



Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe





Foundation for a
Drug-Free Europe



24 March 2004

The Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe
officially forms in Brussels



Mission Statement

The Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe was formed in March 2004 with the firm purpose of preventing and stopping debilitating drug use through educating non-users concerning the harmful effects that drugs can inflict upon the body, mind and personality, and by finding and directing existing users to programmes that can help them achieve comfortable abstinence for life.

To achieve the goal of a drug-free Europe, the Foundation collaborates with local, national and international institutions as well as effective rehabilitation programmes which also use drug-free methods and carry out positive prevention education campaigns. We know from experience that joining forces with likeminded groups and developing positive, open cooperation and solidarity with others makes the difference.

The Foundation aims:

- to work within democratic, open and transparent procedures of communication, decision making and accountability in order to find and execute solutions to the drug problem and help create drug-free European societies;
- to monitor the development and implementation of European legislation, as well national legislation, and to debate and discuss it in public lectures, in writing or through the mass media;
- to create and put into action drug prevention projects and campaigns that could be presented to and supported by governments and institutions;
- to elaborate cycles of conferences, roundtables or other public debates focused around the different aspects of drug abuse in Europe;
- to collaborate with likeminded groups and organizations, in the different projects or campaigns the Foundation will conduct;
- to pursue through other legal means the creation of a drug-free Europe and bring about a culture that widely refuses the use of drugs or the promotion thereof, and fully recognises the danger that drug abuse carries for the people and for society at large.

Experience has taught us that when people in general, and youth in particular, understand the negative effects of drugs, as explained by those who have done them, they decide to stay away from drugs which is, of course, the ultimate purpose of the Foundation.



Bringing the Truth about Drugs

With the increasing problem of drug consumption within the European Union and abroad, a coordinated network of primary prevention groups is bringing real facts on the harmful effects of drugs to youth and people at large.

Through more than a hundred groups operating in 22 countries, the Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe carries out grass-roots prevention activities using tools that reveal to one and all the hard reality of drugs.





Educational materials

The Foundation works with its mother organization, the Foundation for a Drug-Free World, which provides a series of effective drug prevention publications and audiovisual materials.

1. The Truth About Drugs booklets

These booklets were designed to empower youth with the facts they need to make an informed choice to never start doing drugs in the first place. The dangers and effects of the most commonly abused drugs are described throughout this series of 13 booklets.





2. The Truth About Drugs documentary

This documentary focuses on each of the 11 most commonly used drugs, presenting the straight facts on each drug from former users who themselves survived the nightmare of addiction.

It is more than 90 minutes in length and contains a chapter on every drug of choice: marijuana, alcohol, Ecstasy, cocaine, crack, crystal meth, inhalants, heroin, LSD, prescription drugs and painkillers.

