

The 5th Latin Conference about Harm Reduction

The 5th Latin Conference about Harm Reduction is an event which results from the networking among several countries such as Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Switzerland and others countries of Latin America. This 5th edition took place in **Oporto** (Portugal) from the **1st to the 4th of July 2009**. More info at <http://www.clat5.org/>

This year, the organisers of the conference ([APDES](#) in Portugal and [Grup Igia](#) in Spain) promoted partnerships on the issues of drugs involving decision makers, care field and universities. To this end, a round table was held to present practices developed at the city level gathering municipalities, drug services and universities.

Three European city networks took part in this round table chaired by Mr Thierry Charlois, consultant on European drug policies and involved in the participating city networks:

- ***Democracy, Cities & Drugs***, led by the European Forum for Urban Safety (<http://www.democitydrug.org>). Mrs Roxana Calfa, project manager at the EFUS presented the network and Pr Jorge Negreiros from the Centro de *Investigação em Psicologia do Comportamento Desviante e Saúde* of the *Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto* and Cristiana Alves from the city of Matosinhos presented the Matosinhos experience (Portugal);
- ***EXASS-Net***, led by the Pompidou Group – Council of Europe (<http://www.exass.net/>). Mr Thierry Charlois, consultant, presented the project and Dr Bernd Werse from the Centre for drug research of the Centre for drug research of the Goethe University in Frankfurt presented the Frankfurt experience (Germany);
- The "***Tackling Drugs – Reducing Crime***" network gathering the Nottinghamshire County (UK), Assen (NL) and Poznan (PL) (<http://www.agis-tdrc.eu/>). Mrs Jade Poyser, Member of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team of Nottinghamshire and Mr Ian Bates, consultant, presented the network and the Nottinghamshire experience.

The presentations have shown the high interest of involving Universities in order to improve two important phases of developing local drug strategies: Needs assessment and evaluation.