

Forum Summary, ANNEX II (V)  
Baltic Sea NGO Forum 2006, Stockholm, Sweden  
5-7 October 2006  
[www.bsngoforum.org](http://www.bsngoforum.org)

## **ANNEX II**

### **Summary of the Workshops on Civil Security, October 6**

Workshop: Drugs and Criminality _____	2
Research on organised crime _____	2
The fight against drugs – a complex matter _____	2
Presentation of KRIS in Saint Petersburg _____	3
Presentation of the KRIS-movie _____	4
Workshop: Trafficking _____	6

Please observe that this is an annex of the document "6th Baltic Sea NGO Forum Summary", which can be found at [www.bsngoforum.org](http://www.bsngoforum.org).

# Workshop: Drugs and Criminality

**Moderator: Sofia Modigh, IOGT-NTO, Sweden**

## **Research on organised crime**

Presentation by Anna Markina, Researcher and lecturer at the University of Tartu, Estonia (see Power Point presentation at [www.bsngoforum.org](http://www.bsngoforum.org))

Questions:

*Do you have any cooperation with NGOs when researching?*

On the projects presented, strong cooperation with international organisations (as IRM) and also when researching on women trafficking, good cooperation with NGOs (only to get in touch with people concerned by the issues studies)

*What measures should authorities take to stop cigarette smuggling?*

When speaking with authorities, it appears that there is no problem. It also seems that there is a limited control on the borders. An increased cooperation between the countries is essential. According to Finland the plan of not having border control for the new members of the EU when they will be in the Schengen zone is very dangerous. It is hard to imagine the absence of controls in the Baltic countries, it would be a disaster.

## **The fight against drugs – a complex matter**

Maria Fedurova, European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD)  
(see Power Point presentation at [www.bsngoforum.org](http://www.bsngoforum.org))

*Question: Do you have any concrete results, data, regarding ECAD's projects?*

ECAD is a good platform where there is no fear to find truth by means of the dispute. Elaboration of the new State drug policy Conception project offered by ECAD Centre at one of its seminars is a good example of that. The first Russian drug policy Conception was passed 13 years ago, in 1993, and has become morally out of date now. Since then, drug addiction has turned into a drug epidemic, and the measures undertaken by State for changing the drug situation seem insufficient. We state in our Project of the new State drug policy Conception that it is not the problem of medicine or police only, but the issue of policy and management also. Drug addiction is not a problem of an individual, so state anti drug policy must contain everything necessary to prevent drug abuse, and at the same time everything that facilitates a drug addict to get rid of his addiction.

As ECAD started its work only 5 years ago, it is currently hard to provide you with data. But one result of ECAD Centre and the authorities' dialogue was the implementation of our organisation's ideas in practice. Some of the Russian ECAD network member-cities initiated in the structure of their administrations a Department that coordinates anti drug work of the departments responsible for drug prevention. Besides, cities administrations address Russian ECAD Centre for expertise. Projects of their regional anti drug programmes. So ECAD experience is claimed as an effective resource in working out regional anti drug policy.

To reach the goal of creating a drug free society it is necessary to combine efforts of many concerned people, devotion to this noble activity and a firm political will. However, all that might be insufficient without well-organised work on the lowest, municipal level and without a competent and strong leader who is able to coordinate this work. That's why in 2003 Russian ECAD Centre initiated a new master's degree educational programme called "Drug

conflictology" on the basis of the Conflictology Department of the philosophical faculty of St.-Petersburg State University. We think that only a qualified specialist who obtains knowledge in every aspect of anti drug work and its management can perform as an example of effective anti drug management on practice. We try to convince regional authorities in the necessity of sending their specialists to get educated upon the master's degree programme "Drug Conflictology". A specialist aware of the drug situation in his region and having knowledge in anti drug management will certainly be a more effective worker being able to strengthen the weakest link of the chain. We know that a chain cannot be stronger than its weakest link; and only a person able to observe the whole chain can strengthen it and can speak the language clear to all. The main aim for such a specialist must be integration of territorial structures so that the number of drug addicts and drug related crimes go down in his municipality.

### **Presentation of KRIS in Saint Petersburg**

Alexander Zatravkin, Criminals Return to Society, Saint Petersburg

First of all in 1997, an organisation of former drug addicts was founded in 1997 but it was hard to make a niche for this organisation and to get support and understanding. For a couple of years ago, the representatives of KRIS visited Russia and had some lectures in Saint Petersburg. Mr. Zatravkin attended the meeting. This meeting went over all expectations. It was a real source of inspiration about what can be done in Russia. It was a kind of new beginning for the organisation created in 1997.

The organisation deals with ex-criminals, addiction, HIV as well as homeless kids. Also work with foster homes, in case of parents in prisons or children taken away from their parents.

Mr. Zatravkin explained the goals of KRIS (One helps himself by helping others. The organisation provided ex-criminals and addicts with a social network in order to change their life and to leave criminality and addiction behind them). He also explains the difficulties met when registering KRIS in Russia but that now everything is fine and the organisation is registered and functioning. Mr. Zatravkin Thanked KRIS-Sweden for the common efforts and the cooperation.

