEMINAR ON THE HARM OF DRUGS WAS HELD IN A COLLEGE IN TALDYKORGAN



The Agrarian College of Taldykorgan city hosted an important seminar organized by officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Police Department of Zhetysu region. The event was aimed at informing young people about the harms of drugs and illegal activities related to dead dropping.

The seminar was attended by 230 college students. The main goal of the event was to raise students' awareness of the consequences of drug use, as well as to prevent young people from getting involved in criminal schemes

to distribute drugs through dead drops.

During the seminar, experts discussed with participants not only the physical and mental consequences of drug use, but also the legal aspects related to distribution of drugs. Real-life examples were presented to illustrate tragic consequences of involvement in such activities.

Seminar organizers noted that such events play a key role in preventing drug abuse among young people, helping to develop students' critical thinking and responsibility for their actions.

Students actively participated in discussion, asked questions and shared their thoughts on ways to combat drug addiction among young people.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/seminar-o-vrede-narkotikov-proshel-v-odnom-iz-kolledzhej-taldykorgana/>



## EAST KAZAKHSTAN STUDENTS TEAM UP WITH POLICE IN COMBATING DRUGS



Organizers of the campaign “Students Against Drugs” were officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Police Department of the East Kazakhstan region.

Speaking to the students of the region, law enforcers emphasized seriousness of the problem of drug addiction, urging young people not to remain indifferent to this scourge.

During the event, students of D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan State Technical University launched a

challenge under the slogan “Stop, drug!”, lining up in protest against one of the main modern problems. They passed the baton of the initiative to the students of S. Amanzholov University.

- Such events are extremely important. They help us realize seriousness of the drug abuse problem and motivate us to follow a healthy lifestyle. We are not only a part of our country's present, but also its future,” said a first-year student of Serikbayev VKTU.

Supporting the idea, students of East Kazakhstan State University transformed the Challenge into a colorful dance flash mob. Expressing their active position, they chanted the slogan “No Way to Drugs”. Continuing to support the initiative to combat drug addiction among youth, they passed the baton to students from Abay region.

As noted by Daulet Zhumadilov, Head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Department of Police of the East Kazakhstan region, they started the school year with preventive activities. Police officers visited all dormitories of Ust-Kamenogorsk city, held talks with young people and handed out anti-drug brochures and memorable gifts.

- Students who came from other districts and regions will have to lead independent lives and adapt to new conditions of adult life. At this point, it is very important to provide official and reliable information about drug situation, to warn about stricter criminal liability for drug trafficking and, of course, to talk about severe consequences of drug use,” Zhumadilov said.

It is important to mention that since the beginning of the year on the territory of the region police officers have registered more than 170 drug crimes, including 77 cases of sale. Over 130 kilograms of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were confiscated. Also, about 200 facts of drug advertisements and graffiti were destroyed by the measures taken in the region.

The Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Department of Police of the East Kazakhstan Region continues activities aimed at identifying and interdicting distribution channels of narcotic drugs.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/vostochnokazahstanskije-studenty-ob-edinilis-s-politsiej-v-bor-be-s-narkotikami/>



**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**



**CNS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD TRAINING COURSES FOR CANINE HANDLERS WITH PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS**



A training course for officers of the Canine Center was organized in Bishkek from 2 to 6 September 2024 at the initiative of the Counter Narcotics Service (CNS) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. The courses were attended by canine officers from various organizations, including Manas International Airport OJSC, Departmental Security of the Kyrgyz Temir Jolu National Company, the Border Guard Service of the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Alpha Unit of the State Committee for National Security, the Guard and Convoy Service of the Ministry of

Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Penal Enforcement Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Osh City Internal Affairs Department, and the Internal Affairs Departments of the Batken and Jalal-Abad provinces.

The trainers are inspectors-cynologists of the department of organizational and methodological support in the field of training and training of service animals of the Central Cynological Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, police captain Roman Konin and police lieutenant Riant Mukhometdiev.

During the training participants receive both theoretical knowledge on the training of service dogs and practical skills in the detection of narcotic drugs, explosives and tracking criminals. These courses help to strengthen the capacity of cynologists and service dogs, increasing the effectiveness of work in the fight against drug trafficking, especially the distribution of synthetic drugs and their precursors, as well as in the operational search for criminals.

