



## COUNTRY FACTSHEETS, EURASIAN NARCOTICS

### TURKEY 2004

#### General Information

Population: 72,300,000 (UN)  
 UNDP Human development index ranking: 88 (out of 177 states)  
 TI Corruption indicator: 3.2 (0 highly corrupt, and 10 highly clean)

With its close proximity to European consumer markets and South West Asian producers of illegal opium poppy, Turkey's bridging position between East and West made it prone to the traffic of illicit drugs. Turkey is affected from illegal trafficking of drugs from east to west as well as the trafficking of chemical substances and synthetic drugs from west to east. The destination of the precursor chemicals coming through from Europe and Russia is the illicit drug production laboratories in Southwest Asia; while the destination of synthetic drugs transiting Turkey is the Middle Eastern countries. Turkey cultivates opium for licit, medical purposes and has no record of diversion into illicit channels. Its geographic position places the country at the intersection of trafficking routes, with opiates smuggled across the country, from east to west, and synthetic drugs and precursors in the opposite direction. Due to this traffic, Turkey has also developed an increasing addiction problem.

#### Smuggling of Drugs

Turkey is not only a major transit route but also a storage and production area, particularly for heroin. The country is located on the so called "Balkan Route". The Balkan Route begins in the opium cultivation areas in Southwest Asia, goes through Iran and Turkey and divides into northern and southern branches on the Balkan peninsula. The northern branch follows a path through Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Austria reaching Germany. The southern branch takes the sea route through Turkey and Greece into Western Europe. Heroin precursor chemicals coming from Western Europe, Balkans and Russia and opiates originating from Afghanistan provide the Turkish based traffickers with capability to operate laboratories at various locations within Turkey and near the Turkish-Iranian border in Iran. According to the U.S. International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, traffickers based in Turkey control much of the heroin marketed to Western Europe. The dimensions of heroin smuggling through Turkey are best illustrated by seizures, which in 2003 amounted to more than five tons of heroin.

#### Health and Economic Aspects

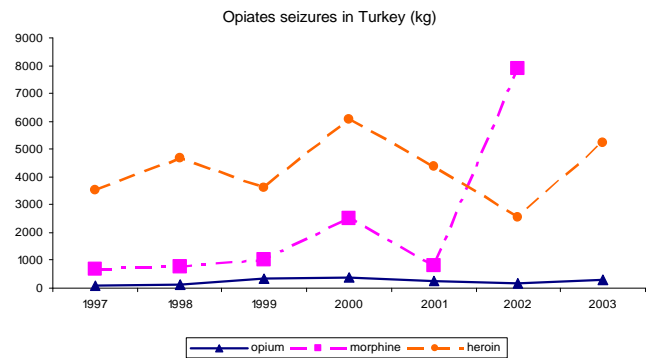
**Corruption:** In 2004, Turkey ranked 77<sup>th</sup> among 146 countries in Transparency International's Global Corruption Perceptions Index. Bribery and corruption has been a chronic problem in the country in the areas of public procurement, customs entry points, tax offices, police, deed office, rental of public property and forested lands, granting of credit from public banks, and siphoning off of funds of private banks. The newly established banking, telecommunications, energy and procurement board aims at improving the transparency and de-politicizing economic regulation. In July 2003, the Turkish Banking Regulatory and Supervisory Agency (BRSA) assumed control of Imar Bank (part of the Uzan Group), and subsequently uncovered evidence of massive fraud. In 2004, Turkey's parliament voted to allow the Supreme Court to prosecute several former ministers, including former prime minister Mesut Yılmaz, on corruption charges.

**Money laundering:** Money laundering in Turkey goes back to 1960s together with drug smuggling. Much of the money laundering source comes from drug smuggling in Turkey.

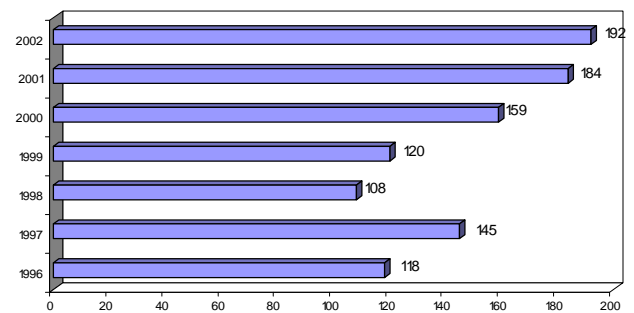
**Drug abuse and HIV epidemics:** Among the injecting drug users in Turkey, there is considerable sharing of injecting equipment including sharing of syringes, needles, cookers, cotton swabs and rinse water all leading to an increased vulnerability to HIV infection. A substantial level of injecting and sexual risk behavior is also reported among both IDUs and other drug users. Drug users report having multiple sexual partners, condoms being rarely used, and a level of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV that cannot be ignored. Sharing of injecting equipment – needles, syringes and other paraphernalia is quite common with little information or behavior prevalent for safer sex practices or using clean injecting equipment among the injectors.

