The Paris Pact Initiative
A partnership to counter the trafficking and consumption of opiates originating in Afghanistan

Drug Situation Analysis Report
Russian Federation

2010 Report
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Introduction

Drug addiction is increasingly becoming the most widespread cause of death among adolescents along with alcohol, which affects older generations, and imperfect health care system – all this leading to a serious demographic crisis, which Russia is facing.

Recently the situation has seen some stabilisation however the drug consumption level in Russia is still very high. The country has yet a long way to go in terms of drug demand reduction, prevention and treatment due to the fact that for a long time the national policy had a rather repressive nature.

Russia is much in favour of massive eradication of poppy fields in Afghanistan that so far has not seen full support from NATO side, which is unwilling to drive a wedge between the Afghan government and its people. Nevertheless, the war against drugs remains a common problem for the international community. Thus, in the cause of joint operations, several clandestine drug laboratories were destroyed in Afghanistan.

As cocaine, originated in South America, feeds into the drug traffickers’ networks and is later shipped to US and Europe via Africa, drugs from Afghanistan are trafficked to Russian and Europe. This has lately brought Russia to being the largest single consumer of heroin in the world. Similarly to Mexico, the drug cartels dominate the drug transit countries in Central Asia and their assets exceed manifold the funding at the disposal of the governments, fighting them.
Drug abuse

Drug trafficking and abuse have become a major nation-wide problem in Russia. Drug trends and dynamics have reached a scale which directly threatens health of the nation as a whole and national security.

Drug situation in 2009 did not change dramatically vis-à-vis 2008, however same negative trends persisted. The drug abuse continued to increase mainly with regard to strong narcotic substances, which go hand in hand with HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and other major diseases.

In the Russian Federation, 37% of the country's 1.8 million injecting drug users are estimated to be HIV-infected\(^1\). Evidence indicates that young people account for a considerable number of infections among injecting drug users in the region. In a study involving street youth from risk groups (aged 15–19) in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 37.4% of the people surveyed were HIV-infected, with a positive HIV status strongly and independently associated with injecting drugs and sharing needles\(^2\). In 2009 the HIV prevalence reached the level of 338.5 per 100,000 population, the number of new cases per 100,000 population was 41.2:

![HIV prevalence per 100,000 population graph](image)

According to expert assessments, the number of non-medical drug users in Russia has reached the 2.5 million threshold and now equals to almost 2 per cent of the total country’s population.

According to the official data provided by the Russian MOH, the number of officially registered drug users was equal to 549,600 persons in 2008 and 555,300 persons in 2009. Out of them, 358,100 persons had drug dependency in 2008 and 357,800 persons in 2009.

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Drug addiction among kids and adolescents is also a matter of concern: in 2009 136,000 children and adolescents were registered within specialised narcological institutions as those having narcological disorders (137,629 in 2008).

Main types of addiction among registered drug addicted persons

According to expert estimation, almost 30,000 lives are taken away by drugs annually (almost 80 persons per day). Apart from high mortality rate, there is a direct link between increase in drug abuse and AIDS morbidity, viral hepatitis and other lethal deceases.

Russian official statistics has registered 8,606 deaths of drug users in 2008; 9,238 in 2009 and 3,775 cases during first 6 months of 2010. Death was mainly caused by various diseases associated with drug use and drug overdose; mean age of those died was 32 years. The number of officially established drug overdose-related deaths in the Russian Federation equalled to 1,236 in 2008 and 1,189 in 2009, which constitutes 12.9 % and 14.4 % respectively of all the deaths of drug users according to post-mortem examination.

The demographic crisis, affecting almost all regions of the Russian Federation, coupled with continued increase in the number of drug users who are mainly young people of reproductive age, can lead to degradation of the nation. Thus, according to UNODC, the share of population engaged in opiate abuse exceeds the average level in Europe 5 – 8 fold and is 20 times more compared with such countries as Germany.

