



Connekt

The newsletter of the Youth Network for Drug Abuse Prevention

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www.undcp.org/youthnet

THE YOUTH NETWORK

...Un espace créé par des ados pour les ados. Une nouvelle façon d'apprendre des trucs que tu veux et as besoin de connaître.

tabac zine

Pourquoi fumer? Pourquoi arrêter? Comprendre tes habitudes de fumeur.

www.cyberisle.org

Theme Meeting on Using the Internet for Drug Abuse Prevention, Athens, March, 2002

From March 13 to 17th, 2002, we organized a youth meeting in Athens, Greece on using the internet for drug abuse prevention. The idea was to bring together youth experts who have gained considerable experience in using the Net as part of their prevention programmes and ask them to help us write a short "How To" guide for other youth groups who would like to start using the Net but don't know how!



While it is true that the Internet has revolutionized the nature of knowledge, it can be as much of a decorative trinket as ill-directed TV programmes on drug abuse prevention.

Its great power and visibility also make it important for youth to familiarize themselves with the medium before they actually start using it to make social interventions. These and many other issues were discussed by youth who attended the meeting from groups from Norway, Belgium, Canada, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Finland. This was the first time that the youth network teamed up with an ongoing "adult" event as the youth sessions were coordinated around the 1st Annual Telematics and



Prevention Conference organized by the Prevnet Network (for details about Prevnet, see www.prevnet.net). The interaction between the youth participants and the adult experts was, in fact, one of the highlights of the meeting.

The stimulating discussions that we had on issues as diverse as the digital divide and the ethics of web-based prevention programmes will undoubtedly translate into an effective guide. We anticipate that this guide will be ready by the end of the summer. We would especially like to thank Oonagh Maley and Harvey Skinner from the University of Toronto, Tracey Powers ErKilla from the A-clinic Foundation in Finland and Tamara Maman from Vienna for all their help in organizing this meeting.



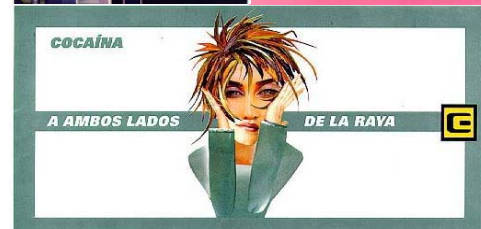
THIS ISSUE

Hot Talk



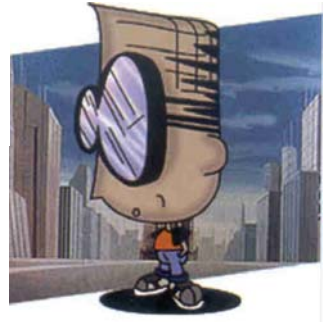
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Gautam Babbar, UNDCP, Vienna

The TeenNet Project, Canada



www.teennetproject.org www.teennetproject.org www.teennetproject.org www.teennetproject.org www.cyberisle.org



Since 1995, the TeenNet Project led by Dr. Harvey Skinner (Chair, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto) has collaborated with a network of community, education and health care organizations to develop practical tools for engaging youth in health promotion using technology (Skinner, 1997, 2001, 2002). The goal of TeenNet is to increase the number of teens engaged in positive health and social behaviour. What makes this project unique is the interweaving of information

The island contains places and activities that are meaningful for youth and reflect issues they are concerned about. At the different locations on the island (beach, washrooms, dance club), youth can access health information, on-line discussion groups, interactive lifestyle assessment programmes, simulations, links and games through the web site graphics. For example, TeenNet's smoking resource (the Smoking Zine) can be reached by clicking on the cigarettes on the floor of the washrooms (male and female).

The goal of TeenNet is to increase the number of teens engaged in positive health and social behaviour.

technology and community involvement using an action research model. Using this model, teens and community organizations are involved in all stages of project design, development, implementation, evaluation and dissemination. TeenNet's approach to health promotion is grounded in five guiding principles (PRAAA): Participatory, Relevance to youth; Active Learning and Fun; Autonomous support; and Access with a focus on the health, social and personal issues identified as important by youth. In 1996-97, TeenNet worked directly with youth, health practitioners and educators to develop an interactive virtual environment called CyberIsle (<http://www.cyberisle.org>). Using the metaphor of a teens-only island, CyberIsle is designed to assist teens address their physical, emotional and social health needs.

