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NOTE

from:	Polish ¹ and Romanian Co-Chairs of the Dublin Group
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Subject:	Regional report for Eastern Europe and Caucasus

Regional report on Republic of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and republic of Moldova²

1. ARMENIA

1.1. General situation on drug offenses

1.1.1. Analysis in the first 9 months of 2012, compared with 2011:

- 2011 - 1108 offenses;
- 2012 - 872 offenses (236 cases less) decrease of approximately 21.3% over the previous year.

¹ Poland is monitoring the illicit drug problem in Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine.
² This report was elaborated based on data kindly presented by the anti-drug authorities from the countries referred to in this report, through the diplomatic missions of Romania.

1.1.2. Legal characterization of the facts in the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Armenia and the number of offenses:

- Art. 266 - illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for their marketing, paragraphs 1 and 2:
 - 2011 - 467 crimes;
 - 2012 - 322 crimes (less the 145 cases) 31% reduction from the previous year;
- Art. 266, paragraph 3:
 - 78 offenses in 2011;
 - 40 offenses in 2012 (38 cases less), down 48.7% from 2011;
- Art. 266, paragraph 4:
 - 26 offenses in 2011;
 - 16 offenses in 2012 (10 cases less), down 38.4%;
- Art. 268 - illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, without their marketing purposes:
 - 526 offenses in 2011;
 - 471 offenses in 2012 (55 cases less), down 10.4% compared to previous
- Art. 269 - buying, using and illegally printing of prescriptions that allow receiving drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors:
 - 2 offense in 2011;
 - 3 offenses in 2012 (1 case plus), up 50% compared to 2011;
- Art.272 - conviction or involvement of third parties to use drugs and psychotropic substances:
 - 2 offense in 2011;
 - 0 offenses in 2012 (two cases less) reduced by 100% compared to 2011;
- Art.273 - illegal cultivation of plants prohibited by law, containing substances narcotics, psychotropic powerful poisons:
 - 7 offenses in 2011;
 - 17 offenses in 2012 (10 cases plus) increase of 143% over the previous year;
- Art. 274 - arrangement and layout of places for eating narcotics psychotropic substances:
 - 0 offenses in 2011;
 - 3 offenses in 2012 (increase of 300% compared to 2011);

1.1.3. The results of drug structure

Armenia, according to data from the end of September, have resulted in the arrest and indictment of 489 people (among them: 21 women, 4 children, 15 foreign nationals) for committing the offense of drug trafficking, psychotropic substances and precursors. In this context, there has been an increase of 29 people (6.17%) compared to the first 9 months of 2011 (470 cases).

Those arrested and prosecuted (which were part of the 21 women and 468 men) fall into the following age categories:

- 4 minors in 2012 (6 minors in 2011) - down 0.8%;
- 18 to 24 years - 37 people (33 in 2011) - up 7.5%;
- 25 to 29 years - 46 people (52 in 2011) - down 9.4%;
- 30-49 years - 318 people (297 in 2011) - creştere with 65.1%;
- Over 50 - 84 people (82 in 2011) - 4.3%.

In terms of occupations drug traffickers were made the following findings:

- 91% are unemployed;
- 3% - no permanent means of subsistence;
- 4% seasonal agricultural workers;
- 1% - employees in private and public companies;
- 1% - students.

Among those presented by Police narcologic Armenian Ministry of Health Clinic to undergo detoxification treatments and medical tests efectării tests, 798 were in the body of drug traces, as follows:

- 498 (62.4%) consumed cannabis;
- 271 (34.00%) - opiates;
- 29 (3.6%) - synthetic narcotic.

Categorized by age, they fall within the following limits:

- 547 drug users (68%) - over 35 years;
- 179 conumatori (22.43%) - 26-35 years;
- 69 consumers (8.64%) - 18-25 years old;
- 3 consumers (approximately 0.37%) - under 18.

1.2. Drugs strategy

1.2.1. *Organizing domestic drug action and participation in integrated operations in the Commonwealth of Independent States*

- Not transmitted data;

1.2.2. *Armenia signed international conventions on combating drug trafficking and drug use:*

- 1992 - Kiev, the Convention on cooperation between the interior ministries of the CIS countries in the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- 1993 - International Convention UNO the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic (1961), psychotropic Substances Convention (1988), Convention on the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- 1998 - signed with representatives of States participating in the initiative of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation understanding on "Cooperation in the fight against organized crime;
- 1999 - between the Governments of Armenia, Georgia and Iran signed a memorandum on "cooperation and mutual support in the fight against organized crime and its various manifestations";
- 2000 - Minsk, "CIS cooperation in the fight against illicit drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals";
- 2000 - Chisinau, at the level of heads of CIS countries' cooperation in the fight against illicit drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals ";
- 2002 - at the level of Heads of Government of the CIS - "CIS cooperation in combating illegal trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals";
- 2005 - signing between "Federal Service of Russia for control of drug trafficking" and the Police of the Republic of Armenia "Understanding collaboration on issues of drug trafficking, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals";
- 2008 - "CIS intergovernmental program to combat illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals for 2008-2010".

1.2.3. *National strategy to combat drug trafficking*

- Continue the strategy adopted in previous years.

1.3. Drug programs, multi-and bilateral, involving Armenia

- Not transmitted data;

Measures aimed at rehabilitation and healing by drug addicts

In the Armenian capital works "narcologic Clinic" of the Ministry of Health, specializing in the treatment administered by drug addicts.

1.4. Date and place of meetings with the Armenian authorities on the issue of "Mini-Dublin Group"

In 2012, the leadership of Armenia Police refused to have meetings with representatives of the Romanian Embassy in Yerevan, precision is that in future, all materials required on the issue of "Mini-Dublin Group" will be transmitted only through Armenian MFA.

1.5. Priorities on obtaining external support and assistance

1.5.1. Necessary equipment and training specialized personnel in combating drug use and trafficking:

- Not transmitted data;

1.5.2. Armenian law, concerning the criminalization of offenses related to illegal drug trafficking:

A. Articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia:

- 266 - illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, their marketing purposes;
- 267 - violation of laws on the production, storage, recording, packaging, transport and transfer of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- 268 - illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, without their marketing purposes;
- 269 - Theft or extortion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- 269, Section I - buying, using and illegally printing of prescriptions that allow receiving drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;
- 270 - purchase illegal narcotics and psychotropic substances or prescriptions based on false documents authorizing their acquisition and use;
- 272 - conviction or involvement of third parties to use drugs and psychotropic substances;
- 273 - illegal cultivation of plants prohibited by law, containing narcotic, psychotropic or powerful poisons;
- 274 - arrangement and layout of places for consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

B. Administrative Code articles:

44.1 - illegal transportation of drugs and psychotropic substances, without any intention of marketing them;

44.2 - Use of drugs and psychotropic substances without a prescription;

110, paragraph 1 - actions aimed at exercising control cultures containing drugs;

110, paragraph 2 - illegal cultivation and performing specific works to ensure the development poppy and cannabis.

1.5.3. Data on illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and Armenia

Representatives of the Main Directorate of Fight Against Drug Trafficking in Armenia Police recently said that Armenia is one of the last places in the member states CIS reported in this chapter. In the context of increasing drug measures adopted in 2012 was a reduction of 30% of the consumption of narcotics, psychotropic substances and synthetic drugs.

National Drug Monitoring Centre, established under the National Health Institute in Yerevan, organize regular information campaigns on the negative implications, long term drug consumption, involving, especially, the students.

2. AZERBAIJAN

2.1. General situation in the country

The geographic position of Azerbaijan, at the crossroads of Europe and Central Asia, makes this country a natural point of transit for persons and goods. Furthermore, the rapidly growing economy permanently increases the number of trucks, ships and airplanes crossing its borders. A long and difficult to monitor border with Iran (very permissive for Afghanistan drugs too), a protracted conflict with Armenia, that places a large conflict area under no real control and the attraction of the large market of Russia for drugs encourages an increasing traffic of such substances through Azerbaijan at a regional level, with Europe as the second largest destination.