#### Political and Societal Aspects

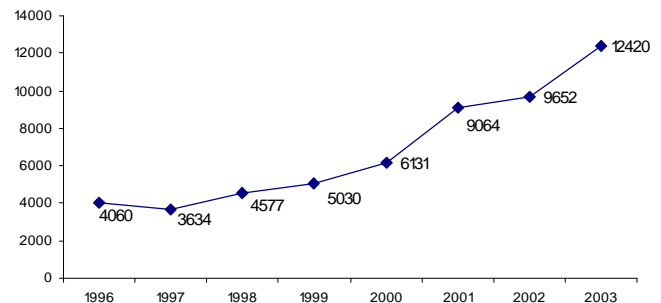
There has been a continuous rise in drug related crimes. While the 31-45 age group was the age group with the highest prevalence of drug users in previous years, the 16-30 age group constitutes the highest age group in 2000. In Turkey, the prevalence of drug abuse is estimated to be relatively low but increasing. In particular, increasing trends have been noted in adolescents seeking treatment for drug-related problems.



Registered HIV Cases



Drug related crimes



## Counter-Narcotics Efforts

### State

The national Security Council in April 1996, recommended the establishment of a "Committee and Subcommittee for the fight against Drug Abuse, Monitoring and Orientation" to conduct, as well as nationally coordinate, drug control activities. The Turkish Penal Code 403 regulates the ban on illegal manufacturing, import, export or transfer of narcotic drugs while Penal Code 404 provides for treatment and assistance to drug users arrested. The Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime within the Turkish National Police is responsible for combating the supply and trafficking of illicit substances in and out of Turkey. The Ministry of Health's General Directorate of Curative Services is the other national body responsible for provision of Alcohol and drug treatment services through a network of AMATEMs (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment, Education and Research Centers).

### Civil Society

22 national and international meetings and seminars have been organized with many experts from 2000 up to now to raise attention in the public to the problems faced while combating smuggling and organized crime.

Facilities operated by NGOs provide drug treatment services based on a strictly "medical model" with an apparent lack of other treatment options and type of services that would provide a continuum of care as a "treatment system" for those who may need diverse services for assistance with their drug problems.

### Regional cooperation

The Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI) was established to help restore peace and stability in the Balkans following the Dayton Agreement. Within this framework, an Agreement for Cooperation in the Prevention and Struggle against Transborder Crime has been signed on 26 May 1999.

Turkey is also part of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which operates a Drug Control Coordination Unit, which stands out as the single drug control unit that includes countries both along the Balkan and Northern routes.

### International

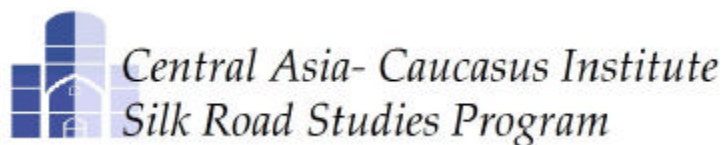
Turkey has been a member of FATF since 1991. Turkey ratified the UN Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing in April 2002. In 2003 Turkey ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Turkey

is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention. Turkey is signatory to the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Turkey signed, but has not yet ratified, the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime.

Turkey is a candidate country of the European Union and is in the process of becoming a full member of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The Turkish International Academy for Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) has been designated as the EMCDDA Turkish National Focal point. As part of National Focal Point development, TADOC and other related institutions and departments will be provided technical support by twinning with the Greek and Spanish Focal Points. Further technical and financial support will also be provided in developing a national drug demand reduction strategy, developing structures and capacities to implement demand reduction programs, including primary prevention and treatment programs in Turkey. Being part of the EMCDDA will further facilitate capacity development among key institutions in Turkey to develop drug control efforts. As part of the EU accession process, EMCDDA will provide technical and financial assistance to help develop TADOC as the national focal point.

The Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime, the first of its kind in Turkey, was established in Ankara on 26 June 2000 under the leadership of the United Nations and within the framework of Turkey-UNDCP collaboration and in connection with the General Directorate of Security, Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized crime to provide training in the field of combating drug and organized crimes. It has become a recognized regional center for training of counter-narcotic officials from Central Asian states and Afghanistan and could turn into a training resource and expertise center for the entire region affected by Afghan drug trafficking.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related matters in the Near and Middle East was hosted by Turkey in June 2000. Resolutions were adopted on international cooperation for the control of narcotic drugs, on control of trade in acetic anhydride, and on enhancing regional cooperation on drug control through training.



*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](http://www.silkroadstudies.org/drugsdatabase.htm)