



GTZ Advisory Services

Development-oriented Drug Control

Module 4: Integrated Local Drug Policies

Integrated local drug policies bring institutions and organisations involved in reducing local drug problems together at one table to discuss the drug related problems in communities and their possible solutions. Drug users, drug treatment services, the health system, the police, judges and other community representatives work together with GTZ experts to develop a local drug policy and strategies to improve the situation where they live. This participative process strengthens the ability of communities to manage their own affairs on a sustainable basis and creates consensus.

Stronger local institutions and municipalities can control drug problems in their community more effectively and efficiently than can outsiders. In addition, a community-based drug policy leads to an atmosphere in which other conflicts can also be approached constructively.

GTZ's experience and impacts

As an international development agency with worldwide operations, GTZ has gathered solid experience with decentralisation processes and the implementation of local drug policy. Its strength lies in providing participatory and integrated methods, thus improving the capacity and potential of communities for self-help in dealing with drugs and development problems.

GTZ has knowledge and expertise in sectors such as health promotion, urban development, youth work and political participation, which contribute to a multidisciplinary analysis of drug problems and the creation of synergy effects when implementing solutions.

The GTZ approach for integrated local drug policy has produced positive effects, such as:

- Drug consumption and trafficking and the criminal activity bound up with them are reduced at community level;
- Social fringe groups become better integrated, and community decision-making is transparent;
- Policy that is based on consensus at the community level has a positive impact on national policy as well.

The integrated local drug policies approach is part of the GTZ's service package for Development-Oriented Drug Control.



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GTZ's service package

The GTZ service package on integrated local drug policies consists of different advisory services, which can be offered to international clients separately or in combination:

- **Supporting organisational development**

GTZ supports the organisational development of various social groups and NGOs to increase their self-help potential and improve their participation in democratic processes.

- **Strengthening institutions at community level**

GTZ promotes institutional development at local level through such measures as training municipal administrations and school authorities in management competence.

- **Promoting cooperation and coordination**

GTZ improves the communication and interaction between governmental and non-governmental drug control institutions and development organisations. This includes organising round tables and establishing networks for drug help services within the communities.

- **Harmonising drug control and drug help**

By promoting stronger networking between policy makers, police and civil society, GTZ contributes to the harmonisation of drug control and drug help.

- **Providing capacity-building and training**

GTZ provides training and capacity-building for various target groups and intermediary partners in the fields of drug abuse prevention, treatment and harm reduction.

- **Supporting public relations and communication**

GTZ promotes public relation works and the dissemination of information regarding social services and supports media campaigns on such issues as the relation between intravenous drug consumption and HIV/AIDS infection.

GTZ develops tailor-made and gender-sensitive concepts, which are adapted to different target groups, regions and cultures. Providing expertise for monitoring and evaluation, GTZ focuses on the observation of impact both at target group and at institutional level. Moreover, GTZ helps partners to integrate the experiences gathered at communal level into the national drug policies.

For further information, please contact

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commissioned by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development