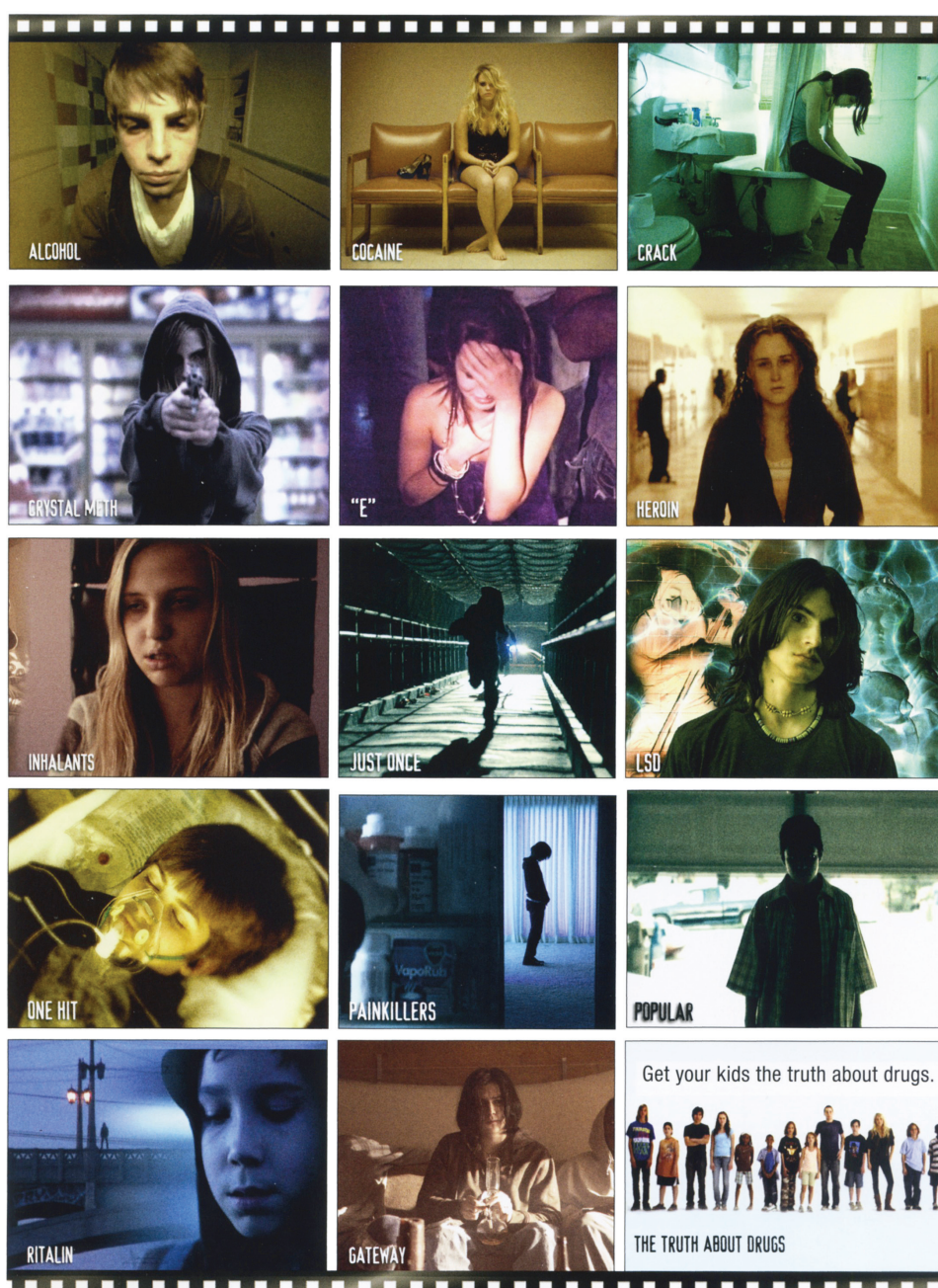




3. Public Service Announcements

Sixteen Public Service Announcements (PSAs) have been created to provide a youth-oriented message about the dangers of drugs. These videos are based on real-life situations and expose the most commonly held myths about drugs.

In addition to playing to the millions on the airwaves to raise awareness on a broad scale, the PSAs serve as powerful openers to drug education presentations in classrooms and community learning settings.





Grass-roots activities

Drugs are everywhere. There is a lot of talk about drugs in the world—on the streets, at school, on the Internet, on TV, in the press and also from the government. Some of it is true, some not.

Much of what people and youth hear about drugs come from those selling them or from people who know little about what drugs really are and do. Therefore, the Foundation makes factual information available through a series of free education booklets that cover the facts about marijuana, alcohol, crystal meth, Ecstasy, crack, cocaine, heroin, inhalants, LSD and prescription drugs (as seen on page 5) in 17 languages.

In 2011, Foundation volunteers distributed no less than 600,000 Truth About Drugs booklets in the following European countries: France, Holland, Belgium, Hungary, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, Czech Republic and Slovakia; to inform the youth about the dangers of drugs. The short- and long-term effects of the 11 most commonly abused drugs are exposed, including alcohol and prescription drugs.

