Decriminalization in Portugal – a model for Europe?

9.Internationaler akzept Kongress Frankfurt/M 24. bis 26. September 2009





Historic Evolution

1970-1974 1975-1982 Criminal Clinical and **Perspective Psychosocial Perspective** Consumer Consumer Offender? Criminal Offender Diseased? Prevention Treatment Social Rehabilitation Criminalisation of consumption and

Criminalisation of consumption and traffic

Criminalisation of consumption and traffic

traffic

1983-1999

Bio-psycho-social Perspective

Consumer

Health impaired Citizen

Prevention

Treatment

Social rehabilitation
Harm Reduction

Criminalisation of consumption and traffic

2000/...

Bio-psycho-social and Public Health Perspective

Consumer

Diseased person in need of treatment

Prevention
Treatment
Social Rehabilitation
Harm Reduction
Dissuasion

Consumption
Decriminalisation and
decriminalisation of
possession of substances
of up to 10 days

Criminalisation of traffic (and possession of substances for more than 10 days use even if consumer, Supreme Court Sentence 8/2008, August)





Dissuasion Policy

THEORIC MODEL

- Drug Addict is viewed as a diseased person
- The intervention provides an opportunity for early, specific and integrated interface with consumers and is target to the person's characteristics and individual needs
 - Dissuasion (http://www.wordreference.com/definition/dissuasion)
- Influencing someone to desist by argument or reasoning or entreaty







- Portuguese National Drug Strategy 1999-2004
- Law 30/2000, approved by Parliament, published in November 2000, entered into force in July 1st. 2001
- Law Decree 130-A/2001, sets the Drug Addiction Dissuasion Commissions
- Administrative Rule 604/2001, creates the Central Registration
- Madeira and Azores Autonomous Regions own Regional Law Decrees

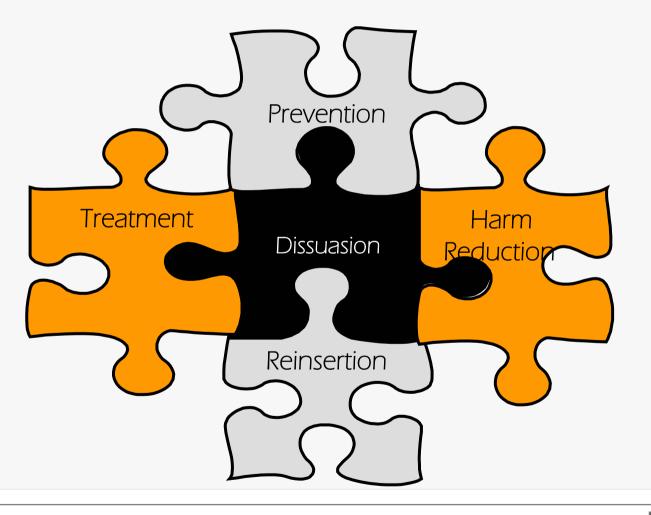






Demand Reduction

Mission Area







Purposes and Tools

Purposes

- To dissuade consumption
- To prevent and reduce drug use and abuse
- To ensure sanitary protection of consumers and the community

Tools

- Interface with consumers and drug addicts allows to inform and sensitize consumers for drug consumption risks, to promote health in global terms and consumers social rehabilitation (signalising other situations), to motivate and direct drug addicts to treatment





How?

Indicters presented to DADC are subject to a Psycho-social Evaluation

Social Diagnosis

- . Socio-economical and professional situation
- . Family relationship
- . Life projects and expectancies

Clinical Diagnosis

- . Level of drug addiction degree
- . Consumption historic (past and present consumption)
- . Problem evaluation





DADC Composition

Nominated by Ministers of Justice and Health

President and two members

Multidisciplinary team:
Psychologists, social service specialists,
jurists and administrative personnel

Decision preparatory steps

Motivation steps

Contacts with routing institutions





Results of Indicters

presentation to DADC

Evaluation and determination of choice of resources

Motivation steps

Indicter's escorting/accompaniment:

