



COUNTRY FACTSHEETS, EURASIAN NARCOTICS:

ESTONIA 2004

General Information

Population: 1,370,100 (in 2000)
 UNDP Human development index ranking: 36 (out of 177)
 TI Corruption indicators: 6.0 (0 highly corrupt, and 10 highly clean)

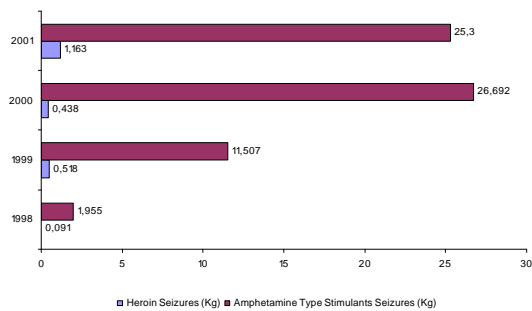
Estonian local drug abuse has increased over the last decade. National plans and implementation mechanisms have been designed to fight drug abuse and drug related crimes, including corruption and money laundering. These measures have been relatively successful, but local abuse has still had an impact on the Estonian society. Furthermore, Estonia's proximity to Russia as well as the Nordic countries makes it a transit country for illicit drugs. Opiates from Central Asia, transported on the highway from Russia aimed at the Nordic markets, constitute the main part of this trade today, but there are also alternate trade routes.

Smuggling of Drugs

Since the late 1990s, the main trafficking of illicit drugs in Estonia has consisted of opium and heroin from Central Asia via Russia, and synthetic drugs (amphetamine and ecstasy) from Western Europe, to Finland and other Nordic countries. Cocaine from Venezuela and cannabis from Spain are smuggled via Estonia to the Nordic countries and Russia. Fentanyl is smuggled from Russia through Estonia on to the Nordic markets. A relatively new trade route has opened in which raw opium from Central Asia and marijuana from Africa are smuggled via Estonia to the United Kingdom. Lately there has been an increase in the domestic production of synthetic drugs. The majority of these drugs are also targeted at the Nordic markets. Seizures of illicit drugs in Estonia have increased since the mid 1990s, most significantly the seizures of heroin, cannabis and synthetic drugs. Most of seizures in 1996-2000 involved opiates, followed by cannabis and synthetic drugs. In 2002 and 2003, the number of heroin seizures declined, while the number of seizures of synthetic substitute substances such as fentanyl increased. Estonia has the highest crime rate in the Baltic region. There are about 60 criminal groups operating in Estonia, and trade in illegal drugs constitutes their primary activity. According to Estonian parliamentarians, it threatens law and order in Estonia.



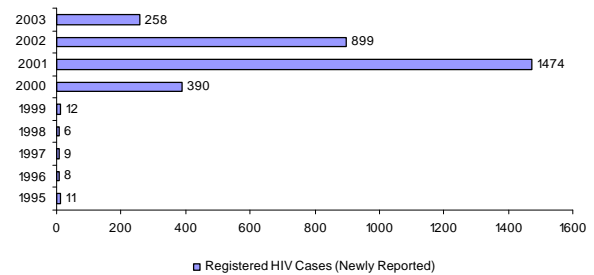
Seizures of Amphetamine Type Stimulants and Heroin



Health and Economic Aspects

Corruption: Corruption levels in Estonia, as in most post-Communist states, are higher than in most Western European countries. Corruption is a relatively limited problem among senior officials and politicians, but remains a problem at local levels, where governmental attempts to fight corruption has had little impact. Estonia has made major progress in creating of an extensive anti-corruption legislative framework. While the Estonian Anti-corruption Act is extensive, institutions and mechanisms for implementing the Act have been somewhat inefficient in their performances. The recent arrest of Vallo Jaaratsa, head of the Drug Control Service, over connections with organized crime indicates that the problem of corruption within law enforcement agencies is greater than it was previously believed to be the case.

Registered HIV Cases (Newly Reported)



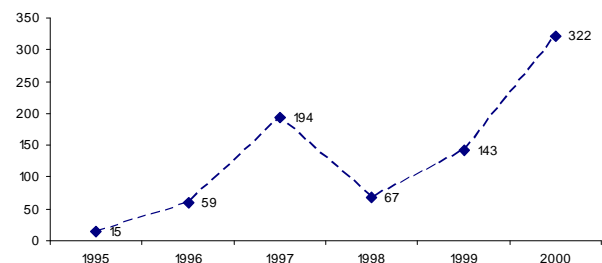
Money Laundering: In a report from 2005 the U.S. department of state concluded that although the proximity to the Russian border attracts transnational and organized crime groups to Estonia, there have been no reported large-scale money laundering operations for the purpose of narcotics-trafficking or terrorist financing in Estonia.

Drug abuse and HIV epidemics: Local narcotics consumption in Estonia before 1997 consisted mainly of homemade poppy products. In 1998 heroin appeared on the market and by 2001, it was the most commonly used substance in Estonia. The number of IDUs increased. In 2000, 390 new HIV positive cases were reported and in 2001 the figure was 1474. Estonia has one of the highest HIV infection growth rates in Europe. As of December 2004 a total of 4408 cases of HIV had been registered. In 2000, 90% of incidents of HIV infection were directly related to drug abuse. Although the virus has started to spread to the general public, the biggest share of the newly registered cases in 2004 (709) were still IDUs. The HIV situation in Estonian prisons is especially problematic due to the link between crime and drug abuse as well as to the poor conditions in prisons in which prisoners frequently share non-disinfected needles to a very high extent. In 2001 23% of tested inmates were HIV-positive.