The law on trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors gave a real impetus to the fight against drugs in Azerbaijan and succeeded to put order in the chain of responsibilities of those involved, placing the Cabinet of Ministers in the position of coordinator of all drug issues through the State Drug Control Commission chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Favorable climatic conditions of the country allow cultivating poppy and cannabis of various growths; in its turn it worsens the drug related situation in the country and may be used as a ground for establishment of «the raw source» for illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

The core statistics for last 2 years have been used in order to assess the situation on illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. Assessment of statistics on illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs for last 2 years (2010-2011) show the general trends of dropping some figures. Amounts of seized narcotic drugs could be shown as an example.

More than 1,549 kilograms of narcotic drugs were seized by the law enforcement agencies under 2,921 cases reported in 2011 (3,161 cases on illicit trafficking in drugs were reported in 2010).

Like in previous years most of drug related offences are about their illegal possession, sale and cultivation. More than half of cases, i.e. 1,762 reported in 2011 (1,934 reported in 2010) relates to illegal possession of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

As for the data on persons convicted by courts, the Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Justice reports about 5,785 persons convicted for illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs in 2011 (6,063 persons in 2010) and 3,289 of them were referred by courts for the compulsory treatment under the Criminal Code Article 93 (2,981 persons in 2010).

The Central Drug Enforcement Department reports about several groups of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors seized by various law enforcement agencies in 2011. They are mainly cannabioids and opiates. Hashish and marijuana are among cannabioids. Lesser part of cannabioids like marijuana is cultivated in Azerbaijan. Other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including strong ones are trafficked to local market from either neighboring countries or Afghanistan via those neighboring countries, e.g. opiates, heroin.

As a result of operation and search as well as preventive activities aimed at combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors 2,636 criminal cases were reported, 817 of those cases were about illegal sale of narcotic drugs, 1,694 – illegal storage of narcotic drugs, 111- cultivation of drug contained plants and 10 about other relevant offences.

According to the National Narcological Clinic under the Ministry of Health 1,999 new drug addicts were recorded by the National Narcological Service in 2011 only (1,566 of them are dispensary and 433 are prophylactically recorded ones).

Total number of drug addicts recorded by the National Narcological Service by the end of 2011 comprised 26,717 persons and 20,861 of them are dispensary, 5,601 prophylactically and 254 anonymously recorded ones.

511 drug addicts from this totally registered number are female ones: 350 of them are dispensary and 161 prophylactically recorded ones.

Most of narcotic drugs sold at black market of the country are trafficked from neighboring countries. They are mainly opiates such as heroin and opium as well as amphetamines, psychotropic substances and cocaine. Cannaboids such as marijuana and hashish are cultivated in the country mainly for personal use or for sale in small lots at black market. In most cases it is not committed in organized manner but by various individuals. Therefore the most important problem relates to narcotic drugs trafficked illicitly from abroad. This problem is primarily caused by strategic location of the country at the transit route between East and West. Azerbaijan located at Europe-Asia transport route borders with Russia, Iran and Georgia and it lays «favorable» ground for illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs from Central Asian countries to West and Central European states as well as to central regions of Russia. Therefore it is inevitable that some part of narcotic drugs trafficked illicitly via international borders of Azerbaijan remains in the country and affects on annual rise in number of its users.

2.2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy

In 2011 various state agencies and NGOs carried out certain studies and analytical works in order to identify current problems of youth on early prevention of drug addiction and related offences. As a result of studies it has been found out that young people are quite enough informed about gravity of the problem, negative consequences of drug addiction and related offences surrounding them. However some gaps still exist in awareness rising.

These gaps are seen in following aspects:

- Young people are less informed about principle (direct) factors of the narcotic drugs negative impact;
- Few groups of young people were involved in implementation of special events and projects against drug addiction as well as those ones on AIDS prevention and healthy lifestyle. It also indicates on weaknesses in prevention work;
- More than half of young people do not have clear idea about AIDS. Relatively small part of young people possess explicit information about AIDS transmission and risk factors;
- Lack of knowledge about laws causes their easy involvement in crime committing;
- Only Mass Media and social environment play pro-active role as sources in awareness rising but education facilities and organizations dealing with youth affairs look passive in this process.
- Outcomes of surveys conducted by the Ministry of Youth and Sport indicate on gravity of problem in identification of young drug addicts.

Transnational nature of the drug trafficking necessitates international cooperation to combat this type of crime. For this reason the relevant state agencies of Azerbaijan cooperate closely and implement joint activities with the UNODC, WCO, CARICC, GUAM and other international organizations.

Meeting on coordination activities on fight against transnational drug dealers groups held in Baku in 2011 by CARICC and under the initiative State Customs Committee with participation of officials from 16 countries and 3 international organizations discussed some issues of international cooperation. Officials from 42 countries, UN, EC, CARICC, Interpol, SECI as well as other relevant international and regional organizations attended the large-scale international conference on combating illicit drug trafficking was held in Baku by the State Customs Committee in partnership with UNODC and WCO. Mr. Ali Hassanov, chairperson of the State Drug Control Commission, stated in his opening speech that combating illicit drug trafficking is always on the top agenda of the Government. He noted that enhanced legal and regulatory framework is available in this area. In addition Azerbaijan is signatory to the 3 basic UN Conventions on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and adopted a number of legal acts for effective implementation of these international instruments.

In addition, the State Customs Committee, CARICC and Committee of heads of law enforcement divisions of the Council of CIS Customs Services Chiefs hold regular data exchange on reported cases of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and seized narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors.

Moreover, in order to combat effectively illicit trafficking in narcotic dugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors the State Customs Committee participates on regular basis in international operational activities (called provisionally “Narcostop-2011”) on combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors in the GUAM member-states which is held within the framework of the organizational and practical actions plan for 2011 of the Committee of heads of law enforcement divisions of the Council of CIS Customs Services Chiefs and GUAM Task Force on fight against terrorism, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and other serious crimes.

International workshop on border security and combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs was held in Baku in 2011 with the NATO support. Border officials from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as representatives of the NATO, UN, EU, OSCE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Migration Service, State Customs Committee, State Drug Control Commission of Azerbaijan and foreign embassies in Azerbaijan took part in this workshop.

2.3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral programs

One of the national priorities of the Government of Azerbaijan is to enhance anti-drug legislative framework and adjust it in line with current changes and requirements. Primary objective of legal and regulatory acts adopted in this area to cover ongoing changes in social, economic, legal and other aspects of trafficking in narcotic drugs.

In 2005 some changes have been made in laws regulating trafficking in narcotic drugs, social and legal activities related hereto as well as effects of such activities.

From this prospective the principal change included enactment on June 28, 2005 of the new Law on «Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Its Precursors» that abolished previous Law «Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Its Precursors» adopted on June 18, 1999. A new Law embodies general improvements as well as amendments and modifications made to a number of articles of the previous one.

In general, a number of legal acts have been adopted in this area before. In its turn enactment of the new law on narcotic drugs necessitated making proper adjustments in those legal acts adopted in this area previously. Proceeding from adoption of the new Law in 2005, President of Azerbaijan assigned the Cabinet of Ministers to ensure bringing current legal acts on narcotic drugs in line with the Law mentioned above.

The National Law on «Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychothropic Substance and Its Precursors» adopted on June 28, 2005 is different from previous one by a number of indicators. It regulates not only issues on illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors but all social aspects related to trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors in general and specifies rights and duties of individuals and legal entities concerned.

Treatment of drug addicted persons in Azerbaijan is regulated in line with the Law on Narcological Service and Control signed by President on June 29, 2002. This Law is a basic legal document for prevention of drug addiction, medical checkup, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

The National Program on «Control Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Its Precursors and Prevention of Drug Addiction» approved by the Presidential Decree #2271 dated of June 28, 2007 constitutes national policy of combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

Main objectives of the third National Program for 2007-2012 are to enhance combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and its precursors as well as prevention of drug addiction; to prevent illicit trafficking in drugs and drug addiction via anti-drug advocacy, awareness raising, rehabilitation and treatment of drug addicts; to improve medical and rehabilitation activities; to improve relevant laws; to conduct scientific researches and practical studies with a view of learning efficiency of punishments applicable for relevant offences; to deepen international cooperation.

The State Drug Control Commission established under the Presidential Decree #488 dated of August 26, 1996 is authorized to oversight implementation of the National Program where the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, State Customs Committee, State Border Service, Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources are specified as implementing agencies.