The social composition of drug users is also changing. Drug abuse is becoming widespread among socially disadvantaged groups such as unemployed, who currently account for more than a half of those registered as drug abusers within specialized medical institutions. During the last five years the specific weight of this category increased by more than 10 per cent.

1 Source: Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development

4 Source: Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development
Legal framework with regard to monitoring of the drug situation and drug control

On 9 June 2010 Russian president signed the “Strategy for the Anti-Drug Policy of the Russian Federation until the year of 2020”. The envisaged measures are aimed to reduce drug supply and minimise demand for drugs by Russians. The main objectives, as seen by the Strategy, are to combat drug trafficking and to significantly reduce the number of drug dependent persons and therefore, drug demand. The document envisages the development of a comprehensive rehabilitation programme for drug addicts that would include not only medical treatment but also post-treatment social reintegration.

The recent amendments to the law “On additional measures to combat trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors” envisage establishment of a system of state monitoring of drug situation in Russia as an implementation base of a national anti-drug policy. Implementation of the monitoring of the drug situation is supposed to be the responsibility of the National Anti-Drug Committee and anti-drug commissions within Russian provinces. According to the presidential decree, the following documents are to be developed:

- The Russian Government: necessary provisions regarding the system of state monitoring of drug situation in the Russian Federation;
- National Anti-Drug Committee: methodology and monitoring procedures as well as the assessment criteria.

The organisational structure of the monitoring envisages federal and regional level to ensure its functioning and development with regard to search, collection, processing, consolidation, analysis, storage and distribution of information by means of unified data base.

According to the federal law on narcotic and psychotropic substances, foreign citizens who have committed drug-related administrative offences may be banned from entering the territory of the Russian Federation. The law also envisages that in case of such offences foreign citizens may be banished from the country.

According to the Russian legislation, various harm reduction programmes implemented in a number of countries, which envisage needle/syringe exchange and substitution therapy, are prohibited in Russia.

Russian Ministry of health and Social Development currently develop proposals aimed at introducing drug tests for school students. Subject to the introduction of the relevant legislation, such drug testing would apply to school students starting from the age of 13.
Drug market in the Russian Federation

Drug market saw some restructuring in Russia in 2009 due to the increase in poppy straw and marijuana and decrease in strong (concentrated) drugs. Compared to 2008, there was a 30.1% increase in seized poppy straw, 17% increase in marijuana, 56.1% increase in hashish and 26.9% increase in hashish oil.

Opiates still remain the most important drug type for Russia and, in particular, heroin. It was seized in 29% of all seizure cases.