Political and Societal Aspects

The Estonian economic transition brought with it high rates of poverty and unemployment which, in combination with the opening of the Estonian borders, led to increases in the local abuse of illicit drugs, and an increase in trafficking across Estonian borders. The inability of the state to address these issues, has worsened the problem, and there is a strong link between social exclusion, abuse and criminality in Estonia today. In 2001, 5458 drug related offences were registered (compared to 765 in 1999), contributing to 23.9% of all crimes. The majority of drug-related crimes were committed by drug abusers. There are about 60 criminal groups in Estonia; only two have a settled management and concrete system with membership of 75-125 persons. The two large groups are Russian-led; the smaller tend to be Estonian. Non-Estonian groups are not just Russian but also Armenian and Azerbaijani. These groups have expanded their activities since Estonia joined the EU, and Spain is an increasingly popular place for Estonian crime groups.

Drug Related Crime (Total Convicted for all Drug Offenses)



Counter-Narcotics Efforts

State

In 2004 the Government of Estonia adopted the National Strategy on the Prevention of Drug Dependency 2004-2012. The strategy includes prevention, treatment-rehabilitation, harm reduction, supply reduction, drugs in prison, and monitoring of the drug situation. Since 2000, the fight against drugs has been defined as one of the key tasks of the police; specialized drug divisions have been established; and there has been an increase in specialized training and personnel has taken place. In 2004 the Ministry of Justice announced the start of a three-year fight against the organized trade in narcotics, the Prosecutor General and the Director General of the Police board also announced that the fight against drugs would be among Estonia's two top law enforcement priorities in 2005. Special prosecutors were appointed in 2004 to bring more cases against traffickers and organized crime. Last year the Estonian prosecutors brought charges against 7 criminal groups involved in drug trafficking. The anti corruption policy An Honest State, with 21 measures is to be implemented before 2007

In 2004 the GoE adopted the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Prevention Act, which extends the authority of the "Rahapesu Andmebüro", Estonia's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). In 2004 the FIU became an independent unit within the Economic Crime Department of the Central Criminal Police.

Civil Society

Most national and local prevention programs in Estonia, whether funded and/or run by the state or other organizations, are aimed at preventing drug abuse in the younger part of the population. The main focus of prevention projects is drug education, but there are also projects concentrating on spending of free time and alternative actions. There are many youth organizations directly involved in the issue. These projects are financed by the Estonian Foundation for Prevention of Drug Addiction (EFPDA), and local governments, as well as by NGOs, and ministries. A limited number of institutions, mostly NGOs, provide treatment and reintegration programs, although some are founded by the state and/or local government. As a result of the growing HIV / AIDS problem a few NGOs have been established to carry out activities related to this field. However, the resources are still scarce as the issue has not been a

major priority of the Government. Most HIV/AIDS prevention programs are supported by international organizations.

Regional Cooperation

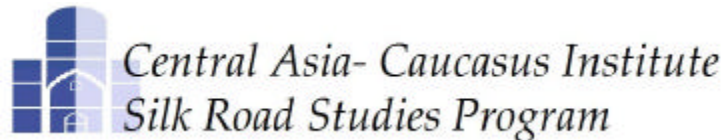
Estonia's cooperation with Latvia and Lithuania in relation to the drug issue is defined in 1997 document Fight Against Drugs. Furthermore Estonia cooperates with the police forces in the Baltic Sea region in the Task Force Project. Estonia participates in the Council of Baltic States, established in 1992. Estonia also cooperates with Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries on law enforcement issues. An agreement on the exchange of relevant information has been signed with Finland.

International

Estonia is a party to the 1961 UN Single Convention as amended by its 1972 Protocol, the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Drug Convention. A law on narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances was enacted in 1997 to comply with the requirements of the UN Drug Conventions. Estonian police and border guards received assistance, training and funding from the UNDCP, the U.S. and the E.U. and the Nordic countries.

Estonia participates in several regional and international constellation aimed at preventing money laundering, including the Council of Europe Select Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures, the Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors, and the European Union's financial intelligence units' net (FIU.NET) Estonia also cooperates with Europol.

Estonia participates in the European Commission's Anti-Money Laundering Project for Economic Reconstruction Assistance (PHARE project), and in 2001 Estonia ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime. Estonia is also a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, the UN convention against transnational Organized Crime, and the UN convention for the Suppression of Financing Terrorism.



Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center

The Project on Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia

The Project on Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia is conducted by the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program. The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program form a Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center affiliated with the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC; and the Departments of East European Studies and Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Latest publications:

Niklas L.P. Swanström, "Multilateralism and Narcotics control in Central Asia", *CEF Quarterly*, the journal of the China-Eurasia Forum, February 2005.

Niklas L. P. Swanström and Maral Madi, "International Cooperation Against Drug Trafficking, in Central Asia," *United Nations: Multilateralism and International Security*, in C. Uday Bhaskar et. al., eds, Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses & SHIPRA Publications, 2005.

Svante E. Cornell, "Stemming the Contagion: Regional Efforts to Curb Afghan Heroin's Impact", *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 6 no. 1, Winter/Spring 2005.

Kairat Osmonaliev, *Developing Counter-Narcotics Policy in Central Asia: Legal and Political Dimensions*, Silk Road Paper, January 2005.

Svante E. Cornell, *Narcotics, Radicalism and Security in Central Asia: The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan*, East European Studies Working Paper no. 84, December, 2004.

Maral Madi, "Drug Trade in Kyrgyzstan: Structure, Implications and Countermeasures", *Central Asian Survey*, Vol 23, No 3-4, December, 2004.

Database:

The current version of the database contains information on illegal drugs and related issues in Central Eurasia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), Russia and the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan). These countries are the primary focus at Silk Road Studies. The database can be accessed at www.silkroadstudies.org/drugsdatabase.htm

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