

Correlation Conference

Ljubljana, 12 – 14 December 2011



## Drug Policy Reform in Greece

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According to

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**WAR  
ON DRUGS  
REPORT OF THE  
GLOBAL COMMISSION  
ON DRUG POLICY  
JUNE 2011**

# GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY

## Recommendations



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- **End the criminalization, marginalization and stigmatization of people who use drugs but who do no harm to others.**
- **Encourage experimentation by governments with models of legal regulation of drugs to undermine the power of organized crime and safeguard the health and security of their citizens.**

# GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY

## Recommendations



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- **Offer health and treatment services to those in need. Ensure that a variety of treatment modalities are available, including not just methadone and buprenorphine treatment but also the heroin-assisted treatment programs that have proven successful in many European countries and Canada. Implement syringe access and other harm reduction measures that have proven effective in reducing transmission of HIV and other blood-borne infections as well as fatal overdoses.**



# GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY

## Recommendations

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- **Apply much the same principles and policies stated above to people involved in the lower ends of illegal drug markets, such as farmers, couriers and petty sellers. Many are themselves victims of violence and intimidation or are drug dependent.**
- **Invest in activities that can both prevent young people from taking drugs in the first place and also prevent those who do use drugs from developing more serious problems.**

# GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY

## Recommendations



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- **Focus repressive actions on violent criminal organizations, but do so in ways that undermine their power and reach while prioritizing the reduction of violence and intimidation.**
- **Begin the transformation of the global drug prohibition regime. Replace drug policies and strategies driven by ideology and political convenience with fiscally responsible policies and strategies grounded in science, health, security and human rights – and adopt appropriate criteria for their evaluation.**



## The Greek approach

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**A bill for the codification of drug legislation has been brought to the Greek Parliament in October 2011, including also major amendments of the current legislation.**



## The Greek approach

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According to the proposed amendments:

- **Possession of drugs for personal use does not constitute an offense.**

Currently it is considered a misdemeanor

- **Cultivation of cannabis for personal use is considered a fault (detention for max. 3 months)**

Currently it is considered a misdemeanor (imprisonment from 10 days up to 1 year)

## The Greek approach



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- **Public drug use constitutes a fault (detention up to 6 months)**

Currently, together with personal use and possession for personal use, it is considered a misdemeanor.

- **Drug trafficking is standardized and entails higher fines. Time of imprisonment remains more or less the same**



## The Greek approach

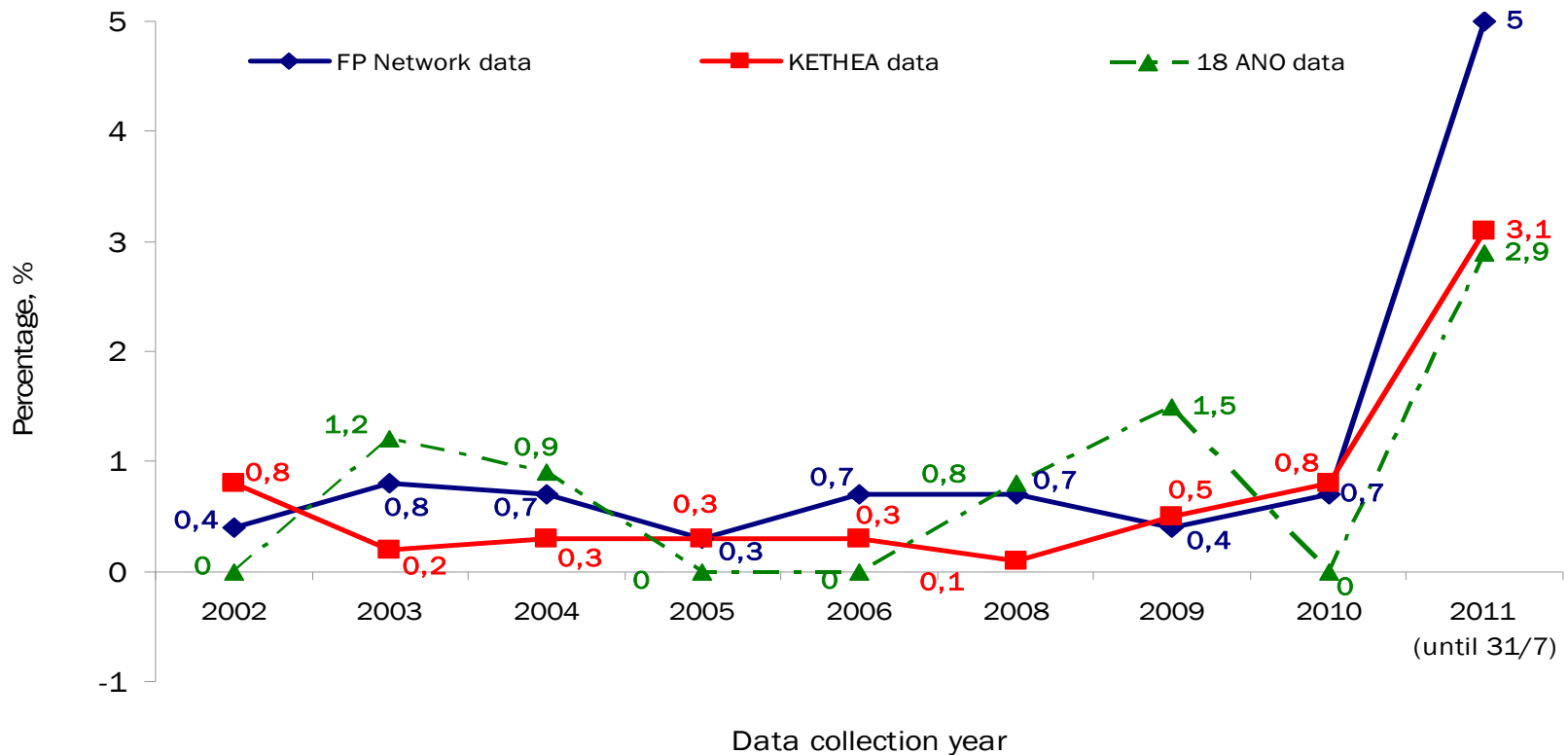
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- **Drug dependent prisoners who demand treatment are in any case brought into specialized in-prison treatment centers or units.**

**Currently the court may or may not order the admission of the sentenced offender to in-prison treatment.**

# Current situation in Greece :

Trends in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among those IDUs examined 2002-2010. Data presented separately for the three different data sources.



## Current situation in Greece :

### Treatment Availability

2009	No of treatment units	No of clients	No of applicants waiting for admission
Total	64	6,143	5,558
Drug free programmes	42	1,343	0
Substitution programme	25	4,771	5,558

Source: Greek Reitox Focal Point 2010

Dec-2011	No of substitution units	No of clients
Athens-Piraeus	22	2,431
Thessalonica	11	1,850
Other cities	13	2,281
Total	46	6,562

Source: Greek Organisation Against Drugs

# Current situation in Greece :

## Treatment Availability

Expansion and restructuring of the substitution treatment programme (2011)

### Increase in the treatment slots:

Sep - Dec 2011: 19 new substitution units, in collaboration with hospitals, in Athens, Piraeus and Thessalonica

No of substitution units	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	End of 2011
Athens-Piraeus	7	7	18	22
Thessalonica	5	11	11	11
Other cities	13	13	13	13
Total	25	31	42	46

Source: Greek Organisation Against Drugs

# Current situation in Greece :

## Treatment Availability

Expansion and restructuring of the substitution treatment programme (2011)

### Reduction of the waiting list:

- Sep - Oct 2011: elimination of the waiting list in Thessalonica
- By the end of 2011: 30% reduction of the waiting list in Athens Piraeus

Mean waiting period for entering treatment (in months)	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	End of 2011
Athens-Piraeus	89	84	84	57
Thessalonica	48	5	1	3 weeks

# Current situation in Greece :

## Treatment Availability

Expansion and restructuring of the substitution treatment programme (2011)

### Increase in the number of clients:

Dec 2010 - Dec 2011: 16% increase in Athens, 50% in Thessalonica, 29% in other cities, 29% in total

Number of clients in substitution units per year

