

Yes to life – no to drugs!

EUFED as one of 700 supporters of the *European Action on Drugs*

A day before the UN World Drugs Day of 26th June 2010, EUFED underlines that drug abuse is not a problem of certain groups of people but a complex issue concerning our entire society.

EUFED supports the *European Action on Drugs* as it is not just another prevention or information campaign. It is a call for action. It is about joining forces. Saying "no" to drugs, youth hostels across Europe can make a difference in preventing young people from crossing a line that is not always clear and which they often cross without fully realising it, a line that takes them into vicious circles.

EUFED aims to be one of the ambassadors promoting this message in a positive way, without moralising or stigmatising. Therefore, in 2009, EUFED signed a pledge to support the "European Action on Drugs", a first European platform for communication and exchange of best practices, as well as a dynamic network of different people and organisations.

EUFED wants to open up a wider debate providing ongoing information to our members. Every person involved in our youth hostel network - be they staff, volunteer, or visitor - is strongly encouraged to develop practical and creative initiatives and partnerships that improve the lives of young people. It is essential to get this message to young people.

EUFED calls to keep the issue of preventing drug abuse on the political agenda, not only at the European level, but also at the national and regional level.

Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship stated in her message to the 100 participants of the First Annual European Action on Drugs Event on 25th June 2010 in Brussels: "Drug abuse destroys young people's lives. They must be warned about the danger of taking drugs. Every hour, one European dies from an overdose. I can not accept such a senseless waste of life. I want to give people the means to act and to choose a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle."

The EAD Annual event brought together the network of signatories (representatives of civil society, artists, concerned families, former drug addicted persons who took action to raise awareness, personalities from the world of sports, entertainment, the media, the EU and other public - and private - sector bodies) of the EAD pledge to evaluate what has been achieved and to develop ideas for further action within this multi-annual campaign. New campaigners signed their pledge during this event and Italian rap singer Alessandro White performed a world premiere of a song that he wrote especially for this campaign.

Did you know that...

- There are now up to 2 million drug abusers in the European Union
- Every hour, one EU citizen dies of an overdose
- Every year there are 3,000 new cases of drug-related HIV
- Drugs are involved in four percent of death every year for people aged between 15 and 39

- About 13 million people use, or have used, cocaine
- There are about 1,5 million heroin users

Action speaks louder than words – you (or your organisation) can help to make this initiative a success:

How to get involved in the *European Action on Drugs*: <http://ec.europa.eu/ead/html>

Contact: Constanze Adolf

constanze.adolf@eufed.org

☎ +32 (0)2 502 88 60

Sources and contacts:

The European Action on drugs: <http://www.action-drugs.eu>

European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu>

Best practices: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice>

Belgium: GBG hilde.colpin@psy.kuleuven.be

Netherlands: CTC <http://www.ctcholland.nl>

Germany: <http://www.lpr.niedersachsen.de/nano.cms/de/Aktivitaeten?XAction=Dtails&XID=80&XXSearch+CTC>

Spain: http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index52035EN.html?project_id=ES_03&tab=overview

The EU Drugs Cooperation policy (2005-2012):

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/drugs/fsj_drugs_intro_en.htm

The EU Civil Society forum on drugs: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/drugs/forum/fsj_drugs_forum_en.htm