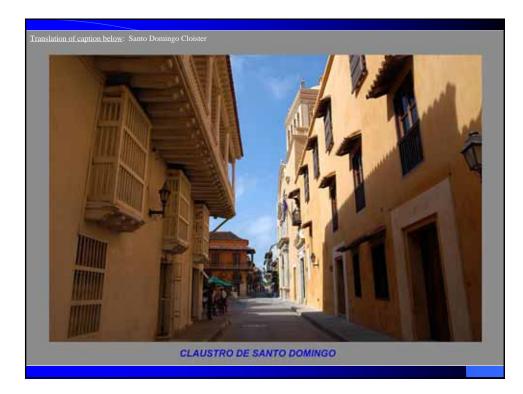


MEETINGS OF THE OBSERVATORIES

EVERY TWO YEARS, IN THE SUBREGIONS BELOW:

• 2004, 2006 - North, Central, and South America (including Dominican Republic)

•2005, 2007 (September?) - the Caribbean



MEETING HELD IN TRAINING CENTER OF THE SPANISH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY SPONSORED BY:

•NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN OF SPAIN

•NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE (NIDA) (UNITED STATES)

• INTER-AMERICAN OBSERVATORY ON DRUGS (OID) OF CICAD/OAS



PARTICIPANTS:

57 PROFESSIONALS FROM:

•<u>Drug observatories of</u>: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela

- •Latin American universities
- •<u>NIDA (USA)</u>
- •<u>National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN)</u>
- National Plan of Spain
- •<u>Health Canada</u>





MAIN ACTIVITIES

• A review of the status of drug use in the region

• Examination of the relationship of national drug observatories (NDOs) with demand reduction programs and the MEM

• Gaining awareness of the experiences of some countries of:

- Prevention program evaluation (Chile)
- Epidemiological Surveillance System (Mexico)

MAIN ACTIVITIES

• Gaining awareness of NIDA research programs and their potential use by countries of the region

• Gaining awareness of the programs of the NHSN and its future ties with universities in countries of the region

• Gaining awareness of experiences of the impact of research on policy formulation [NIDA (USA)]

• Gaining awareness of drug problems in Europe, particularly Spain

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Gaining awareness of the status of the UNODC/CICAD subregional drug information and research project in countries of South America

• The role of national observatories in the supply control area: evaluation of the effectiveness of drug supply reduction actions: the cases of Chile, Mexico, and Colombia

• Gaining of programs in order to address problems of inhalant use in Brazil

• Other ...

MAIN FINDINGS

- **ALCOHOL:** The most widely used drug. A serious and growing problem among youth.
- This should be viewed as a problem of greater relevance:
 - Responsible for high youth mortality rates
 - Evident association with illicit drug use
 - Significant "causal" relationship between the use of alcohol and of illicit drugs
 - Accounts for a significant proportion of treatment center care
 - High social and economic cost

MAIN FINDINGS

- Drug use realities vary widely from country to country:
 - High prevalence of use in some countries
 - Certain drugs predominate
 - High prevalence of multi-drug use in some countries
- In countries with low prevalence of illicit drug use, there may be high prevalence of licit drug use (non-prescribed tranquilizers and stimulants).

MAIN FINDINGS

- <u>Insufficient</u> information and research to provide a complete overview of the dynamics of the problem
- NDO: incorporate <u>information and research</u> elements for more in-depth analysis and more precise interpretation
- NDO: strategic alliances with research institutions and universities

MAIN FINDINGS

- National observatories must become reference points for drug information and research for our societies.
- Territorial drug observatories (intermediate or municipal level) must be capable of focusing their examination more precisely on the drug reality and on problems within their territorial sphere.

RESEARCHERS' NETWORK

(REDLA) • At the meeting, the Drug Researchers' Network was established.

- Nine researchers, NIDA, the Hispanic Network, and the OID participated
- Description of REDLA

A group of academic researchers who share an interest in conducting research on drugs that refers to the Latin American context.



RESEARCHERS' NETWORK

• <u>REDLA's mission</u>

To reduce, through scientific research, the societal burden drugs impose

• <u>General objective</u>

To conduct research on drugs through contact among academic researchers in order to address national and regional needs in Latin America and generate corresponding scientifically-based practices and policies



- 1. To evaluate epidemiological research on drugs
- 2. To conduct secondary analyses of available epidemiological databases
- 3. To develop an epidemiological early warning system

RESEARCHERS' NETWORK: Specific Objectives

- 4. To develop a proposal for collaboration between REDLA and U.S. researchers
- 5. To strengthen researcher training
- 6. To develop REDLA/NHSN research projects