Participants of the training express their gratitude to organizers and trainers for the provided theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3631>



## CNS MIA HELD A LECTURE FOR STUDENTS OF THE MIA ACADEMY



On 10 September 2024, officers of the Counter Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs delivered a lecture to the students of 3-4 years of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs named after Major General of Militia Ergesh Aliyev. Prevention and prevention of offenses is regulated by the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Basics of Prevention of Offenses”.

Lecture topic: “Fundamentals of drug security of modern society”. During the lecture, Academy students were told about proliferation of synthetic drugs, which carries the threat of

irreparable consequences for the younger generation.

It was mentioned that according to the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, crimes related to drug trafficking are criminalized from the age of 14 with a penalty of 5 to 15 years of imprisonment with confiscation of property.

The students were shown video clips, and the most active participants in the questions and answers were given valuable gifts from the CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek.

At the end of the meeting, students expressed their gratitude in organizing this event.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3652>



## COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF CARICC MEMBER STATES DISCUSSED ENHANCEMENT OF INTERACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVITIES



Delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic headed by Nurlan Turusbekov, Deputy Head of Counter Narcotics Service, took part in a meeting of the CARICC Council of National Coordinators in Ashgabat on 11-12 September 2024.

In the course of the event Parties discussed trends of drug situation development in CARICC Member States, measures taken and proposals for its stabilization, issues on exchange and protection of secret information within CARICC, as well as current matters aimed at improving efficiency of interaction and development of CARICC activities, including CARICC

financial sustainability.

CARICC (Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors) as a permanent interstate body was established under the auspices of the United Nations to coordinate efforts of competent authorities of CARICC Member States in countering transnational drug crime.

CARICC Member States are the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3660>

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION



### POLICE OFFICERS AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS OF MORDOVIA HELD A PREVENTIVE ANTI-DRUG ACTION FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN OF THE REPUBLIC



An anti-drug campaign “Say No to Drugs!” was held in Mordovia on the initiative of officers of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mordovia and the Public Council of the Ministry. Representatives of the Republican Civic and Patriotic Youth Center, the Mordovian Republican Public Organization “Law Enforcement Unit”, the All-Russian Military-Patriotic Public Movement “UNARMYA”, whose leaders are members of the Public Council under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the rehabilitation center “Vector” also took part in the preventive event.

The purpose of the campaign was to form a negative attitude to drugs and promote a healthy lifestyle among students and schoolchildren of our region.

On one of the main squares of Saransk near the city’s educational institutions, police officers and community members talked to teenagers and young people, telling them about the negative impact of illicit substances on the human body, the consequences of drug addiction, alcoholism and tobacco smoking, responsibility for crimes related to illicit drug trafficking.

Each participant of the campaign also received a leaflet with reference information and phone numbers to report facts of illegal drug trafficking.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mordovia reminds: every resident and guest of the republic has an opportunity to report facts of illegal trafficking and non-medical consumption of narcotic drugs. The reception of reports from citizens is carried out daily in a round-the-clock mode by phone of a duty part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mordovia 8(8342) 47-77-71 or 02. Hotlines: 76-33-93 (anonymous treatment room (daily from 8.00 to 19.00)), 47-06-05 (youth helpline (daily from 18.00 to 22.00)).

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/54881483>



## POLICE OFFICERS AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS HELD EVENTS DEDICATED TO THE DAY OF SOBRIETY IN KEMEROVO REGION - KUZBASS



Lectures, meetings and talks organized by internal affairs officers aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles were held in the cities of the region earlier in the day.

In Kiselevsk police officers held a preventive talk with students of the technical school about the harm of drugs and alcoholic beverages. Within the framework of the All-Russian Day of Sobriety, Polina Malova, Senior Media Relations Specialist of the Kiselevsk OMVD of Russia, Junior Lieutenant of Internal Service, met with students of the Kiselevsk Mining Technical School. The speaker told young people about the harmful effects of drugs, alcoholic beverages and

tobacco consumption and their deleterious effects on the human body. The students learned how important it is to refuse the first offer to try drugs or alcohol, and how dangerous it is to be involved in criminal schemes to sell illegal substances.