The Task Force is functioning within the State Drug Control Commission. It was set up to ensure and coordinate implementation of the State Drug Control Commission's activities as well as to oversight implementation of the National Program on «Control Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Its Precursors and Prevention of Drug Addiction» for 2007-2012.

Composition of the State Drug Control Commission has been changed and its new structure approved by the Presidential Decree #429 dated of August 6, 2009. Now the State Drug Control Commission is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and consists of officials of the: President's Administration Division on Work with Law Enforcement Agencies; Parliament's Social Policy Committee; Cabinet's Office Division on Military and Administrative Authorities; General Prosecutors Office; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of National Security; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Youth and Sport; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; State Customs Committee; State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs; State Border Service; National Academy of Sciences; Executive Power of Baku; Trade Unions Confederation.

Another special institutional structure is the National Database established according to the Cabinet of Ministers Decision #71 dated of April 17, 2000 within the Central Drug Enforcement Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Drugs related information from the 8 state agencies is compiled and processed by this Database.

The National Law on «Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Its Precursors» adopted in 2005 lays the legal foundation for carrying out anti-drug activities and establishing new institutional structures for collection, processing and exchange of data on narcotic drugs. Article 9 of this Law provides setting up National Narcotic Drugs Information Center.

The Law sets out rights and duties of this Center. According to the Law ultimate goal of the National Narcotic Drugs Information Center is to arrange compiling non-private and objective data on trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (Article 9.2). The Law classifies types of data to be collected by the National Narcotic Drugs Information Center: data on non-medical and medical use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as on medical, economic and other implications of such use; data on illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and its consequences; data on medical and non-medical demand in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; data on harms of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for individuals and communities as well as on measures aimed at reducing its non-medical supply; non-private information on treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts; data on activities implemented by NGOs to fight against trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; data on outcomes of narcological studies on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as on assessment of current narcological situation in the country; data on state policy, legal and regulatory matters on narcotic drugs.

In general, strategic directions of the state policy against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and drug addiction have been identified, while organizational, legal, institutional and practical measures are being currently implemented. The legal and regulatory framework governing activities against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and drug addiction is enhanced and adjusted in conformity with international standards, meanwhile country involvement in international anti-drug initiatives more intensified.

Taking into consideration the current situation on drug addiction in near-border areas of the country scope of activities against drug addiction, on anti-drug advocacy, training and awareness rising have been expanded. For this reason the Ministry of Youth and Sport in cooperation with the Ministry of Education has designed and implemented relevant action plan. Following this plan thematic contests, meetings and conferences were held for students and pupils.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport organized music festival where students from 150 secondary and high schools had taken part. During this festival its presenters, participants, famous guest singers have sent various messages against drug addiction. This event was widely broadcasted and attracted big audience.

In addition, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, National Council of Youth Organizations and UNICEF organized the special summer school project «Think, Live and Be Healthy» in the Guba region. In 2011 special social activities under the slogan «Young People Join Against Bad Habits» were conducted by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Lankaran, Astara, Yardimli, Masalli, Neftchala, Salyan, Bilasuvar and Jalilabad regions of the country. In general these activities have covered about 1,800 minors and young persons.

The Ministry of Education implements through funding and administrative support of various international humanitarian organizations large-scale events explaining advantages of healthy lifestyle to children and young people. Special manuals and curriculums have been designed and special courses delivered in secondary schools and non-school facilities in close cooperation with organizations mentioned above. The optional subject «Life Habits Learning» is taught several years one hour per week for the 1-11 forms of secondary schools with support of UN Global Fund and UNICEF. The manual for each form contains various topics on threat of drug addiction, on healthy lifestyle, bad habits etc.

Moreover, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, within its mandate, carried out a number of events in the country regions. These events included preventive and awareness raising activities. Within the National Program on «Control Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors and Spread of Drug Addiction» for 2007-2012 and with a view of undertaking comprehensive preventive measures in the country regions throughout 2011, the relevant divisions of this Ministry with participation of representatives of the local urban and rural administrations, municipalities and communities have arranged advocacy meetings and held general consultations against drug addiction and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and its precursors.

According to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources regular monitoring and spot-checks as well as advocacy and awareness raising meetings and round tables are held in regions of the country by relevant structures of the Ministry with participation of local administrations, municipalities and population in order to prevent cultivation of drug contained plants in forests and special preserved areas.

In order to enhance measures aimed at destruction of drug contained, wild growing and illegally cultivated plants the Ministry of Agriculture through its local specialists in territorial departments in Lankaran, Ujar, Shaki, Guba, Shamakhi and Barda covering various regions of the country organize on regular basis awareness raising campaigns among general population, students and in public places, hold meetings with land owners and inform local population about wild growing drug contained plants and its natural habitat areas in Azerbaijan. The Scientific and Research Institute on Forage, Meadows and Pastures provides local specialists with instructive information on cultivated and wild growing varieties of drug contained plants such as cannabis and hashish, their vegetation periods, shape of seeds and with other relevant data with a view of designing of map on areas of growing drug contained plants, preventing its spread and conducting related scientific and research activities.

Treatment of drug addicted persons in Azerbaijan is regulated in line with the Law on Narcological Service and Control signed by President on June 29, 2002. This Law is a basic legal document for prevention of drug addiction, medical checkup, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Under this law, the Government ensures providing narcological service to every person suffering from drug addiction. Treatment of narcologically sick persons in Azerbaijan is carried out in specialized medical facilities only by narcologists, psychiatrists and psychologists. In addition medical departments attached to the penitentiaries are allowed as an exception to provide such kind of treatment. Besides the public medical facilities mentioned above there are not private clinics licensed by the Ministry of Health to treat drug addicts in Azerbaijan. Any private medical practice on drug addiction or its treatment is prohibited by law.

One of the key achievements in treatment of drug addicts in Azerbaijan is introduction of substitution treatment for injected drug addicts as it is already practiced abroad. Unlike most of other countries, in Azerbaijan this program is implemented by Government. For this purpose since 2004 the special program on substitution treatment by methadone has been implemented in National Narcological Clinic of Azerbaijan up to now in conformity with the Terms of Reference for Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as Rules on Undertaking Medical Measures for Drug Addicts approved by the Cabinet's Order #165 dated of 11.09.00. The methadone based substitution treatment program is currently being implemented in the 2 medical facilities: National Narcological Clinic and AIDS Prevention Center. 107 patients are covered by this program in the National Narcological Clinic and 44 – in the AIDS Prevention Center.

According to the Ministry of Health Order dated of 14.07.11 on Creation of the AIDS Infection Voluntary Consultation and Examination Station such a station has been established within the National Narcological Clinic on 16.07.2011.

2.4. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

On the 18th of July 2012, the Embassy of Romania in the Republic of Azerbaijan, together with the non-governmental organization „National Drug Prevention” Public Union, organized the conference „Global Action for Healthy Communities without Drugs”. The action was attended by officials of the state and government, members of the State Commission for Fighting Against Drug Addiction and Illicit Drugs Trafficking, Members of Milli Majilis, representatives of the law enforcement agencies, NGO’s.

2.5. Recommendations:

- Enhance data and experience exchange between countries and relevant structures;
- Provide effective and efficient border management;
- Coordinate activities aimed at control of illicit trafficking in drugs at national and regional levels;
- Improve cooperation between border control authorities;
- Strengthen activities taken by civil society and NGOs in this area.