Mr. Zatravkin also informed that each year is organised a summer camp. It took place twice in Saint Petersburg and always gathered around 200 persons (incl. participants from Ukraine, Belarus...) Apart from sightseeing are also organised during their stay: visit of prisons (male and female) were lectures were given about the possibility to get about of criminality and addiction. The important thing is to communicate the KRIS-concept and to promote the possibility that people are offered to change their life. Once again it was hard at the beginning for people sitting in prison to see another way of life than the criminal one. But the advantage with KRIS is that people involved have been in the same situation and know exactly how it feels. This way it is easier to communicate and share experiences. Prisoners heard the success stories, which became a real source of inspiration for them. They understood that everything is possible.

Questions:

*What problems occurred at the beginning that you did not expect when starting?*

The biggest problem was the misunderstanding: to get back to prison and to persuade people that changing lifestyle is possible. This was a decisive moment.

*In Sweden, the criminality rate decreased by 40% and only 3% went back to prison when KRIS started its activities. How is the current situation in Russia?*

Before 2004 (and the start of the cooperation with KRIS), there was unfortunately no record of the members. Since 2004, we can say that from the first 100 persons that KRIS helped in Russia, 80 succeeded. KRIS concept attracts people, who want to change their life. They do not want to go back to prison or break the laws but the condition of no-addiction is still hard to implement in Russia.

There is a need for gathering more members within the organisation - KRIS Sweden will contribute to do so by the transfer of know-how.

There is also an open dialogue between KRIS representatives and the prisons' staffs. KRIS received request from the chief of one prison to organise activities as concerts. But KRIS pointed out that the activities should be informative, meaning that the prisoners should get something more than the entertainment part of the activity.

*What was the prisoners' reaction during your first visit?*

We presented KRIS and ourselves. In the first visit we were accompanied by KRIS' Swedish representatives. The first reaction was mistrust: "you cannot compare Swedish and Russian prisons". They did not understand the concept but some of them did listen and came back with questions after a while. Mr. Zatravkin informed that he also tells about his own experience and that people usually respond by asking more questions about his journey: they heard and believed me. They contacted him afterwards. All the KRIS members have undergone the same story and understand each other.

*How did you convince people with addiction to change their life?*

Besides KRIS Mr. Zatravkin also works with a Russian-American organisation working with drug addiction and is used to speak to addicts. People can go under treatment via this organisation. The idea is not to persuade but to inform people so that they can freely and voluntarily decide what to do.

*Do you have an office in Moscow?*

Not yet, but we do have contacts in Moscow

*How do you take care of orphans and street children?*

So far KRIS in Saint Petersburg organises activities only with one foster house. The essential part of the work is to talk and to listen to children. A key is not to promise any miracle or that they will be fine but to give them keys.

*Do you think that parents, who changed their life can get back the custody of their children?*

One such case in Saint Petersburg: the father of a girl died of overdose. The mother was deprived of custody as she was in prison. But more than 3 years after rehabilitation and with help of the lawyers, she got back the custody. Unfortunately it only happened once but once again nothing is impossible.

### **Presentation of the KRIS-movie**

Christer Karlsson and Peter Söderlund, Criminals Return to Society (KRIS), Sweden

Questions:

*How long do the new comers stay?*

It is up to the people and it depends on how much help they do need. KRIS is about changing live and taking part in a social process. But there is also the possibility to take part in some programs. KRIS offers different kind of networks depending of the needs. Moreover there is control of all KRIS members with spontaneous drug and alcohol tests.

Regarding the youths, was started an organisation “Young KRIS”. KRIS aims to mix them with “normal” youths. And we do not know if it is harder for youths to change their life, time will say. Few years ago, people said it was not possible to rehabilitate adults but KRIS has proven the opposite.

*Resources?*

From the authorities, sponsors of companies, membership fees... as well as through projects.

*What kind of assistance do you provide?*

We start a new private employment agency. We are trying to change people’s opinion on former criminals. People have first to get/learn routines through KRIS activities.

*What is KRIS’ philosophy?*

KRIS is not religiously or politically bounded. But KRIS motto: honesty, friendship, solidarity and drug freedom. KRIS is the first organisation taking care of getting ride of criminality,

*Do you have any statistics about rehabilitation?*

A study from the Swedish crime investigation office shows that out 218 people, who were part of the KRIS program, only 10% went back to criminality. The same study shows that for people, who took part in a governmental program, the rate is of 59%.

# Workshop: Trafficking

## Summary

The most important issue to work with is the demand, to make the society aware of the problem. Who is the buyer? There exists a lot of research and know how, but it must be put together, analysed and focused.

The knowledge of how to treat prostitutes and to make exit-programmes must be better. Also the links between pornography and prostitution need to be studied

International conventions are useful, but it is difficult for authorities to implement them. Very often authorities – and others – do not know that conventions exist. Lobbying is important, so are shadow-reports from NGOs that legitimise our existence as NGOs.