During the meeting, the senior specialist informed the students about criminal and administrative responsibility for crimes in the sphere of drug trafficking and spoke about the punishment provided for these acts. She also advised the children not to accept offers to work as a courier for the laying of narcotic drugs.

In Prokopyevsk, employees of the state traffic police and specialists of the narcological dispensary together with a member of the Public Council held an action "Auto Sobriety".

In the city streets, traffic police and doctors reminded drivers of the inadmissibility of driving while intoxicated. Police officers explained the measures of administrative and criminal responsibility for violations of traffic rules related to drunk driving, and also asked to report drunk drivers to the police duty station.

Drug addiction doctors, in their turn, reminded how alcohol affects the psychological and physical state of the driver, as well as the ability to drive. Drug addiction doctors also offered drivers to evaluate the impact on the human body of such an effect as tunnel vision, which occurs when drinking alcohol. The participants of the event were offered to perform a simple exercise: to walk along a straight line. If in the normal state everyone passed this test with ease, in special glasses, creating the effect of tunnel vision, such a task became more difficult.

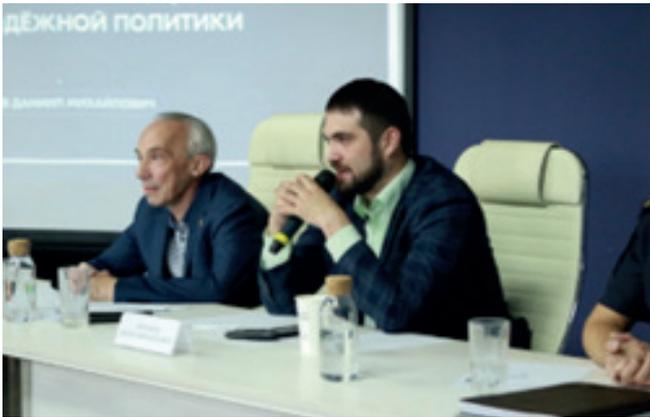
Kirill Beloedov, a member of the Public Council of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in Prokopyevsk, being a longtime driver, tried on virtual reality glasses that create the effect of alcohol intoxication. He tried to walk along the marked line and showed the action participants by example how such a condition affects the human body: it slows down reactions, impairs coordination and the quality of vision.

All participants of the campaign received sweet prizes and leaflets with recommendations on sober driving.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/54992440>



## WINNER OF THE ALL-RUSSIAN ANTI-DRUG CONTEST “LET’S SAVE LIFE TOGETHER” AWARDED IN THE KOMI REPUBLIC



A round table “On the role of civil society in shaping anti-drug policy among young people” was held at the Komi Youth Republican Forum. Speakers of the event were the head of the Department of Interdepartmental Cooperation of GUNK MVD of Russia, police colonel Vyacheslav Baturin and the head of the Department of Methodological and Analytical Support of Youth Policy of the Department of Youth Projects and Programs of Rosmolodezh Daniil Kirimov. The event was also attended by the staff of UNK MVD of the Komi Republic.

During the conversation, guests together with participants of the educational program discussed the problem of involvement of younger generation in drug trafficking crimes, ways of counteracting recruitment and the prospects of creating a safe environment for children and young people.

At the end of the meeting, the winner of the All-Russian contest of social advertising of anti-drug orientation and promotion of healthy lifestyle of GUNK MVD of Russia “Saving Life Together” was rewarded.

This year the federal stage received 130 entries from 60 regions of the country. The winners in the nomination “The Best Anti-Drug and Healthy Lifestyle Propaganda Video” were the authors’ team of the Folk Art Center “Palace of Culture and Technology” of Inta city.