TeenNet conducted a pilot study in 2001 on the use of multimedia technologies to promote youth engagement and ownership in community action and health promotion. From this pilot work, TeenNet developed Global Youth Voices (www.globalyouthvoices.org). This project draws on the potential of Internet technology to allow young people from diverse communities to interact in youth-owned ways and spaces, with the goal of creating innovative, youth-driven models for social action and community health promotion. The first international Global Youth Voices pilot is currently being run with street-involved youth in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with the Kenyan NGO VIPS Health Services, which is associated with the Mathare Youth Sports Association, another member of the global youth network. The Kenyan youth are connecting with Canadian youth, sharing experiences and concerns and working together to address some of the problems they see and face.

If you would like to learn more about TeenNet or have any questions, please visit our project web site : www.teennetproject.org or contact the Project Manager, Oonagh Maley E-mail: oonagh.maley@utoronto.ca

The Second Queensland Youth Drug Summit:

A story of participation by young people in a state alcohol and drug policy and programme development process

The Premier of Queensland initiated the First Youth Drug Summit held in Brisbane in 1999. This summit provided an opportunity for those working with youth to address issues related to young people's use of alcohol and other drugs.

The first summit was followed by a consultation phase with youth projects around Queensland. Young people were asked to communicate their ideas about youth drug prevention issues through a variety of media, such as video, drama, music and/or print. About 25 projects were involved. Young people and youth workers from these projects were contacted and supported by the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland and Youth Arts Queensland.

The Second Youth Drug Summit was held in October 2001. The event encapsulated the consultation with young people and presented the outcomes of the local projects.

Amongst the outcomes of the summit was a clear statement written by youth about drug prevention and treatment issues affecting "at risk" groups. The participants also made a series of practical recommendations about improving the delivery of alcohol and drug services and programmes for young people.

The conference led to a documented set of recommendations about what works in the treatment and prevention of alcohol and extra space other drug problems from a young person's perspective.

The participating youth also presented their vision of effective youth participation in the development of an effective alcohol and drug policy and development and implementation of prevention and treatment programmes.

The Next Stage: The Marginalized Young People's Programme.

The Marginalized Young People's Programme was developed as a follow up to the summit. This programme is aimed at providing effective drug and alcohol services to hard-to-reach groups that are often ignored by mainstream society. The next stage is the establishment of local youth drug abuse prevention networks to look at the management and implementation of the summit recommendations at the community level. The networks could also be used to build the capacity of young people and communities to address the factors contributing to drug abuse. This would involve providing training and mentoring in programme development, grants application, management and evaluation of projects and networking.



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Summit Recommendations

The youth participants made the following concrete recommendations. These are now being considered by an interdepartmental government committee on drugs. A response will be provided by the end of April 2002.

Prevention

- Localized funding (for integrated local youth programmes) and money grants to local youth.
- Intervene early - at primary schools.
- Increase accessibility to parenting programmes.
- Alcohol and drugs treated as separate issues.
- Harm reduction rather than "just say no".

Alcohol and Drug Services

- More integrated and youth specific detox (non-medical and community-based) and alternative activities with peer educators.
- Greater and more flexible training and activities for young people.
- Government/health Department are morally responsible to work for the benefit of young people/young drug users as an integral part of our community - incarceration is not appropriate.
- Services need to cater to young people.
- More outreach to all areas, including needle exchange programmes (go to where young people are).

OUR NEW WEB SITE....

the global youth network

Introduction, Drug Trends, Information on Drugs

Youth & Drugs

Examples of Programmes, Tools, Youth Events Guide

Taking Action

All About the Global Youth Network

About Us

Interesting Events Within & Outside the Youth Network

What's On

All Issues of our Newsletter *Connekt*

Newsletter

Names & Addresses of Contacts

Contact Us

Links on Different Themes

Links

visit us at:

www.undcp.org/youthnet

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

3rd International Conference on Drugs & Young People, 13-15 May, AJC Convention Centre, Randwick, Sydney

Organized by the Australian Drug Foundation, Centre for Youth Drug Studies, in conjunction with the Ted Noffs Foundation and other collaborating organizations.

The conference will focus on youth drug policy and practice in:

- prevention
- education
- community
- treatment
- law enforcement, legal and justice issues

To express your interest in attending the conference or submitting an abstract, please contact the Conference Secretariat, Australian Drug Foundation, PO Box 818, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051;

Tel.: (61) 03 9278 8108;

fax: (61) 03 9328 3008

Email: events@adf.org.au

International Children's Conference - United Nations Environment Programme, 21-25 May 2002, Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra, Western Aus-

Themes: Developing skills and work

practice; workers, young people and their environment; developing leadership and management.