Operating in the field of drug prevention since 2004, the Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe has distributed approximately 4.8 million of those booklets over the past 8 years and through its network of drug prevention groups.

To look at the larger picture, the Foundation for a Drug-Free World has distributed worldwide approximately 4,291,600 Truth about Drugs booklets across 61 nations and 198 cities, in the past year alone.

In other words, a Truth About Drugs booklet is distributed to somebody on Earth every 7.5 seconds, shattering the lies on drugs and helping the person decide to live a drug-free life.

Teachers, parents, community and youth workers have saved many lives using these publications. In fact, countless youth have told volunteers from the Foundations or their volunteer groups that they decided not to take drugs after reading one of these booklets.

The effect of this campaign is further increased by the use of the Truth About Drugs documentary and Public Service Announcements. Not only are they educational tools used in schools, classes or doing conferences to give an impactful image of what drugs are, but they are also broadcast on TV stations world over, with a viewership of 18,113,000 people in Europe.

Armed with this information, readers and viewers can make the decision to live a drug-free life.

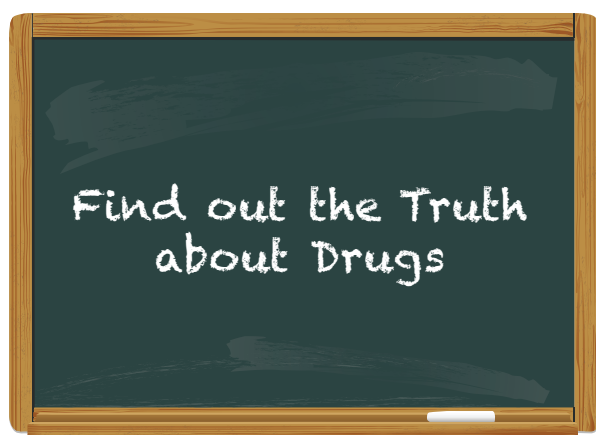


Facts and figures for 2011



A Truth about Drugs booklet
is distributed in the world

every 7.5 sec



183,044 students
were educated on drugs in
1,118 European schools



The Public Service Announcements
were broadcast to approximately

18,113,000 Europeans



France

The Say No to Drugs campaign started in 1991 to provide parents, educators and youth with knowledge about drugs.

Popularizing the concept of a drug-free life, Truth About Drugs booklet distribution is taking place all over the country. Under the aegis of the Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe, weekly actions are taking place across the Hexagon, in cities such as Marseille, Paris, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Avignon, Lyon, Clermont Ferrand, Angers, Vannes and Nice.

In 2011 alone, 150,000 booklets were distributed to the public, with more than 250 information booths held across France, and some 4,000 people pledging to live drug-free. Other means used to spread the information include lectures and presentations to officials, politicians, civil servants, presidents of likeminded associations and religious leaders.

November 2011

Celebration of Say No to Drugs France's
20th anniversary in Paris





As well, an impact on the population was created through the media with press releases aired on radios, newspapers and even national TV station.

A 2010 report by the French Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction revealed a decreasing trend in the use of cannabis among French youth, after two decades of increase. The President of the Inter-Ministerial Mission Against Drugs and Drug Addiction (MILDT) attributed this result to the preventive work carried out by associations on the ground.





Belgium

The Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe's operational office is located in Brussels, together with Say No to Drugs Belgium, a grassroots drug prevention association.

On 31 October 2007, the Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe was selected by the European Commission to be a member of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs in the European Union, which started its work in December 2007.

Since the FDFE's creation in 2004, numerous conferences have been held in the European capital. In 2008, UNODC's liaison to the European institutions presented the agency's World Drug Report in Brussels on June 26 at a workshop on drug prevention organised by the Foundation for international diplomats and anti-drug professionals.