Drug Addicts

Treatment

Non Drug Addicts

Motivation

Motivation and Escorting to Social Support

Community Services

Escorting to Social Support Community

Services without motivation

Sanctions





Sanctions

- . Monetary fee (not applicable to drug addicts)
- . Periodic presentation to DADC
- . Apprehension of objects
- . Community labour
- . Interdiction to attend certain places
- . Interdiction to travel overseas
- . Measures related to hunting licensing
- . Interdiction of managing a subsidy or any monetary benefice given at any title
- . Others





Police Authority DADC Indicter's psychological and social evaluation •Indicter's audition

Decision

- Person's consumption of drugs in public or in possession of drugs
 - Issuance of minutes
 - Within 72 hours the indicter must present him/herself to the DADC

Motivation steps

- One's own consumption situation
- Psycho-social situation
- Previous record

Once the time for suspension expires, if there is no reincidence or if the measure/sanction has been fulfilled

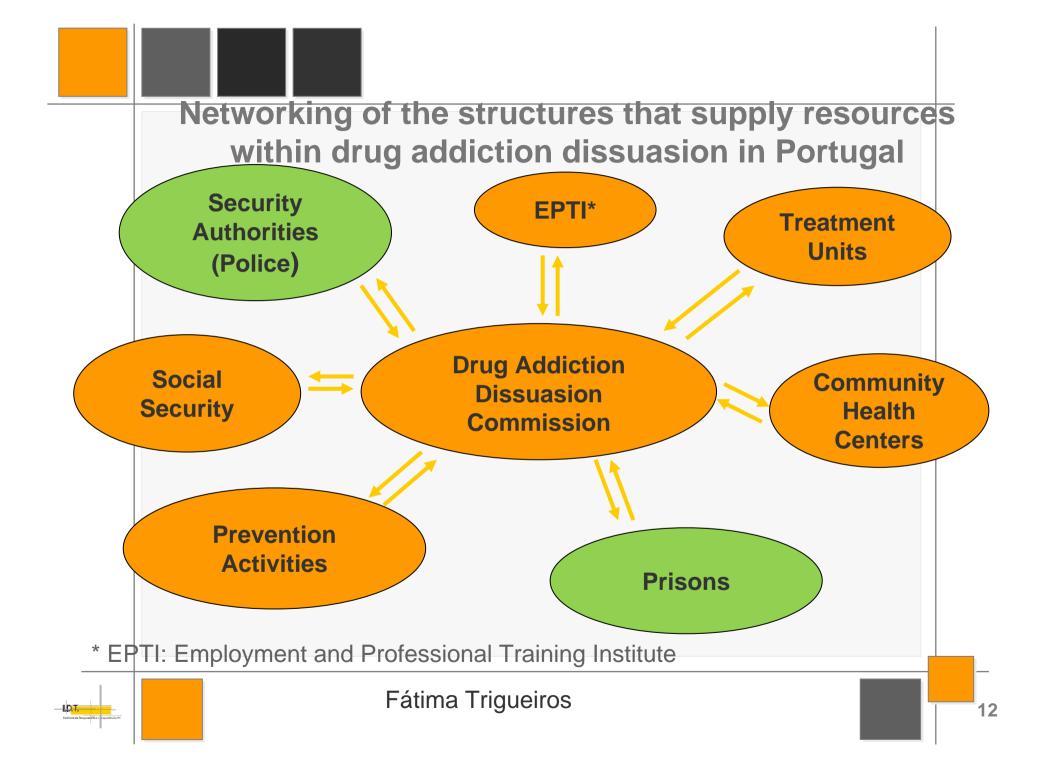
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District Authority surveys sanction execution

Archive

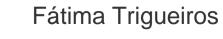




Primary Indicters Situation in 2008

| Dru | g Addicts (Total) | (622 in 2007) | | | 78 | 3 |
|-----|--|-------------------|------------------|-------|-----|---|
| | Voluntary Treatment | Treat. Struct. | Health Center | Other | 56 | 5 |
| | 1st Time Treatment | 140 | 2 | 24 | 125 | 5 |
| | Renewal of V. Treatment | 110 | 1 | 13 | 127 | 7 |
| | On going Treatment | 315 | 4 | 52 | 368 | 3 |
| Nor | n Drug Addicts (Total) (1960 in 2007) | | | | 281 | 6 |
| | Motivation and Escorting | | | | | 5 |
| | Motivation Only | | | | | |
| | Motivation and Escorting to Social Support Services | | | | | 5 |
| | Direct Escorting to Social Support Services without Motivation | | | | | 9 |