Heroin seizures in Russia during 2000-2010, kg

Source: Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation
Drug seizures in Russia by major drug types in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Types</th>
<th>Total seizures</th>
<th>Total opiates</th>
<th>Including</th>
<th>Cannabis</th>
<th>including</th>
<th>Cocaine</th>
<th>ATS</th>
<th>Other narcotic drugs</th>
<th>Psychotropic substances</th>
<th>strong substances</th>
<th>Precursors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FDCS⁵</td>
<td>45,871 kg</td>
<td>6,274 kg</td>
<td>3,152 kg</td>
<td>2,807 kg</td>
<td>37,865 kg</td>
<td>3,984 kg</td>
<td>33,393 kg</td>
<td>92 kg</td>
<td>288 kg</td>
<td>72 kg</td>
<td>110 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOI</td>
<td>29,529 kg</td>
<td>3,742 kg</td>
<td>1,638 kg</td>
<td>1,840 kg</td>
<td>24,679 kg</td>
<td>1,405 kg</td>
<td>22,899 kg</td>
<td>27 kg</td>
<td>114 kg</td>
<td>21 kg</td>
<td>61 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCS⁷</td>
<td>12,740 kg</td>
<td>1,761 kg</td>
<td>771 kg</td>
<td>965 kg</td>
<td>10,688 kg</td>
<td>637 kg</td>
<td>9,942 kg</td>
<td>26 kg</td>
<td>165 kg</td>
<td>50 kg</td>
<td>21 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecutor’s office</td>
<td>1,438 kg</td>
<td>429 kg</td>
<td>406 kg</td>
<td>2 kg</td>
<td>765 kg</td>
<td>605 kg</td>
<td>160 kg</td>
<td>37 kg</td>
<td>3 kg</td>
<td>631 g</td>
<td>28 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSS⁸</td>
<td>16 kg</td>
<td>843 g</td>
<td>810 g</td>
<td>26 g</td>
<td>14 kg</td>
<td>3 kg</td>
<td>11 kg</td>
<td>116 g</td>
<td>593 g</td>
<td>8 g</td>
<td>101 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border service</td>
<td>33 kg</td>
<td>6 kg</td>
<td>6 kg</td>
<td>402 g</td>
<td>27 kg</td>
<td>679 g</td>
<td>26 kg</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁵ Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation
⁷ Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation
⁸ Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation
⁹ Source: Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation (form #177MVD)
### Average prices for main types of drugs in Russia, USD equivalent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poppy straw, 1kg</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raw opium, 1kg</td>
<td>8713</td>
<td>13034</td>
<td>14106</td>
<td>12864</td>
<td>13182</td>
<td>11903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis, 1kg</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2146</td>
<td>2897</td>
<td>2483</td>
<td>2476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashish, 1kg</td>
<td>6196</td>
<td>6821</td>
<td>8104</td>
<td>11075</td>
<td>9790.5</td>
<td>9877.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine, 1g</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>190.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin, 1g</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone, 1g</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morphine, 1ml</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy, 1 tablet</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange rate, 1$</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>28.65</td>
<td>26.35</td>
<td>24.72</td>
<td>29.39</td>
<td>32.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above lists the average wholesale prices for main drug types in Russia, USD equivalent, for the years 2004 to 2009. The data is presented in both tables and graphs.
Main drug trafficking channels

**Vegetable and raw base**

The prevalence of cannabinoids and poppy straw is explained by the fact that Russia has a significant natural source of raw materials, which are used for illicit production of such drugs, primarily in the Russian Far East, Southern Siberia and Northern Caucasus.

New areas of illicit production of drug-related natural raw materials are detected annually. According to expert estimations, up to 1 million hectares of land are seeded with cannabis, hence it is extremely difficult to introduce a comprehensive control system to stop this flow. The availability of the raw materials and the simplicity of drug production continue to attract both producers and consumers of drugs. From the areas of mass production, marijuana and other cannabis derivatives reach out to almost all regions of Russia.

Other source of plant-based drugs is the illicit cultivation of drug plants. Part of the rural population engages in this type illicit business using their land or abandoned territories for the purpose of illicit production of crops. This is particularly evident in the North Caucasus and central part of Russia (so-called, “black earth belt”), which benefit from the climatic conditions and from the availability of large abandoned territories. According to the figure provided by the Russian MOI, 2009 accounted for 3,472 illicit cultivation cases (5,631 in 2008), resulting in 2,162 persons brought to criminal liability (2,049 persons in 2008).

**Clandestine production**

The availability of well-developed chemical industry in Russia and insufficient control over the production and international transportation of precursor and pre-precursors potentially can create opportunities for illicit production of drugs and precursor chemicals on the territory of the Russian Federation and their smuggling to Europe. This is further evidenced by the fact that during 2009 more than 2,300\(^{10}\) drug production sites were identified including 684 locations where heroin was produced and 7 ATS production sites (including 2 specially equipped clandestine laboratories). According to Russian FDCS, during the first 6 months of 2010 the seizures of acetic anhydride totaled to 8.4 kg (35 kg in 2009 and 28 kg in 2008).

At the same, illicit drug production is characterized by the prevalence of primitive (home-level) manufacturing, whereas industrial level production is very rare.