Furthermore, the Foundation has been organising an annual anti-drug marathon or bike tour between the Netherlands—home to the infamous “coffee shops”—and Belgium, bringing the message of a healthy and drug-free lifestyle to city officials, police officers, media and the public at large.

26 June 2008

UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
European workshop on drug prevention





Directly confronting the drug problem on the ground, the association Say No to Drugs Belgium association organises regular distribution of Truth About Drugs booklets, as well as drug prevention seminars and conferences. Over the past two years, more than 60,000 of these information booklets were distributed in Belgium.

The drug-free message hit the streets of the capital for the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, with a billboard truck carrying the "Say No to Drugs" message all over the city, accompanied by similarly designed Segways.



26 June 2010

UN International Day against Drug Abuse
and Illicit Trafficking in Brussels





The Netherlands

Recent public opinion surveys revealed that 22.6 percent of the respondents have taken cannabis during their lifetime, while other surveys show an increasing trend of cannabis abuse among 15 to 16-year-olds.

This is one more reason for the Say No to Drugs team of Amsterdam to promote a drug-free lifestyle in their country.

Over the past few years, they have been organising drug-free marathons with the participation of former drug addicts participating and meeting officials, police officers, media and youth, sharing their first-hand experience with drugs.





Germany

Operating in Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich and other German cities, the seven drug prevention teams are actively spreading the truth about drugs. Major actions are organized every 26th June, such as an anti-drug march conducted in the city of Hamburg.

Educational seminars and lectures are held in school classes so that youth can make healthy choices.

Information booths are organised regularly in the major cities so as to reach the public at large, with other charitable organizations distributing those same materials to their members.





Switzerland

In 2011, it was reported in the news that Swiss customs has seized 151 liters of the illegal “date rape” drug GBL over a period of seven months, and that 7 percent of the population uses a narcotic substance on a routine basis.

This is the reason why six Say No to Drugs groups are currently operating in Switzerland with regular information booths and distribution of booklets in Geneva, Lausanne and other cities.

This is how 45,000 Truth About Drugs booklets were distributed in the year 2011, bringing factual information on the harmful effects of drugs to Swiss youth and citizens.





Italy

With a total of fourteen Say No to Drugs groups in operation, a nationwide drug prevention movement has been building momentum in Italy for a quarter of a century. Through information booths, cultural and sports events, a total of 180,000 Truth About Drugs booklets were put into public hands last year alone.

Such activities contributed to the historical drop in drug abuse that was announced by the Italian Government in March 2011. Between 2009 and 2010, the use of drugs in Italy dropped by 25%, marking, for the first time after many years, a decreasing trend.

Confirmation of this positive also came from the head of the Antidrug Policy Department (Dpa), Giovanni Serpelloni, who stated the decrease concerns more or less all the drugs – cocaine, cannabis, heroin, and methamphetamine.





Iberian Peninsula

In Spain and Portugal, drug prevention activities are carried out by groups in Madrid, Valencia, Barcelona and Lisbon.

Regular distribution events are held in the streets of these cities using the Foundation for a Drug-Free World's materials.

Recently, training of the police of Portugal commenced to train officers on the Truth About Drugs programme and how to use its materials.



Police in Portugal training on the Truth about Drugs program



United Kingdom

The Truth About Drugs campaign is also active in the British Isles with eight groups operating from London to Edinburgh. With 8.6 percent of adults (2.8 million) having used one or more illicit drugs during 2009/2010, drug prevention is a definite need in the United Kingdom.

Activities vary from information booths and Truth About Drugs booklet distribution events to street clean-ups, concerts and educational lectures given to school classes and like-minded organizations and training for police officers.

In the London suburb of Bromley, the Jive Aces swing band held an anti-drug concert to support the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, during which thousands of the Truth About Drugs booklets were distributed in the streets of London.





Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, the Drug-Free Czech Republic team has been broadly spreading the drug-free message, galvanizing sports clubs and youth across the country through drug-free bicycling and runs.

Since 2002, the “Run for a Drug-Free Czech Republic” has been held to bring the truth about drugs to youth across the country. After the success of the first year’s event, bicycles were added to the marathon to reach even farther locations and the “Cyclorun” was born. Covering approximately 1,300 kilometers over two weeks, it is an anti-drug roadshow that brings factual information throughout the republic. The event takes place every June to coincide with the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Since its inception, the annual Cyclorun has followed a very successful pattern. Along the route, the team holds events in town squares and sports stadiums to forward the drug-free message. City officials join crowds of town residents to sign pledges for a drug-free community and the team informs the local and regional officials of the drug prevention activities they carry out.



Runners and cyclers depart from Zlin, Czech Republic, at the start of the 9th Annual Cyclorun for a Drug-Free Czech Republic



Since the creation of the Cyclorun, the team has cycled and run over 11,400 kilometers, delivering their message of a drug-free future for the Czech Republic in 455 towns and cities.

To date, the team has held over 5,000 events, reaching more than 2.7 million people. In any given year, the Foundation's Public Service Announcements have been airing on TV and reaching over three million viewers.

At the conclusion of the Cyclorun 2011, the Chairman of the National Senate was presented with drug-free declarations signed by residents of 36 towns across the country.

In acknowledgement of their accomplishments, the Senate Chairman announced that the Czech National Senate is giving its official patronage to the Cyclorun for a Drug-Free Czech Republic as it celebrates its tenth anniversary in June 2012.



SENÁT
PARLAMENTU ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY
8. FUNKČNÍ OBDOBÍ

VÝBOR PRO VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ, VĚDU, KULTURU, LIDSKÁ PRÁVA A PETICE

96. USNESENÍ

z 11. schůze, konané dne 19. července 2011

k převzetí záštity
nad jubilejním 10. ročníkem cyklo-běhu za Českou republiku bez drog 2012

Výbor po úvodním slovu předsedy výboru senátora Jaromíra Jermáře, odůvodnění senátorem Karlem Kapounem a po rozpravě

I. usnesl se
převzít záštitu nad jubilejním 10. ročníkem cyklo-běhu za Českou republiku bez drog 2012;

II. pověřil
předsedu výboru senátora Jaromíra Jermáře předložit toto usnesení předsedovi Senátu Parlamentu ČR a občanskému sdružení Řekni NE drogám – řekni ANO životu.

PhDr. Jaromír Jermář v. r.
předseda výboru

PaedDr. Václav Homolka v. r.
ověřovatel výboru





Hungary

The movement Together for a Drug-Free Hungary annually holds the nation's biggest anti-drug event with their Marathon for a Drug-Free Hungary, crossing the 19 counties of the country over a 42-day and 2100 kilometer long run, bringing the message to the population that the drug problem can be solved.

For the tenth anniversary of the marathon in 2011, the core team of 20 participants was joined by 20,600 runners along the route. More than 95,000 youth and adults joined the program and embraced its purpose, while 27,500 children took the pledge to lead a drug-free life.

The organizing team of the tenth Marathon was joined in their efforts by more than a thousand teachers, hundreds of policemen and members of the civil guards, artists and sports figures.

This is how a whole movement works towards achieving the common goal of creating a drug-free Hungary.





Russia

With no less than twenty drug prevention groups operating in Russia and other countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States, the drug-free message is being widely spread over this vast land.

In 2011, more than half a million informational handouts and booklets were distributed to the Russian young generation so as to educate them on the harmful effects of drugs. Through regular information booths, a total of 18,000 youth and adults pledged to live a drug-free life and to urge their friends and families to do the same.



For more information:



www.fdfe.org



www.drugfreeworld.org

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**The Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe
is a member of the**

**Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs
World Forum Against Drugs**

The Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe

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