

2023

TURKISH DRUG REPORT

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS





REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE
COUNTER NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT



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PREFACE

Today, there are more drugs, and more different varieties of drugs, in the world and in Türkiye than there have been at any time in history. In recent years, in particular, the emergence of synthetic drugs produced by chemical processes alongside the traditional drugs has made the problem increasingly complex.

Drug abuse and addiction have become a major problem for society, and the fight against them has many dimensions. To conduct an effective and successful fight against a problem of this kind is a process which must be conducted in unison, with the coordination and support of all the relevant institutions and organizations.

Narcotics crimes constitute both a health problem and a security problem. Since they are global in nature, the multi-dimensional fight against them needs to be waged harmoniously by national and international stakeholders.

Türkiye has a strategic geographical location with respect to the smuggling of drugs. Its fight is therefore being conducted from a multi-dimensional, holistic perspective on the national and international planes. The efforts which Türkiye is making in this field have earned it the appreciation not only of its own citizens but of the international community as well.

Prompted by the desire to advance this determined and effective fight even further, our institutions are seeking on the one hand to base the work they perform in their various fields of activity upon scientific facts, and on the other hand to pass on the knowledge and experience which they have acquired to other institutions.

In this context, the present report, drafted with contributions from the institutions concerned on the basis of data from 2022, constitutes an important document which assesses the activities conducted in the fight against drugs and may stimulate ideas about projects that can be put into practice in future.

While reading and considering this document, it should not be forgotten that the statistics given in the section on fighting the supply of drugs cannot by themselves grasp the drugs problem in its entirety. Only the picture that emerges from a simultaneous assessment of all the parameters can give some idea of the extent of the problem. In other words, the constant, accelerating increase in seizures and detentions that are being made in the fight against the supply of drugs are not the sole indicators of the problem; rather, they point to increases in the capacities of the law enforcement forces. Besides the rise in the institutional capacities of the law enforcement institutions, the cleansing of these units from members of the FETÖ organization since 2014 has increased their sincerity in this fight.

In the hope that this report will make a concrete contribution to all stages of the ongoing fight against drugs, we would like to thank all the individuals and institutions that have provided their support during its preparation and publication.

Counter Narcotics Department

ABDAMAT LEMAT SAGI HAKI
BMK BMYK EGMEM CDDA
GMGM INCB IPA JGK JAK
EUROPOL GFIMASAKMB
NEAN PSMFIBRMIFCTAD
THCTITCKTMOTUBIM UI
UNODC UYUMAYARDM

ABBREVIATIONS

AEP	: Family Education Programme
AMATEM	: Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
ARDEF	: Research and Evaluation Form
ASENA	: Analysis Systems Narcotics Network
ATK	: Institute of Forensic Medicine
ATS	: Amphetamine Type Stimulants
BAHAR	: Rehabilitation Model for Addicts
BMK	: Council for the Fight against Addiction
BMTK	: Technical Council for the Fight against Addiction
BMYK	: High Council for the Fight against Addiction
ÇEMATEM	: Child and Adolescent Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
CFCU	: Central Finance and Contracts Unit
CND	: TNP Counter Narcotics Department
UN-CND	: UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs
ÇODEM	: Child Support Centre
CSO	: Civil Society Organization
EBA	: Educational Informatics Network
ECDD	: Expert Committee on Drug Dependence
EMCDDA	: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EU	: European Union
EUROPOL	: European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
EWS	: Early Warning System
GMGM	: General Directorate of Customs Enforcement
HÜBAS	: Poppy Cultivation Application System
INCB	: International Narcotics Control Board
INTERPOL	: International Criminal Police Organization
IPA	: Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

DEFBM EUIPO EMKOM OMDMANSB OCTCK KDS

İŞKUR	: Turkish Employment Agency
JAKEM	: Gendarmerie Dog Training Centre
JGK	: Gendarmerie General Command
KEM	: CND Dog Training Centre
KTK	: Highway Traffic Law
MASAK	: Financial Crimes Investigation Board
MDMA	: Methylenedioxyamphetamine
MEB	: Ministry of National Education
NEA	: CND Counter-Narcotics Training Academy
NPS	: New Psychoactive Substances
OSCE	: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RTÜK	: Radio and Television Supreme Council
SAMBA	: Tobacco Alcohol and Drugs Addiction (Awareness) (Programme)
SED	: Social and Economic Support
SELEC	: South Eastern Europe law Enforcement Centre
SHM	: Social Services Centre
TAIEX	: EU Technical Assistance and Information Exchange
TBM	: Turkish Educational Programme on the Fight against Addiction
TCK	: Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237)
THC	: Tetrahydrocannabinol
TİTCK	: Turkish Medicines and Medical Device Agency
TMO	: General Directorate of the Turkish Grain Board
TNP	: Turkish National Police (General Directorate of Security)
TRT	: Turkish Radio and Television Corporation
TUBİM	: CND- Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
UKDS	: Drug Decision Support System
UMEP	: Action Plan for the Fight against Drugs
UN	: United Nations
UNODC	: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
US/USA	: United States/United States of America
UYUMA	: Fight against Drugs Application
WHO	: World Health Organization
YEDAM	: Green Crescent Counselling Centre

CHAPTER

POLICY, **COORDINATION AND
THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK**
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

1.1. NATIONAL DRUGS POLICY AND STRATEGY

Current Situation

On July 9th 2018, the **Presidential System of Government** was introduced in Türkiye. Along with this development, a series of changes were made in the country's organizational structures. New legislative arrangements were therefore put in place to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of the fight against drugs.