3. GEORGIA

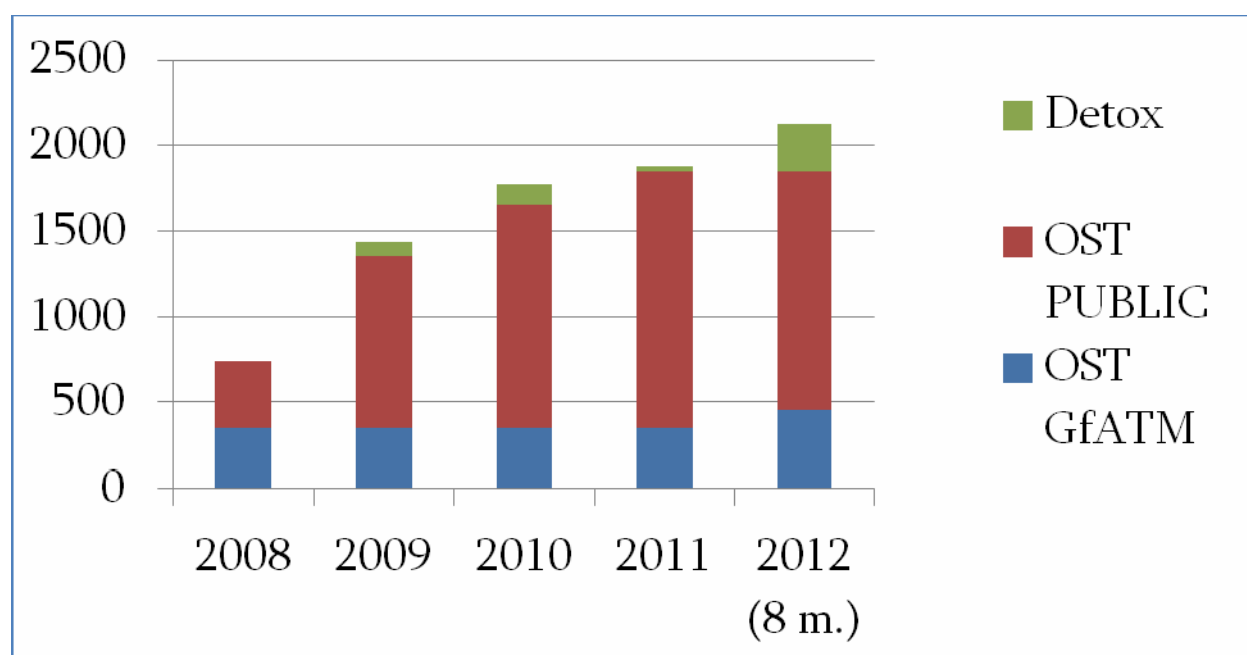
3.1. Drug use

- Drug use among the general population –No data
- Prevalence of PDU - approximately 40,000 (95% CI: 39,000-41,000), i.e. 1.5% (1.48%-1.52%);*
- Drug use among young people - Of the sample that was representative for Tbilisi, the lifetime prevalence for any illegal drug was 20% in the study (33% of males; 8% of females). The statistical error (margin) for each of the reported figures is $\pm 5\%$ **

Trends per Drug;

- 2003-2005 – Heroin and other opiates (opium, poppy seeds);
- 2004-2008 – Buprenorphine (Subutex);
- 2008-2011 – **Homemade stimulants, amphetamine, methamphetamine and methcathinone;**
- **2011-2012 – Homemade opiate “crocodile” – Dezomorphine;**
- **Abuse of sedative drugs and alcohol;**

Availability of Treatment and OST in Georgia



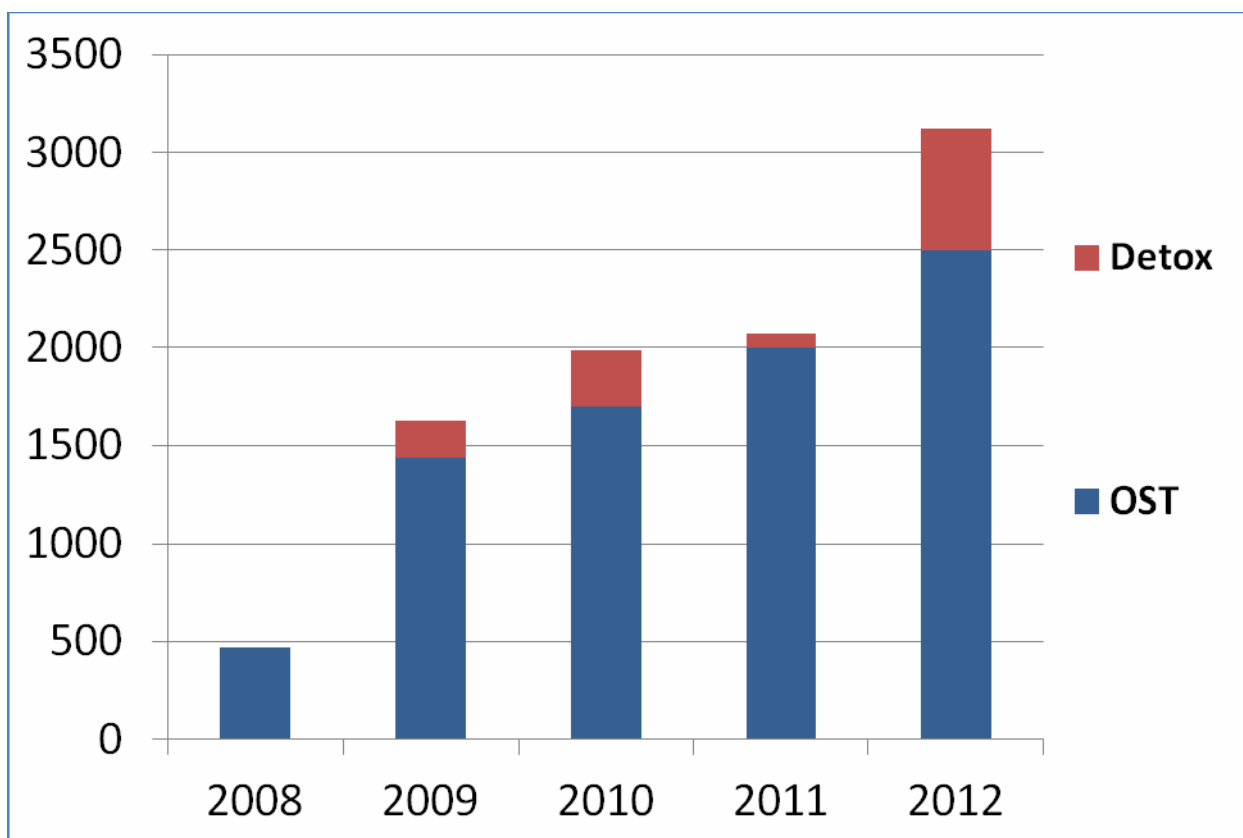
Overall number and dynamics of cases in OST 2008-2012;

4 treatment (Detox, out and in-patient) centers operating (3 in Tbilisi (2 private and 1 Public) 1 in Batumi (public)) ;

16 centers operating for OST (methadone and Subuxone) in all major cities (11 public and 5 as a part of Global Fund GFATM project);

Main characteristics of OST programs in Georgia ;

- Medications used Methadone and Subuxone;
- OST programs provide complex medico-psychological support with elements of social rehabilitation;
- Most patients are on maintenance therapy;
- Monitoring of other narcotic/psychotropic drugs use is systematically conducted;
- Exclusion of patients from programs are very seldom and mostly due to strict abolishment of regime;
- Patients show high compliance of OST.



Overall budget dynamics of MoLhsa for Service provision

2008-2012

Methadone Treatment in Prison Settings;

- Pilot methadone treatment program was launched in December 2008 with support of GFATM project in pretrial prison (prison #8);
- Nowadays methadone treatment (long-term detoxification) is implemented in 2 pretrial prisons (#8 prison - East Georgia and #2 prison – West Georgia).
- Since starting 589 persons received treatment in prisons.
- Achievements - high compliance of therapy, significant improvement of physical and mental health and life quality of inmate patients. Increase of positive attitude of prison administration and public to MT; raise of Governmental support and understanding of needs of scaling up the programs

Infrastructural and institutional development

- 2011 -2012 – Mental Health and Addiction Prevention centre established
- provides treatment (60%) and OST (100%) services together with teaching, research, prevention and rehabilitation activities;
- 2012 - LEPL “Centre for Rehabilitation of Addicts” (MoLHsa);
- The center is responsible for development and expansion of a network of services and creation of an appropriate infrastructure and programs for treatment and long term psychological and social rehabilitation.
- 2012 New law “On narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, precursors and narcologic aid”
- New lists of restricted and substances under special control Completely coincide with lists and meet the requirements of UN conventions (1961, 1971,1988);
- Taking into account EMCDDA recommendations all known “New psychoactive substances” (150) have been included in lists;
- Some substances which aren't under international control but are actual for Georgia have been brought in lists (Tramadol, butorphanol, nalbuphine);
- New regulations regarding import, export and transit of controlled substances have been included;
- Regulations of New law improve the adequate availability of controlled substances for medical purposes;
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- New regulations regarding import, export and transit of controlled substances have been included;
- Regulations of New law improve the adequate availability of controlled substances for medical purposes;

Non-Paper on recent development on Combating Drug Abuse

I. The Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Combating Drug Abuse

By force of the presidential order, an Inter-Agency Coordinating Council on Combating Drug Abuse has been established on November 22, 2011. The establishment of the Council was triggered by the will to intensify struggle against drug abuse and cope with all problems connected thereto. Coordinating Council comprises members from all the significant governmental institutions such as: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Chief Prosecutors Office, Parliament of Georgia, as well as experts from relevant International Organizations like European Union, Council of Europe, UNODC, Unicef, also representatives from US Embassy and DOJ, and from local non-governmental organizations such as Alternative Georgia and Drugs Prevention Centre.