Source: IDT, 2008

Drug Related Judicial Decisions in 2001 and 2007 Processes and Offenders

Condemned

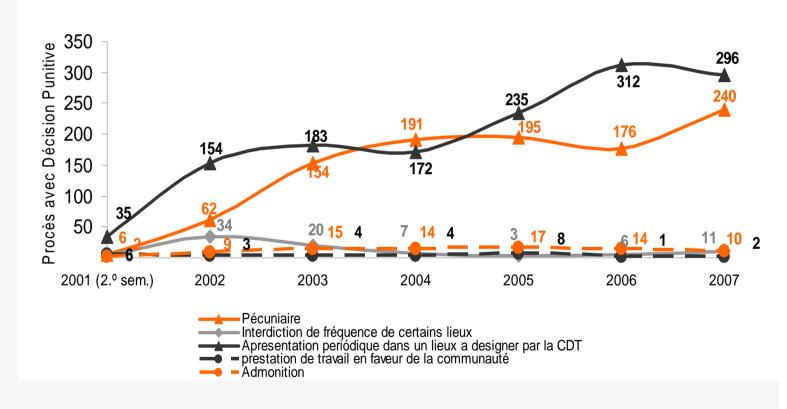
| | 2001 | 2007 |
|-------------------------|------|------|
| Processes opened | 3304 | 1287 |
| Number of Accused | 5193 | 1871 |
| Number of Convicted | 3576 | 1420 |
| Trafficker | 2161 | 1370 |
| Consumer | 1240 | 15 |
| Trafficker and Consumer | 175 | 35 |





Loi de la Décriminalisation











Penal Model

Courts can suspend the criminal process and remit offender to treatment
However Court procedures take much longer to hear offenders, unlike DADC (72h)

Psycho-social evaluation is not done Motivation and other routing procedures are not accomplished

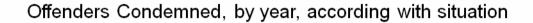
A criminal record may be imposed

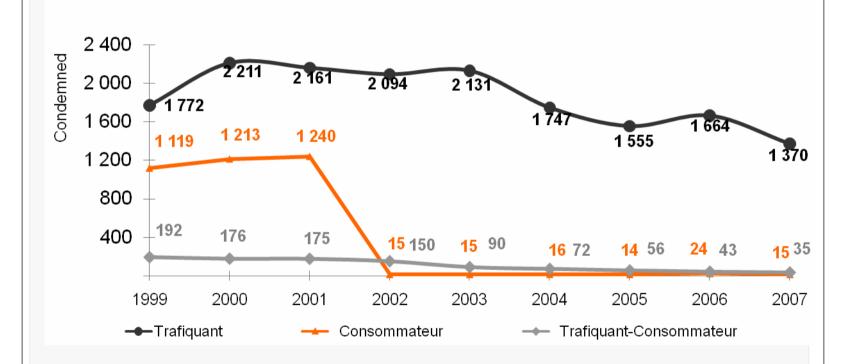
Supreme Court Sentence 8/2008, August





Criminal Law







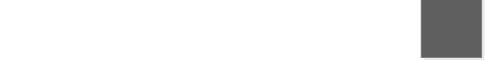


Thank you for your attention

Fátima Trigueiros

fatima.trigueiros@idt.min-saude.pt





INSTITUTO DA DROGA E DA TOXICODEPENDÊNCIA, I.P. INSTITUTE FOR DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION, P.I.

www.idt.pt



CENTRAL SERVICES

Praça de Alvalade, nº 7 - 5º ao 13º 1700-036 Lisbon
Phone 21 111 91 00 / 21 111 90

Fax: 21 111 27 95



