

Crime prevention policy	
EU- priority	Drugs
Country	Cyprus
Year	2018

## 1. Overview of the field

### Definition of drug related crime

/

### Assessment of trends and developments

- The widely known substance in Cyprus is cannabis and its derivatives
- Appearance and use of new psychoactive substances
- Concern about using a hidden network (Darknet)
- New ways of trafficking illicit substances
- Concern about the use of Methamphetamines
- Infectious diseases – low user rates tested.

### Recent overview of statistics and research

During 2017, the Drug Law Enforcement Unit of the Cyprus Police investigated 950 cases and 1094 persons were arrested. The largest quantities seized, among others, were 150 kilos & 549 gr. of herbal cannabis and 7 kg & 911 gr. of cocaine in 2017. During 2016, these numbers were 182 kg & 383 gr. herbal cannabis and 182 kg & 383 gr of cocaine.

For more statistical data, please find them in the latest EMCDDA country report for Cyprus

[www.emcdda.europa.eu/...drug-reports/2018/cyprus\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/...drug-reports/2018/cyprus_en)

## 2. Crime strategy and coordination

### Objectives of the crime strategy

The priorities of Cyprus on the drug phenomenon are reflected in our National Strategy on Illicit Substances Dependence and the Harmful use of Alcohol, which provides the overarching political framework and priorities, regarding drugs, for the period 2013-2020.

Generally, it aims at reducing the demand for and supply of drugs and at reducing the health and social risks and harm caused by drugs and alcohol. The strategy is built around five pillars: prevention; treatment and social integration; harm reduction; supply control and regulation; and international cooperation. The above aims and objectives of the strategy have led to the development of an Action Plan 2017-2020. The previous Action Plan covered the period 2013-2016. For more information, please visit: [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/drug-reports/2018/cyprus/national-drug-strategy-and-coordination\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/countries/drug-reports/2018/cyprus/national-drug-strategy-and-coordination_en)

#### **Role of prevention in the crime strategy on state/regional/local level**

The National Strategy on the Illicit Substances Dependence and the Harmful Use of Alcohol for 2013-2020 and the associated Action Plan targets the prevention of the use of harmful substances and promotes universal and environmental activities. Prevention and reduction of harmful use of alcohol is high on the agenda.

#### **Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)**

The Cyprus National Addictions Authority (NAAC) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of prevention and intervention programs through its accreditation and evaluation procedures and some funding procedures. The main priorities are support for vulnerable groups, environmental actions through prevention programs and universal prevention actions for all social health problems.

#### **Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)**

Governmental:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education and Culture
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance.

Non-Governmental Organizations

- Agia Skepi Counseling Service
- Agia Skepi Therapeutic Community
- Apofasizo – Counseling Service
- ODISEAS counseling center
- ACHILEAS – counseling and therapeutic program

ITHAKI – prevention and counseling center

#### **Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.**

- EMCDDA

- Horizontal Working Party for Drugs – the Council of the EU
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – CND
- Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe
- Interpol
- Europol
- CECLAD-M
- CEPOL
- Cooperation with foreign liaison officers
- Cooperation with neighboring countries through bilateral agreements in Combating Drug Illicit Trafficking.

### 3. Good practices

#### Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

In 2008, within the Drug Law Enforcement Unit of the Cyprus Police, a special Social Service was established, staffed by highly trained and educated personnel, called the “Police – Social Intervention Officers”. The social service of the DLEU provides “clients” with individual counseling support and motivational enhancement. The aim is to mobilize and refer them to the appropriate centers for drug addiction therapy. The target groups of the social service are young offenders and their parents and people who face drug use or misuse problems and their families.

Moreover, for the better coordination of the above work, a special Protocol of cooperation has been signed between the Ministry of Health and the Cyprus Police.