The main objectives of the Coordinating Council are to elaborate state strategy on combating drug abuse in line with the human rights and considering the situation analysis of the country, as well as to draft, periodically revise and monitor the implementation of the strategy and action plan, and to coordinate intergovernmental activities.

Within the scope of the inter-agency coordinating Council four working groups were established in order to effectively execute all the objectives of the council. These working groups are: Demand reduction and harm reduction working group, Supply reduction working group, International cooperation and internal coordination working group and Information, research, assessment working group. They are concentrated on particular issues and comprise member from qualified institutions working on drug issues as well as representatives from governmental bodies.

The Council is in close cooperation with the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM). In particular, a memorandum of cooperation has been signed between Coordinating Council on Combating Drug Abuse and the Country Coordinating Mechanism for Projects of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Georgia and other Programs in Relation with AIDS and Tuberculosis within the Country.

II. Development of the legislation on drugs

Recent review of national drug policy resulted in package of amendments introduced to the parliament of Georgia with regard to regulations concerning drug abuse and drug crime.

III. Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors and Narcotic Assistance

The core notion in the area of combating drug abuse and drug prevention is the new Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors and Narcotic Assistance. The main purpose of enacting new law is to bring it in compliance with the Convention on Narcotic Substances of 1961, convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and Convention on Combating illegal circulation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

The amended law provides accurate lists of substances subjected to special control that are arranged according to the level of the harm they may cause, as well as by considering the high risk of being used wrongfully and effects of the influence triggered by their usage. The new lists stipulated in the Law correspond to those established in relevant international conventions.

Moreover, law determines concrete amounts of each substance which may be withdrawn from illegal possession or illegal circulation. These amounts are divided into 3 categories: small amount, big amount and exceptionally big amount. Such distinction is significant for determining the exact sentence upon withdrawal of particular substance. For instance, prior to this amendment there were no definite categories for “Heroin”, hence any amount of this substance was considered as a big amount and caused a most severe sentence. However, pursuant to current amendments, the Annex 2 to the Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors and Narcotic Assistance represents a table containing names of all substances and precise amounts in grams falling under column of each category.

Law also incorporates some rules and procedures in order to track the level of drug usage among public servants. Specifically, law prescribes obligatory periodic analysis for public servants once in a year. Consuming such substances at workplace may result in dismissal, unless a person holds medical prescription and is using those substances for medical purposes.

The law amends terminology not coinciding with the definitions laid down in the conventions. For instance, the terms of drugs and psychotropic substances were not properly defined and did not match with the convention definitions. The law prescribes restrictions upon person addicted to substances subjected to special control, who shall refrain from being engaged in several professions and hold some positions. The list of particular professions or positions which may not be available for drug addicted shall be defined by the Government of Georgia. This amendment aims to provide state and public security, to promote healthy lifestyle among individuals and protect rights and legal interest of the society as a whole.

In addition, draft law foresees some principles for drug treatment and regulations for assisting drug addicts. These provisions are stipulated in special chapter of the Law named “narcotic assistance”. According to this chapter narcotic assistance may be provided in specially designated establishments and it may be conducted on voluntary basis. However, law also prescribes cases of compulsory drug treatment. Types of compulsory treatment are as follows: Coping with addiction in cases of deprivation of liberty or imprisonment; Drug treatment in the establishments of deprivation of liberty and imprisonment. As stated by the law, rules and procedures for drug treatment and rehabilitation are defined by the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs.

The law entered into force from June 20, 2012.

IV. Code on Administrative Offences

Code on Administrative Offences has been amended in line with the Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors and Narcotic Assistance. Namely, articles 44¹¹- 44¹⁵ were added to the Code, which prescribe fines for nonfulfillment of terms for export and import of substances subjected to special control and breach of rules for legal circulation thereof, as well as fines for the breach of regulations for issuance, creation, storing, and registration of special blank for the prescription of psychoactive substances. Fines are also introduced for nonfulfillment of obligation to provide accurate accounts in course of legal circulation of such substances.

Legislative amendments introduced by the Code contain stricter sanctions for those driving vehicle under influence of psychoactive substances, as well as for transmitting vehicle to person under influence of psychoactive substances. In particular, the fines intended for such offences increased by 50 GEL.

Another notion incorporated into the Code of Administrative Offences establishes fine on private and legal person for conducting popularization of psychoactive substances, for advertising means of manufacturing, consuming and usage of psychoactive substances, as well as for spreading information about places where to purchase such substances.¹

The law on amendments to the Code on Administrative Offences entered into force on June 6, 2012.

V. Law on Combating Drug Crime

The most significant amendment introduced into the law on Combating Drug Crime is the definition of drug user, which corresponds to the definition provided by WHO. The drug user is defined as a person who consumes substances subjected to special control without specific medical prescription but has no addiction to such substances. The same definition is introduced by the Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursors and Narcotic Assistance.

According to amendment of article 3 of the law, in case of court decision and/or in cases prescribed by the Code on Administrative Offences person may be subjected to seizure of driving license or restriction of particular rights, such as right to conduct medical service, right to teach in educational institution, right to work at public service institutions, right to be elected, right to produce, purchase, keep or carry weapon, and right to advocacy.

VI. Code on Imprisonment

By virtue of amendment brought into the Code of Imprisonment, the Local Council of the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, which is entitled to review criminal cases of those people eligible for release on parole (conditional release – parole boards) or alteration of sentence with less severe, also will be able to deliberate cases regarding restoration of previously restricted rights prescribed by the law on Combating Drug Crime (article3).

¹ Code on Administrative Offences – Article 159¹⁰

VII. Law on Public Service

According to amendments introduced into the Law on Public Service, person upon his/her admission to a public service should present reference letter from specialized medical institution proving the fact that this person has no signs of addiction towards the substances subjected to special control and has not used them without medical prescription.

The upcoming development which will be introduced to public service by the end of 2012 is the regulation for the periodic selective testing of public servants.

3.2. General situation in the country

Fight against organized crime and, *inter alia*, drug trafficking is among the top priorities of the Georgian government, especially taking into consideration that the separatist territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia¹, occupied by the Russian Federation, still remain beyond the control of law enforcement agencies of Georgia and this situation *per se* creates the profitable environment for drug smugglers.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia Special Operative Department (SOD) counternarcotics unit is a leading agency combating drug-related crimes; they are properly equipped and trained. And due to the effective policies undertaken by the Ministry and the successful work conducted by the Georgian law enforcers, positive tendencies have been identified in this regard, recently.

More precisely, Georgia's success in the fight against drug-related crimes was highlighted by International Narcotics Control Board Report on 2010:

- “Georgia is a party to all three international drug control treaties and, in line with the provisions of the international drug control system, has in place legal and administrative mechanisms for the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.”²
- “The drug law enforcement authorities in Georgia appear to be effective, cooperating with their counterparts in neighbouring countries.”³

¹ It is noteworthy that all the data presented by Georgia within this document does not cover the information on the situation in the occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

² International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010*, 2011, p. 18, available at: http://www.incb.org/pdf/annual-report/2010/en/AR_2010_English.pdf.

³ Ibid.