Contact: Youth Affairs Council of WA

Email: yacwa@yacwa.org.au

fax: (08) 9388 0650

Working with Youth from Ethnic and Indigenous Minorities on Drug Abuse Issues, 3-8 June, Brisbane, Australia

This meeting will focus on developing easy-to-use guidelines for youth groups and other NGOs that want to work with young people from ethnic and indigenous minority populations in their own countries. Of particular interest will be traditional cultural practices and their use for prevention.

Contact gautam.babbar@undcp.org

Health Promotion in Schools, September 2002, the Netherlands

Theme: Health promotion in schools planned by the European Network of Health Promoting Schools and organized jointly by WHO Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and counterparts in the Netherlands.

Visit the web site to learn more details about this conference: www.egmondconference.nl.

School-based prevention programmes, Good Practice and lessons Learned, 2-6 September, Vienna, Austria

By gathering together adult experts and youth with hands-on experience in prevention work in their schools, this meeting hopes to create a unique synthesis of theory and practice for devising guidelines for working with school-based youth on substance abuse issues. For details, contact gautam.babbar@undcp.org.

Youth Employment Summit (YES), 11-15 September 2002, Alexandria, Egypt

Egypt is hosting YES 2002 in the historic port city of Alexandria. Diverse stakeholders from all over the world will attend the summit. The summit will provide a rare opportunity for civil society organizations, youth organizations, private businesses, governments, NGOs and educational and training institutes to showcase and exchange innovative policies, practices and ideas that will shape and influence the global development agenda's focus on youth employment. Over 2000 people are expected to attend, 1000 of which will be youth.

Registration for YES 2002 is selective; participation is limited and early registration is encouraged. For more detailed information about YES 2002 and to register on-line, visit the web site at www.youthemploymentsummit.org.



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<http://www.inhalants.org/body.html>

Provides information on different kinds of inhalants. Go to the site to find out more.

<http://www.drugabuse.gov> This is the web site of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). You will find a variety of research information on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction addressed to researchers and health professionals, parents, teachers and students.

<http://www.thesite.org/magazine/drugs-and-alcohol>

TheSite.org aims to offer a guide to life for young adults, aged 16-25. It is about exposing young people to the quality information they need to make their own decisions in life.

DISCLAIMER. Highlighting non-UN events and websites in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the UNDCP. These are provided here as a resource for young people and youth workers. The views expressed in these sites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNDCP.

The Global Youth Network Project. Work in progress.....

As we enter the last full year of the global youth network project, I would like to take this opportunity to keep you updated about our plans.

The year began with a youth theme meeting on using the Internet for drug abuse prevention. This also coincided with the launch of the youth network web site (www.odccp.org/youthnet). Some of you reading this were involved in the creation and development of the site and Jouhaida did all the design work. So a big Thank You to everyone involved. The site is still growing with lots more resources being added every month so that you can actually use it as part of your work. You can read more about the Internet meeting in the story on the front page. Coming up shortly is another hands-on theme meeting on working with youth from ethnic and indigenous minorities. This meeting will be held in Brisbane, Australia, 3-7 June. We hope that as a result of this meeting we will be able to devise easy-to-use guidelines for youth and youth workers who want to do effective drug abuse prevention work with youth from minority communities. Amongst the other planned events are a meeting on school-based prevention, two training workshops on needs assessment and programme planning, one each in Africa and Latin America and a meeting on the issue of recreational drug use, especially in the context of the night-time entertainment scene. These will be organized towards the end of the year.

Besides the meetings, we hope to shortlist some regional youth NGOs to act as focal points of the youth network in their respective areas. The idea is to decentralize the work that we have been doing so far and ensuring better links between members of the global youth network and local UN and international agencies to allow the work of the youth network to continue even after the project comes to an end. We will shortly be writing to you on the email listserv (if you would like to join the listserv, please write to us at gautam.babbar@undcp.org) to inform you about the process to shortlist the regional coordinating groups. So this, in brief, is our plan for the year. We would be happy to hear your suggestions about what more we can do and what other topics we need to cover in our series of hands-on meetings. Once again, this is your network and you can make it what you want, so do write to us. We love to hear from you.

Gautam Babbar,
UNDCP, Vienna

This is your newsletter. Tell us how we can improve it and what you would like to read about. Do send us your comments and suggestions at the address given above.