Vyacheslav Baturin presented Ekaterina Kaneva, a member of the association, with a diploma and memorable prizes from the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, General of Police of the Russian Federation Vladimir Kolokoltsev, and thanked her for her active civic position.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/55119207>

TURKMENISTAN



TURKMENISTAN ENHANCES INFRASTRUCTURE TO COMBAT ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING



As the global economy becomes increasingly interconnected, opportunities for trade are expanding around the world. Sea lanes are the highways of international trade. However, this opens up opportunities not only for governments and legitimate businesses, but also for transnational organized crime groups to transport anything from legal goods used for money laundering to illicit drugs and even materials for weapons of mass destruction. These actors capitalize on the enormous volume of global and regional trade because it makes it extremely difficult to monitor effectively.

Solving this problem requires introduction of modern technologies and improvement of customs infrastructure.

The State Customs Service of Turkmenistan is taking

measures to strengthen transport control, including by modernizing equipment, training staff and strengthening border infrastructure.

With financial support from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program, the Governments of Japan and France, and a strategic operational partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO), UNODC is implementing the Global Container Control Programme. The programme helps to improve risk management, supply chain security and simplify procedures at seaports, airports and land border crossings in Central Asia and Pakistan, including Turkmenistan, to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods.

For instance, on 16 July 2024 UNODC provided the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan (SCS) with 30 kilometers of fiber-optic cable, according to the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia.

The cable will connect the Port Control Unit (PCU) of the Farap Avtoyollary Customs Post to broadband Internet through the Lebap Velayat Customs Department. This connection will enable the use of the secure ContainerCOMM platform for full direct communication and data exchange with specialized units in other countries. Thus, it will improve the ability to detect and prevent high-risk cargo transportation.

Gandym Jumaev, Head of the Information Technology Department of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan, pointed out that this assistance will significantly increase Turkmenistan’s capacity to combat smuggling and improve customs control in the country.

UNODC will continue to support the Government of Turkmenistan in strengthening security of passenger transport and trade supply chains to prevent illicit trafficking in goods, reduce organized crime and terrorism, and promote trade and passenger transport services.

<https://www.newscentralasia.net/2024/09/09/turkmenistan-sovershenstvuyet-infrastrukturu-dlya-borby-s-nezakonnym-oborotom-narkotikov/>



## CARICC ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROSPECTS DISCUSSED IN ASHGABAT



On 12 September Ashgabat hosted a briefing on “Goals, objectives, achievements and prospects of CARICC as a regional mechanism for countering drug threat”. This was reported by the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

According to the source, the event held by the Central Asian Regional Information Coordination Centre (CARICC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, brought together representatives of the country’s

relevant ministries and agencies, as well as heads and experts of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited in Turkmenistan.

It should be added that during her speech, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Myahri Byashimova emphasized that Turkmenistan will continue to support active development of international and regional cooperation to overcome modern threats and challenges, including CARICC projects.

According to the source, CARICC Director Atageldi Yazlyyev also spoke at the opening of the event. During the briefing, participants were given presentations on results of CARICC’s work at the regional and international levels and discussed opportunities to expand cooperation in combating international drug trafficking.

It should be mentioned that the idea of establishing CARICC was approved in 2004 in Moscow. Its main task is to assist in organizing, conducting and coordinating concerted joint international operations to combat drug trafficking.

<https://vestiabad.ru/news/7044/v-ashhabade-obsudili-dostizheniya-i-perspektivy-carikc>



## TURKMENISTAN AND UNODC DISCUSS COOPERATION



Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Ahmed Gurbanov met with the Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for Central Asia, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan Oliver Stolpe on 13 September in Ashgabat, where interlocutors discussed cooperation matters. This was reported by the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

According to the source, the parties highlighted productivity of Turkmenistan’s interaction with the United Nations Development Programme for many years. Meeting participants also discussed results of joint activities within the framework of implementation of the UN Programme for Central Asia for 2022-2025, as well as work through the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and projects of the European Union.

It should be highlighted that during the meeting they discussed current activities and prospects of partnership in tackling modern global threats such as organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism. Parties reviewed organization of joint activities this year.

As a reminder, a briefing on “Goals, objectives, achievements and prospects of CARICC as a regional mechanism for countering drug threat” was held in Ashgabat on 12 September.

<https://vestiabad.ru/news/7065/turkmenistan-i-unp-oon-obsudili-voprosy-sotrudnichestva>



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