Moreover, Georgia's success in interdiction and controlling illegal drugs was underlined by the U.S. State Department INCSR evaluating the year of 2011:

- “The government of Georgia does not, as a matter of policy, encourage or facilitate trafficking in narcotics nor do any of its senior civil servants.”¹;
- “Reforms undertaken at the Special Operations Department, the main law enforcement agency combating illegal drugs, resulted in a significant improvement in drug-related crime suppression.”² ;
- “In 2011, the most visible drug-related case was a Subutex seizure close to Tbilisi. Police seized 534 pills containing 4272mg of buprenorphine, produced throughout Europe for the treatment of opiate addiction. These drugs were smuggled in a long-haul TIR truck and were seized at the Georgia-Turkey border. The street price for a pill is high; Subutex is abused for its opiate content.”³

Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the reforms aimed at enhancing the abilities of the Georgian law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking are continuing, with the support of international partners and donor organizations.⁴

¹ U.S. Department of States, 2012 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), March 7, section B.4, 2012, available at:
<http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2012/vol1/184099.htm#Georgia>.

² Ibid., section A.

³ Ibid., section B.2.

⁴ Ibid., section D.

Data on annual quantity of drugs seized in Georgia in the years of 2009-2011 and the first 6 months of 2012 – show the decrease and thus, represent a clear illustration of the above-mentioned reforms' success:

Drugs	2009	2010	2011	2012 (only first 6 months)
Heroin	2 kg. 362,79068 gr.	1 kg. 271,6761 gr.	451,2606 gr.	95,1808 gr.
Buprenorphine (Subutex)	40,52109 gr. (approx. 5065 tablets)	13,11567 gr. (approx. 1640 tablets)	14,2148 gr. (approx. 1776,8 tablets)	4,677 gr. (approx. 585 tablets)
Methadone	73,8196 gr.	13,7314 gr.	3,6667 gr.	36,7248 gr.
Tramadol	79,72 gr.	211,1935 gr.	11,75 gr.	6,3 gr.
Opium	37,8856 gr.	8,3672 gr.	87,6026 gr.	
Codeine	0,535 gr.	2,122 gr.	3,7947 gr.	3,4059 gr.
Morphine	3,5766 gr.	2,0632 gr. and 3 tablets	2,44 gr.	3,25 gr.
Marijuana	4 kg. 697,532 gr.	7 kg. 507,739 gr.	6 kg. 980,656 gr.	722,631 gr.
Cannabis resin	9,63 gr.	0,352 gr.	17,964 gr.	2,083 gr.
Cyclobarbitol	1,6 gr.			
Amphetamine	0,0072 gr.		0,0155 gr.	0,10696 gr.
Metamphetamine	0,0326 gr.	0,0534 gr.	0,7789 gr.	0,703875 gr.
Diphenoxylate	0,33 gr.		2,1871 gr.	
Cannabis	14,71 gr.	172,8 gr.	19 kg. 954,25 gr.	729,96 gr.
Cocaine	0,7827 gr.	0,099 gr.		0,1011 gr.
Poppy		48,37 gr.	1 kg. 529,08 gr.	
Tianeptine			31,5345 gr.	159,351 gr.
Lysergic acid			0,0014 gr.	
Ephedrone				0,50567 gr.
Desomorphine				0,002909 gr.

Under the general drugs situation in Georgia, the following information is noteworthy:

Production:

Illicit drug crop cultivated in Georgia is mostly Cannabis (herb); and it is cultivated both: indoors and outdoors. The main method used to detect the cultivation (including wild growth) of Cannabis (herb) is ground survey. The main method used to destroy Cannabis (herb) is burning.

Georgia only produces plant-based drugs. In this regard, e.g. Cannabis (herb) [end product – Marijuana] is fully produced for domestic consumption in Georgia. Georgia does not manufacture synthetic drugs.

Purity of Opiates:

From the group of opiates, basically the following drugs are used in Georgia: Heroin and Methadone. The purity of Heroin is determined to be between 4-70%; as for Methadone – between 64-82%.

More precisely, the purity of Heroin in 2010 was between 15-70%, in 2011 – between 10-40%; in the first 6 months of 2012 – between 4-28%.

Drug prices:

Drugs	In 2009	In 2010 and following years
Heroin	450-550 USD per gram	600-650 USD per gram
Opium	40-60550 USD per gram	40-60 USD per gram
Marijuana	2-3 USD per gram	3-4 USD per gram
Morphine	500-600 USD per gram	850-950 USD per gram
Methadone	800-900 USD per gram	900-1000 USD per gram
Subotex	350-375 USD per tablet	400-470 USD per tablet

Illicit drug market overview:

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, as the country's leading law enforcement agency, is actively involved in the suppression of illicit drug markets and in overall context, largely contributes to combating drug trafficking. Under the fight against drug-related crimes, Georgia is relatively viewed as a transit country and on this background, the Ministry counternarcotics structures effectively conduct operations aimed at reducing illegal drug supply; revealing, interdicting and preventing drug-related crimes.

Furthermore, borders of Georgia are properly protected and secured; check points are equipped with relevant x-ray scanners (including mobile scanners) for the purposes of examining baggage, cargo, containers, and thus, minimizing the risks of drug trafficking.

Due to the above-mentioned effective measures, the general tendency has been identified in this regard, amounting to the reduce in consumption of traditional drugs (instead, consumers (users) are taking drugs from the substances, which are freely sold in pharmacies).

It is noteworthy that this tendency was positively mentioned in the U.S. State Department INCSR, stating that: “‘Classic’ drugs such as heroin, cocaine, crack and barbiturates are in limited demand in Georgia due to their high price and effective interdiction by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Consequently, most of these drugs are rarely found on the black market.”¹; and in sum, highlighting: “the Government’s success in controlling traditional illegal drugs.”²

Furthermore, within the illicit drug market situation, it should be stressed that no organized groups involved in drug trafficking and operating in the territory of Georgia, have been detected so far.

Statistics on crimes and persons registered in connection to drug-related crimes under the Georgian legislation, for the period of 2009-2011 and the first 6 months of 2012:

- **Total number of offences registered (including both: criminal and administrative offences):**

Year	Number of Offences Registered
2009	15717
2010	15320
2011	11574
2012 (only first 6 months)	4306
TOTAL	46917

¹ U.S. Department of States, 2012 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), March 7, section B.2, 2012, available at:
<http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2012/vol1/184099.htm#Georgia>.

² Ibid.

➤ **Total number of crimes registered under Articles 260-274 of the Criminal Code of Georgia:**

Articles of Criminal Code of Georgia	2009	2010	2011	2012 (only first 6 months)
Art. 260 ¹	2335	2158	1521	645
Art. 261 ²	2	3	23	30
Art. 262 ³	100	116	81	51
Art. 263 ⁴	-	3	2	19
Art. 264 ⁵	3	8	2	2
Art. 265 ⁶	113	121	114	21
Art. 266 ⁷	-	-	-	-
Art. 267 ⁸	-	-	-	1
Art. 268 ⁹	-	-	-	-
Art. 269 ¹⁰	2	1	1	-
Art. 270 ¹¹	-	-	-	1
Art. 271 ¹²	1	5	2	2
Art. 272 ¹³	-	-	-	-
Art. 273 ¹⁴	3780	3050	2030	619
Art. 274 ¹⁵	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6336	5465	3776	1391

¹ Article 260. Illegal preparation, production, purchase, keep, transport, transfer or sale of narcotic drug, its analogy or precursor.

² Article 261. Illegal preparation, production, purchase, keep, transport, transfer or sale of psychotropic substance, its analogy or powerful substance.

³ Article 262. Illegal import of narcotic drug, its analogy or precursor into Georgia, illegal export from Georgia or international transport by transit.

⁴ Article 263. Illegal import of big amount of psychotropic substance, its analogy or powerful substance into Georgia, illegal export from Georgia or international transport by transit.

⁵ Article 264. Misappropriation or extortion of narcotic drug, its analogy or precursor, psychotropic substance, its analogy or powerful substance.

⁶ Article 265. Illegal sowing, growing or cultivating of plant containing narcotic drugs.

⁷ Article 266. Setting up or maintenance of secret laboratory for illegal production of narcotic drug, its analogy or precursor, psychotropic substance or its analogy.

⁸ Article 267. In order to purchase narcotic drugs preparation of false receipt or other documents with the purpose of selling or sale thereof.

⁹ Article 268. In order to purchase psychotropic or powerful substance preparation of false receipt or other documents with the purpose of selling or sale thereof.

