



## COUNTRY FACTSHEETS, EURASIAN NARCOTICS:

### UKRAINE 2004

#### General Information

Population: 48,400,000  
 UNDP Human development index ranking: 70 (out of 177 states)  
 TI Corruption indicators: 2.4 (0 highly corrupt and 10 highly clean)

Ukraine is not a major drug producing country, but it is located astride several important drug trafficking routes into Europe, and which makes it an important transit country. Numerous ports on the Black and Azov seas, river transportation routes, porous borders, and inadequately financed and under-equipped border and customs control forces make Ukraine susceptible to drug trafficking.

#### Smuggling of Drugs

Ukraine continues to experience increased drug trafficking from Afghanistan. Before entering Ukraine, drugs pass through a number of countries and areas, including Russia, the Caucasus, Turkey, Romania, Moldova, and Poland. Criminal groups use Ukraine's seaports and rivers as part of the "Balkan Route" for smuggling narcotic drugs. Shipments are usually destined for Western Europe, and arrive by road, rail, or sea, which is perceived as less risky than by air or mail shipment. Synthetic drugs are usually brought from Romania, Hungary, Poland, Germany or Belgium. Drug traffic from Asia is increasingly controlled by well-organized international criminal groups of Afghan, Pakistani, and Tajik origin using CIS citizens as drug couriers. Other drugs that enter Ukraine include cocaine from Latin America and hashish from Northern and Western Africa. Those drug trafficking routes that pass through Ukraine are mainly oriented to Europe. According to the State Customs Service, the main channels of drug trafficking through Ukraine are the following: Turkey – southern border of Ukraine – western border of Ukraine – Western Europe; Latin America – Northern European sea ports – Baltic states – Ukraine – Western Europe; and Central-African countries – the Middle East – southern border of Ukraine – western border of Ukraine – Western Europe.

#### Health and Economic Aspects

**Corruption:** In 2003 there were no prosecutions on any charges of corruption of public officials involved in the drug trade. However, there were several cases of prison guards smuggling drugs into prisons. In order to combat corruption, the Ukrainian government has adopted an extensive set of laws and decrees. At the beginning of 2001, the government approved a national action plan to combat corruption, but progress in implementation have been slow.

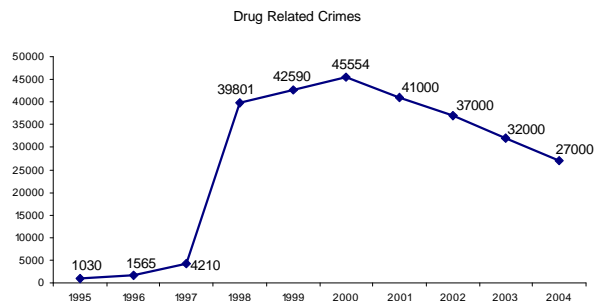
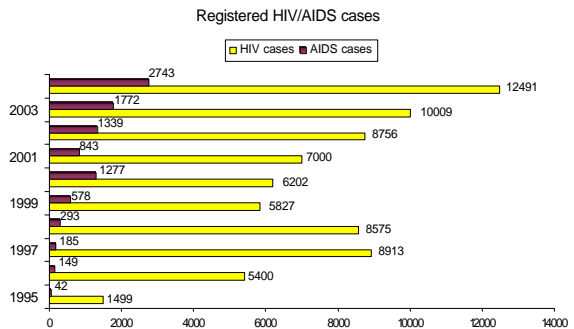
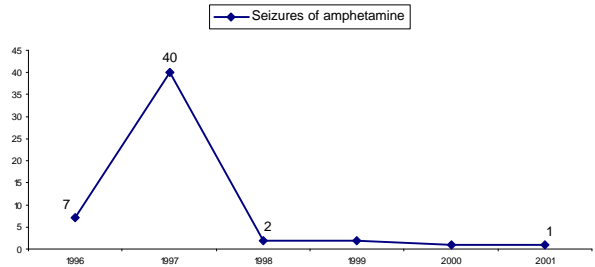
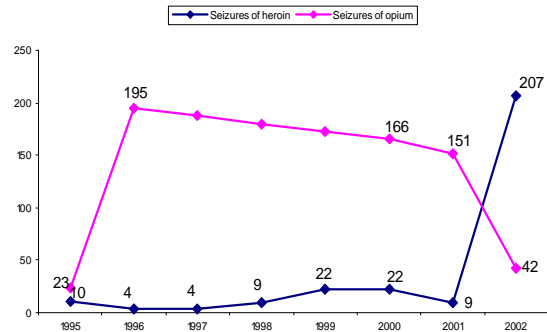
**Money laundering:** In December 2002 and January 2003, the Ukrainian Government amended legislation and an action plan against money-laundering. As a result, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering decided to withdraw its countermeasures with respect to Ukraine seeing it as an improvement in comparison with the previous year.

**Drug abuse and HIV epidemics:** There are 123,000 registered drug users and 66,000 HIV/AIDS cases. 70 % of registered HIV cases are among intravenous drugs users, especially young people. The number of HIV cases between 1999 and 2003 increased by 38%, and the country now has one of the highest prevalence rates in the region. The number of cases is expected to double by 2010.

#### Political and Societal Aspects

Organized crime in Ukraine has become a significant political and economic force, developing collusive and corrupting relationships with the political elite and exerting influence over many sectors of the economy. Politics, crime and corruption merged to form both a deeply criminalized political system and highly politicized criminal organizations. As Kiev police reported, 12 gangs continue to operate in Ukraine and to control around 60 enterprises, including some banks. Organized crime groups are well established in Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhe, Lugansk, Kharkiv, Odessa, Crimea and Kiev.

A significant growth in drug use over the last few years has increased the demand for drugs and has created strong informal drug trade infrastructure. Additionally an insufficient level of cooperation among law enforcement agencies at the regional level has significantly reduced the efficiency of anti-drug activities. Despite the prohibition on the cultivation of narcotic plants (poppy straw and hemp), over 5,000 cases of illegal cultivation by private households were discovered. In accordance with information of Security Service of Ukraine, for the last years there was an increase in illegal operations with synthetic drugs, including amphetamines and in organizing domestic production in these substances with involvement of highly educated chemical industry specialists.



## Counter-Narcotics Efforts

### State

National strategic development in the field of combating drug trafficking and abuse is viewed as a priority by the Government of Ukraine. Ukraine was the first CIS country to adopt a modern drug control law in 1995, which put in place a mechanism to control licit production, introduced the list of drug-related offences in the Criminal Code, created law enforcement agencies responsible for combating drug trafficking, and improved significantly the level of international cooperation in combating drug trafficking and organized crime. New comprehensive legislation against money laundering was adopted in 2002-2003 and the structure to implement that legislation was established.

Over the past seven years the Ukrainian parliament has adopted several drug control laws. The laws are well-drafted and constitute a solid legal basis for combating narcotics. These laws are in line with the 1988 UN Anti-Narcotics Convention. Pursuant to this legislation, the Ministry of Interior (MVS), the State Security Service (SBU), the State Customs Service, and the Border Guards were given powers to enforce counternarcotics activities. The Drug Enforcement Department (DED), an independent department within the MVS, reports directly to the Minister of Interior and has 1,725 personnel. Despite a shortage of resources, the DED has achieved positive results in combating drug trafficking. In 2003 the Government of Ukraine approved a detailed policy paper entitled "The Program of the State Policy in Combating Illegal Circulation of Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors for 2003-2010." The Program acknowledged the growing scale of drug abuse, the lack of adequate education and public awareness efforts, community prevention efforts, treatment and rehabilitation. The Program also provides estimates of future funding to support its implementation.

### Civil Society

An emerging movement of civil society and people living with HIV is gaining force and requires urgent support through capacity building, networking and partnership development. Drug information centers have opened in the cities with the highest levels of drug abuse. NGOs operating with assistance from international institutions have conducted a number of rehabilitation programs throughout the country. Preventive actions are being organized at schools in order to reduce drug demand, as most Ukrainian drug abusers are under the age of 30.

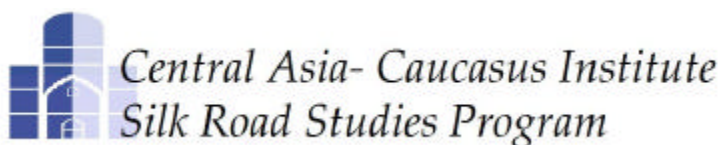
### Regional Cooperation

On the basis of agreements that have been concluded on the regional level, meetings and joint consultations have been held to discuss issues on combating organized crime, terrorism, drug-trafficking, etc., and to exchange opinions and information. Meetings of the Heads of CIS Security Services (SOBR) are held regularly. Results were successful operations with seizures of large shipments of drugs, arms, and smuggled goods, and led to the arrests of members of criminal organizations. In 2003 the BUMAD drug program (Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Against Drugs) was initiated with financial support from the EU and UNDP.

### International

In 2001 the Ukraine's Fourth Program of HIV/AIDS Prevention was adopted. In 2001, Ukraine became an observer nation in the South East Europe Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Organized Crime Center. The member nations and observer countries are pooling their limited resources to confront regional drug trafficking and other criminal posed threats. For the successful conduct of such operations, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has established close contacts with Interpol and foreign law enforcement agencies. Additionally various questions are currently being resolved in close cooperation with foreign intelligence and security services. The SBU has reached agreements on liaison and cooperation with foreign intelligence services and law enforcement agencies of over 50 countries.

In 2003, the Ukrainian Government adopted a national strategic program for 2003-2010. The implementation of the program envisages two stages. The first stage plans to improve legislation and system for licit control, create a national electronic database, monitor the situations with trafficking and abuse and strengthen international cooperation. The second stage is intended to integrate Ukraine into the European information network on drugs and drug addiction, development and implementation of new systems of treatment and further rehabilitation, further improvement of working mechanisms to combat trafficking.



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)

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