

# *Future of Drug Policy:*

*What is ECAD doing to influence drug  
policy ahead?*



# WELCOME

*We are Europe's leading  
Europe. Representing  
to develop initiatives  
the United Nations Con  
promote policies to coun*



## Membership

ECAD is first and foremost a network of European cities and municipalities. It currently counts as its members over 250 cities in over 20 countries throughout Europe, Turkey and Russia. ECAD members are leaders and practitioners in the field of drug policy.



## Mayors Conference

ECAD's main annual event, the Mayors Conference, gathers councillors, politicians, and other government officials and brings them together with academics, think tanks, and organizations to discuss current trends in drug prevention policy. The conference theme and location vary each



## Leadership & Activities

ECAD's network is highly active, with a continual calendar of p conferences, lectures, study visits, and other events and partn For updates on our latest news, as well as links to interesting an edge research, check out our blog. You can also hire ECAD for

# Working Internationally

## ECAD Partner Organizations



### Youth in Europe: A Drug Prevention Programme

International comparative research study about drug prevention methods, risk and protection factors in ECAD member-cities across several European countries. Considered by many to be the biggest health promotion project targeting youth substance abuse across Europe.



### Drug Policy Futures

A global platform for a new drug policy debate based on health. We reject the simple dichotomy between "a war on drugs" on the one hand and "legalization" on the other.



### World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD)

A multilateral community of non-governmental organisations and individuals working for a drug-free world.



### San Patrignano

A free community that welcomes those suffering from drug addiction and marginalization and helps them to once again find their way through rehabilitation. Committed to building a better society with numerous projects designed to prevent drug abuse.



### EURAD (Europe Against Drugs)

EURAD is a European non profit drug policy Foundation that advocates a prevention and recovery oriented drug policy at national and international level.

# The Future of Drug Policy

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Real Solutions Driven by Evidence



# #1 What is the drug problem?

Drug use is a risk factor for a wide range of negative outcomes including mental and other illness, school dropout and academic failure, road accidents, unemployment, low life satisfaction and relationship problems.

## #2 When to intervene?

The first task of a public health-oriented drug policy is to prevent drug-related problems from occurring

### #3 Drugs hurt high risk groups more

Drug use is particularly harmful to youth. Drug use usually begins in adolescence, making youth the major target for prevention. Drug related harm affects all regions of the world.

## #4 About who should we be concerned ?

Drug use does not only affect the drug user.

Often, family and friends are the first to experience the problems caused by drug use. In addition drug use has serious consequences for society as a whole



## #5 What must we do?

Drug addiction is not only a health problem nor only a crime problem

There is a need for a comprehensive approach to drug-related harm, with a strong focus on prevention and early intervention, as well as control measures, health services, treatment and rehabilitation for users.

# #6 Lessons learned from tobacco and alcohol

The vast majority of the world population do not use drugs.

Legal drugs are hardly a model to copy

# #7 How do we treat addiction?

Recovery is the best way for individuals who have developed drug-related problems to minimize their risk of further consequences

# #8 Law Enforcement as Engine for Recovery

Law enforcement plays an integral role in drug use prevention by protecting public safety, reducing the availability of drugs and discouraging drug use in the population.

Alternative sanctions should empower people to become drug-free, crime-free and integrated members of society.

# #9 What about organized crime?

Tackling the world drug problem requires strong international collaboration.

Address the problems arising from the criminal drug markets through institutions building and demand and supply reduction.

Challenge legalization as a viable way out of the drugs/security dilemma

# #10 Keep the conventions but implement them better

To promote public health and public safety it is essential that governments adhere to the three main drug control treaties of 1961, 1971, and 1988, as well as the Convention of the Rights of the Child.