¹⁰ Article 269. Violation of the rules on preparation, production, receive, registration, issue, keep, transport, transit or import of narcotic drug or precursor.

¹¹ Article 270. Violation of the rules on preparation, production, receive, registration, issue, keep, transport, transit or import of psychotropic or powerful substance.

¹² Article 271. Allocation of flat or other place for illegal use of narcotic drug, its analogy, psychotropic substance, its analogy.

¹³ Article 272. Persuasion into use of narcotic drug, its analogy, psychotropic substance, its analogy.

¹⁴ Article 273. Illegal preparation, purchase, keep of small amount of narcotic drug, its analogy or precursor for personal use or illegal use thereof without the doctor's prescription.

¹⁵ Article 274. Avoiding coercive treatment.

➤ **Total number of persons subjected to administrative penalty under Article 45 of the Code of Georgia on Administrative Offences:**

Articles of Code of Georgia on Administrative Offences	2009	2010	2011	2012 (only first 6 months)
Art. 45 ¹	9381	9855	7798	2915

It is noteworthy that the provided data equals to that on administrative offences registered under the Code of Georgia on Administrative Offences.

Number of drug tests conducted in Georgia, and number of positive results - for the period of 2009-2011 and the first 6 months of 2012:

Year	TOTAL RESULTS	Out of Total Results	
2009	33292	Positive	11814
2010	33592	Positive	11348
2011	27178	Positive	8138
2012 (only first 6 months)	11133	Positive	3349

✓ U.S. State Department
INCSR evaluating the

year of 2011:

“The government continues random drug testing programs for high level government officials and made the testing available to the private sector as well.”²

Breakdown by gender of the number of drug tests conducted in Georgia:

Year	Out of Total Results	
	Male	Female
2010	33136	456
2011	26932	246
2012 (only first 6 months)	11021	112

¹ Article 45. Illegal purchase or keep without the purpose of selling of small amount of narcotic drugs, or use of narcotic drugs without the doctor’s prescription.

² U.S. Department of States, 2012 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), March 7, section A, 2012, available at:
<http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2012/vol1/184099.htm#Georgia>.

International Cooperation

1. Regional Cooperation

At the regional level, Georgia participates in the multilateral instruments in the fight against organized crime concluded within GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova - Organization for Democracy and Economic Development) and BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation) and enjoys an observer state status within SELEC (Southeast European Law Enforcement Center).

a) GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova - Organization for Democracy and Economic Development)

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia actively cooperates with its counterparts within the frames of the “Agreement on cooperation among the Governments of GUUAM Participating States in the field of combat against terrorism, organized crime and other dangerous types of crimes”, signed on July 20, 2002, through GUAM Law-Enforcement Center, which is a structural sub-unit of International Relations Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Under the abovementioned agreement, GUAM Working Group for Combating Against Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crimes was established. Since 2009 GUAM Sub-Group for Combating Corruption and Money Laundering is functioning within the mentioned working group. The coordinator country of this sub-group is Georgia. The sub-group is composed of the officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutor’s Office and Financial Monitoring Service and of the representatives of the respective agencies of other GUAM member states. The sub-group meets twice a year.

In the field of regional cooperation it is necessary to mention joint operations “Narcostop 2010” and “Narcostop 2011”, which took place in 2010 and 2011 within the frames of the **GUAM**.

Moreover, under the “Agreement on the establishment of GUAM virtual center”, signed in Yalta, 2003, national virtual law-enforcement centers were established in GUAM member states. These centers are equipped with appropriate technical means, which enable the rapid exchange of information through protected channels and direct communications during joint operations and ensure holding of video conferences in online regime.

b) Cooperation within BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation)

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia closely cooperates with the respective law-enforcement agencies of the BSEC Member States within the frames of the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Participating States on cooperation in combating crime, in particular in its organized forms, signed on October 2, 1998 and its Additional Protocols. The requests on cooperation introduced to the Ministry from the law-enforcement agencies of other BSEC Member States are dealt with, responded and implemented in accordance with the abovementioned agreement and its protocols and in compliance with the Georgian legislation.

There is also functioning a network of liaison officers established by the Additional Protocol signed on March 15, 2002, which facilitates the communication of requests on cooperation and relevant information between the law-enforcement agencies of the BSEC Member States. Therefore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia actively uses the mentioned communication means to receive and send requests on cooperation and the relevant information in order to facilitate their implementation in a reasonable time.

c) Cooperation with SELEC (Southeast European Law Enforcement Center)

Currently Georgia holds an observer state status within SELEC, which gives it a possibility to attend various meetings, seminars and trainings organized by SELEC.

2. Bilateral Cooperation

a) Bilateral Agreements on Cooperation

So far Georgia has concluded international agreements with Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and Uzbekistan on cooperation in the field of combating crime and police cooperation and agreements with Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine in the exchange and mutual protection of classified information.

The international agreements of Georgia provide special provision, which determines the respective competent authorities responsible for cooperation and obliges the parties to exchange the contact points of these competent authorities in order to establish direct contacts with each other for ensuring rapid and effective assistance provided by the given international agreement. Besides, some of the agreements give a possibility to the competent authorities of the parties to make requests verbally, in case of urgency, and also to cooperate spontaneously without request.

On 20 October 2011 the Ministry of Internal Affairs signed bilateral agreements with the law enforcement agencies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Rep. of Moldova and Ukraine in the sphere of operative-searching cooperation.

On February 22, 2012 the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on cooperation in combating crime was signed.

Moreover, the Ministry drafted cooperation agreements and proposed them to the European countries. Most of these draft agreements are currently in the process of negotiations and will be signed in nearest future.

Please, see below the diagram on the number of international agreements concluded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in the years of 2006-2011:

International Agreements Concluded by the MoIA in the years of 2006-2011

2006 – 2 Agreements

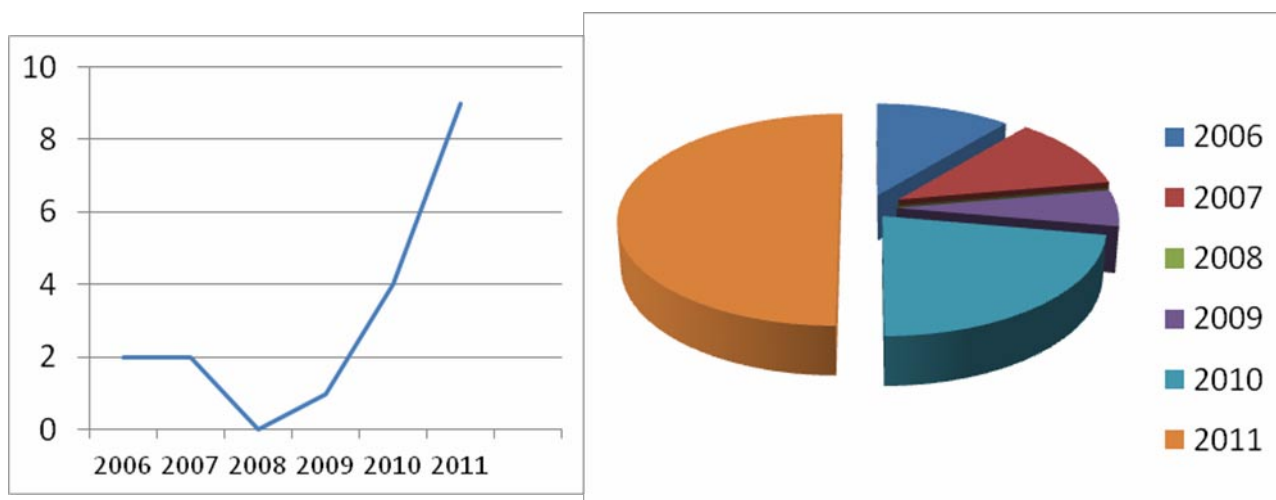
2007 – 2 Agreements

2008 – 0 Agreement

2009 – 1 Agreement

2010 – 4 Agreements

2011 – 9 Agreements (Armenia, Austria, 2 Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Jordan, Malta, Moldova, Ukraine)



For the updated overall list of Agreements see: http://police.ge/uploads/Agreements_Eng.pdf

b) Cooperation with Neighboring Countries

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia effectively cooperates with neighboring countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey. Joint working groups meet systematically in order to establish joint action plans and exchange criminal intelligence information and contact points.

- Cooperation with Turkey within the frames of Joint Commission Meetings in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in the Field of Security

During the Meetings the Parties discuss joint issues on the fight against illicit drug traffic, terrorism, and human trafficking and signed the Minutes of Meeting, where future cooperation plans and contact information of the Parties were envisaged.

c) Police Attaché Cooperation

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia actively cooperates with police attachés of the EU member States represented in Georgia (France, Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Netherlands). The forms of cooperation are: exchange of relevant information, best practices, statistics, joint measures, adoption and implementation of annual assistance/cooperation plans, trainings, study visits and etc. Since February, 2010 Georgian police Liaison Police Officer has been appointed to Austria, covering all EU member States for enhancing cooperation and exchange of information.

3. Cooperation with International and European Institutions

a) Cooperation within Interpol

The National Central Bureau of INTERPOL Tbilisi conducts its activities in accordance with the Constitution of Interpol and the Regulation on Activities and Cooperation of National Central Bureau of Interpol of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia adopted by the president's order No: 99 dated 12.02.2007.

According to the mentioned regulation the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL is the cooperation centre which links national law enforcement agencies and state authorities to the worldwide INTERPOL community.

The National Central Bureau of INTERPOL Tbilisi exchanges data via different means of communication, though the most secure, effective and fastest means of exchange of information is the Interpol's special secure network I-24/7 used by all member states of INTERPOL. The National Central Bureau of Interpol of each member state works 24 hours a day and in case of receipt of an urgent message the duty officer taking into account the importance of the case has an opportunity to conduct effective and coordinated activities with the law enforcement agencies.

b) Cooperation with Europol

In 2010 the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has approached the EU to nominate Georgia as a candidate country for the conclusion of Strategic Partnership Agreement with Europol which would be a step forward in combating the trans-national organized crime and can increase the measures taken very effectively. The signature of the Agreement is envisaged in the nearest future.

c) Cooperation with CEPOL (European Police College Association)

The cooperation agreement between the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and CEPOL was signed on 12 December 2011. This cooperation is especially important in terms of sharing experience and best practices, as well as capacity building of police officers through trainings, seminars and workshops.

4. Provision of best practices, knowledge and experience to partner countries and organizations

The role of the Ministry as provider of best practices, knowledge and experience to partner countries and organizations is also very important in terms of international cooperation. Taking into consideration the successfully implemented police reform and achieved results in the fight against organized crime, which inspired other countries to recognize the necessity to modernize their own systems, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia provides partner countries with knowledge and experience in the best implementation of police reform. These activities has been conducted by study visits, expert missions, seminars, workshops and working groups organized bilaterally with those countries or with the support of donors and international organizations.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has already provided information on the police reform and the best practices to the number of countries, among them: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Honduras, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Rep. of Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Uzbekistan. This process is ongoing and remains the top priority for the coming years.

4. REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

4.1. General country situation

From assessments conducted over several years in terms of illicit drug use and trafficking, it appears that the Republic of Moldova, internationally, is not an important transit point that would attract the interest of large global and EU drug traffickers, taking into account that the country lacks a well-developed infrastructure (international seaports and airports, or international traffic routes).

Also, the Republic of Moldova is not an attractive target, given the small number of drug users, as demonstrated by cases of smuggling detected by law enforcement, this year according to the statistics, being recorded 6 cases, out of which only in 2 cases were detected drugs in larger quantities, namely at Albita-Leuseni border checkpoint, when entering the country, 60 kg hashish were found hidden in a car, and in another case, at the Otaci - Moghiliov Podolsc customs point of leaving the country 4 kg marijuana and 3 kg hashish were found.

There were not essential drug seizures in the previous years.

Also, according to operative data, there is a trend to use Republic of Moldova as a transit country for drug trafficking from / to the European Union and the Russian Federation. In these businesses former Moldavian citizens with current EU citizenship are involved, especially in hashish trafficking from the EU countries (Spain, Portugal, Italy) through trucks carrying packages, transiting Republic of Moldova to the Russian Federation. And from the Russian Federation heroin from Afghan origin is trafficked to the EU.

At the same time, to combat internal drug trafficking, in the illicit circulation there are various illegal drugs of plant origin, given that Republic of Moldova is an agricultural country with a favorable climate for hemp and poppy plant growth, which does not require any major financial investment. Therefore many persons are involved in the growth and subsequent illegal trading of marijuana and acetylated opium final products.

According to Moldovan law, growth of these plants is placed under state control and allowed only for scientific purposes and / or for seed production, where there is ownership of authorization for such activity, issued by the Standing Committee on Drug Control within the Ministry of Health, which is a specialized agency in the field.

In order to combat this scourge, annually during the warm months of the year, ie from June to September, the specialized operation MAC is carried out, where all MIA divisions are involved, together with other state bodies, as well as non-profit organizations for the purpose of detection and destruction of such plantations.

4.2. Anti-drug Strategy

In order to combat illicit drug trafficking and consumption, all ministries and central subdivisions of the state, are governed by National Drug Strategy for the years 2011-2018 and by the National Action Plan for 2011-2013, which includes the broad spectrum of activities aimed at preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking, reorganizing the necessity of specialized subdivisions in combating this scourge, national and international cooperation, adherence to various international institutions that are directly involved in monitoring international drug trafficking, etc. .

The monitoring activity of implementation of the measures included in the National Anti-drug Plan for 2011-2013, is performed by the National Anti-Drug Commission, which is headed by the Deputy Prime Minister.

At a certain moment in time, within the audit of the anti-drug service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs drugs a number of shortcomings in the implementation of the Action Plan were identified, such as the need to improve the legal framework, reorganization of the anti-drug subdivisions, their technical endowment with special equipment, etc..

In all chapters mentioned, currently measures are being taken to execute the planned objectives.

4.3. National and international programmes

Specialized national programs to assist drug users are designed and operate, together with those developed by non-profit organizations.

On 17.07.2012, a MoU was signed between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction;

The Moldovan Parliament approved Law no. 75 of 12.04.2012 "on Republic of Moldova's accession to the Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Pompidou Group) of the Council of Europe.

4.4. Place and date of Mini-Dublin group meetings

The last meeting was recorded on 23.08.201 and was attended by representatives of Anti-drug Division and 2 representatives from Romania, and the discussion was focused on updating data on the drug situation, trends, progress, collaboration framework.

4.5. External support

Over the last two years trainings have been conducted with direct support of the European Union mission to provide assistance at the border between Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), TAIEX programme, etc.

4.6. Threats

There is a new trend on the black market of new types of drugs that are not prohibited by the laws of many states. In this context, the law enforcement officials have documented a criminal network that imported drugs in Republic of Moldova under the guise of fertilizer for flowers that were subsequently transformed into drugs.

There is a risk of spread on the black market of a new destructive drug to the human body - dezamorphine, which already represents a problem in the Russian Federation.

There is also the trend of increasing quantities of synthetic drugs, which will lead to an increase in drug users and mortality.

4.7. Initiatives

Currently there is an active work to reform the legal framework to meet the European Union requests, as a main purpose of Republic of Moldova's accession to the European Union.

Various prevention activities to educate the young generation not to tolerate drug use are carried out.

Extensive coverage in the media sources about the damage drug use is realized.

There is also the objective of accession to international organizations that specialize in monitoring the drug situation worldwide.

Exchange of experience with other states, statistical data, information on Moldovan citizens arrested for drug trafficking in other countries, is also carried out.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the level of the reporting country is necessary to appoint a single structure to collect, analyze and submit the data required for the report, using the format Country reports and terminology disseminated in the mini-Dublin groups.

Data reported so far do not allow an assessment of progress, because they don't refer to any recommendation made in the previous report. Moreover, data on drug use estimates are different, and there is no unified position on this matter,

However, it is noted the failure in sending national contributions, respecting the deadlines, to the Romanian authorities in charge, using the official channels established. In this regard, a strict compliance with the procedures established in the DG is recommended, both on the structure of the national report (complying with Annex 3) and the deadline set by the Secretariat, taking into account the time required for each integrator state in achieving the final report (by optimum coordination of national contributions).