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\(^{10}\) Source: Russian Ministry of Interior
Smuggling of drugs

Over 60% of the drugs currently available on Russia’s illicit drug market have been smuggled into the country. The share of smuggled strong drugs (heroin, opium, ATS, cocaine) is much higher; these types of drugs are almost entirely imported. Opiates continue to be the most problematic drug for Russia and mainly come via the Northern Route from Afghanistan through Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and later infiltrating the border with Kazakhstan. Major destinations are Moscow, St Petersburg, Samara, Saratov, Yekaterinburg as well as large cities along Volga River and in Siberia, which can be viewed as hubs for further distribution of drugs within Russia and subsequent export to Europe.

The drug smuggling is facilitated by lower level of social and economic development of the Central Asian countries affected by trafficking, stretched and porous border between Russia and Kazakhstan (7,500 km), intensive passenger and freight flows, developed Russian transport infrastructure and high profitability (the market value of heroin increases manifold en route to Russia).

A new trafficking trend via Azerbaijan, Russia and Ukraine and further to Europe emerged recently and envisages trafficking of Iranian opiates by means of Turkish TIR carriers. Additionally, insignificant quantities of poppy straw and poppy straw extract are smuggled from Ukraine and Moldova.

According to the expert estimations, there are over 350 criminal groups benefitting from drug trafficking in Russia mainly making use of their ethnic and business links in Central-Asian countries. Amongst ethnic groups involved in drug trafficking the most active are Tajik, Azeri, Uzbek, Chechen, Roma and groups with mixed ethnicity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>1,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>494</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Synthetic drugs are gaining popularity among youth due to promotion of the “night club subculture”. The most popular synthetic drugs include: ecstasy, methamphetamines, amphetamines, methadone, phencyclidine, fentanyl, 3-methylfentanyl. Main types of illicit synthetic drugs are available in 57 Russian regions and are smuggled primarily from Europe and Baltic states: Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Estonia. The smuggling routes are diverse but often involve St Petersburg (city and region, which have recently emerged as a major hub for synthetic drugs) as well as Kaliningrad, Pskov and Smolensk regions. Trafficking is usually done by couriers and involves rail and road
transport. Limited amount of drugs is trafficked into the country by means of international postal shipments.

Cocaine consumption is limited primarily to large metropolises like Moscow and St Petersburg. Cocaine market is fuelled by criminal groups, which smuggle cocaine into the country. These groups are often organized by the nationals of Lithuania, Latvia and Russia, which have established contacts with drug cartels in Latin America via expatriates from that region who reside in Russia.

The situation on the drug market in Russia is further influenced by cannabinoids trafficked from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. There were a number of cases when strong cannabinoids were delivered from India, Holland and Spain including pre-order via Internet with further repackaging and retail shipment of seeds by mail for hydroponic cultivation.

The new trend on the Russian drug market, which emerged in 2009 – 2010, is appearance of Iranian hashish trafficked via Azerbaijan and Afghan hashish trafficked via the Central Asian region.

**Drug-related crime in the Russian Federation**

238,527 drug-related crimes were registered by Russian law enforcement agencies in 2009, which exceeds the 2008 level by 2.5 per cent (118,265 during 6 months of 2010).

**Share of detected drug-related crimes out of total registered crimes in Russia, 2004 – 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of Total Registered Crimes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 Source: CIS Statistical Committee
The largest number of drug-related crimes is traditionally committed in Moscow, St Petersburg (city and the region), Krasnodarsky, Primorsky, Novosibirskaya, Kemerovskaya, Samarskaya and Rostovskaya regions\textsuperscript{12} (oblasts) as shown on the map below:

The number of grave crimes, which fall under the drug-related category, increased in 2009 vs. 2008 by 3.4 per cent (164,561 vs. 159,200) and their proportion among other crimes has reached 69 per cent (68.4 per cent in 2008). The number of crimes related to drug trade went up by 1.6 per cent in 2009 (124,789 vs. 122,848 in 2008) and constituted 52.3 per cent of the total drug-related crimes.

\textsuperscript{12} Source: Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation