Drug Policy Reform in Greece

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According to

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

Recommendations

- 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.
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

- 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

- 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

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

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

- 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
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:


Source: Greek Reitox Focal Point 2010
## Current situation in Greece:

### Treatment Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of treatment units</th>
<th>No of clients</th>
<th>No of applicants waiting for admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>6,143</td>
<td>5,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug free programmes</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1,343</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitution programme</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4,771</td>
<td>5,558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dec-2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>No of substitution units</th>
<th>No of clients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens-Piraeus</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thessalonica</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>6,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Greek Reitox Focal Point 2010*

*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of substitution units</th>
<th>Aug-11</th>
<th>Sep-11</th>
<th>Oct-11</th>
<th>End of 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens-Piraeus</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thessalonica</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean waiting period for entering treatment (in months)</th>
<th>Aug-11</th>
<th>Sep-11</th>
<th>Oct-11</th>
<th>End of 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athens-Piraeus</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thessalonica</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Greek Organisation Against Drugs
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

Source: Greek Organisation Against Drugs