Under the **Presidential Circular No. 2019/2**¹, it was decided that the High Council for the Fight against Addiction should convene under the chair of the **Deputy President**.

The **High Council for the Fight against Addiction**² was reconstituted with the participation of the Ministers of Justice; Family, Labour and Social Services; Environment and Urbanization; Youth and Sports; Treasury and Finance; Interior; National Education; Health; Agriculture and Forestry; Trade, and Transport and Infrastructure; and of the Deputy President of the Presidential Health and Food Policies Board.

Provision was made for the High Council to be chaired by the Minister of Health if the Deputy President is unable to take part. The circular also authorized the High Council to establish a Council for the Fight against Addiction chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health, and coordination councils in the provinces chaired by the provincial governor, as well as working groups if necessary.

At the meeting of the High Council held on 3rd July 2019, the working principles and procedures of the Council for the Fight against Addiction were approved and entered into force. In this way, ar-

rangements have been made for the working principles and procedures of the High Council for the Fight against Addiction (BMYK), the Council for the Fight against Addiction (BMK), the Technical Council for the Fight against Addiction (BMTK) and the Provincial/District Coordination Councils for the Fight against Addiction. The provinces and the institutions concerned were informed of the new principles and procedures on August 9th 2019.

In 2022, with respect to the fight against drugs, the BMYK met once, the BMK met twice (at the level of deputy ministers, under the chair of the deputy minister of Health) and the BMTK met three times (at the level of heads of department under the chair of the Director General of Public Health).

A National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Fight against Drugs Monitoring Platform has been developed in order to enable all the stakeholders to enter data in an electronic environment, and to permit the reporting of the data, so as to ensure that the activities conducted as part of the fight against drugs are monitored. Data entries for 2022 have been completed by the central and local organizations of all the stakeholder institutions.

At the BMYK meeting of February 10th 2022, it was decided to hold provincial/district workshops with the theme of "If It Had Been Me". At these workshops, the work carried out on tobacco, alcohol and behavioural addictions was evaluated and planning was conducted to address the needs identified (Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Public Health, 2023).

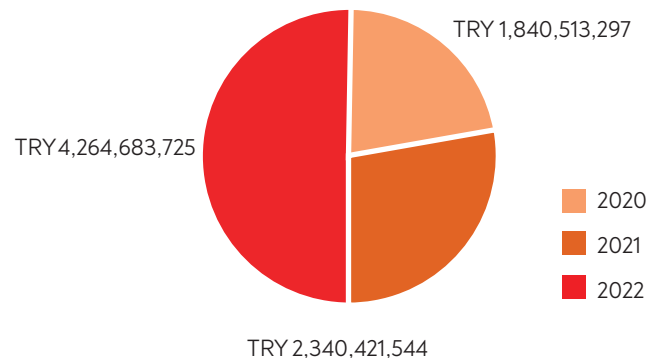
1 Annex-1: Presidential Circular No. 2019/2

2 Under a presidential decree published in the Official Gazette No. 31461 of April 21st 2021, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services was reorganized as the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Under a presidential decree published in the Official Gazette No. 31463 of October 29th 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization became the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change.

1.2. PUBLIC EXPENDITURES RELATED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

Expenditures on the fight against drugs in Türkiye are made from the general budgets of the relevant institutions. Data on expenditure are collected annually by the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (TUBİM) through official correspondence with institutions with responsibilities for combating drugs, with the previous year as the reference year. The public expenditure presented below reflects the approximate expenditure data obtained from these institutions.

As shown in Graph 1.1, the public expenditures for 2022 amounted to TRY 4,264,683,725, representing an increase of approximately 82.2% over 2021.



Graph 1.1 Breakdown of Public Expenditures on the Fight against Drugs by Year.

1.3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Türkiye is a party to the relevant international conventions in force in the area of the fight against drugs, including those considered to be the basic pillars of the global drug control system, which are headed by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

Besides fulfilling its responsibilities stemming from these conventions vigorously, Türkiye supports projects and activities conducted under the umbrellas of the UN and other international organizations both as a donor and as a participant.

In accordance with the global drugs control system, Türkiye has made various legal arrangements for the fight against drugs. Although these arrangements are contained in the provisions of many different laws, the main pieces of legislation in this field can be categorized under three main headings:

- The Turkish Penal Code (TCK) No. 5237 of September 26th 2004
 - ✓ **TCK Article 188** on the production and trade of narcotic and stimulant substances,
 - ✓ **TCK Article 190** on facilitating the use of narcotic and stimulant substances,
 - ✓ **TCK Article 191** on the purchase, receipt or possession of narcotic or stimulant substances with intent to use them and the use of narcotic or stimulant substances;
- The Law on Drugs No. **3298** of June 3rd 1986, and
- The Law on the Control of Narcotic Substances No. **2313** of June 12th 1933.



Besides fulfilling its responsibilities stemming from international conventions vigorously, Türkiye supports projects and activities conducted under the umbrellas of the UN and other international organizations both as a donor and as a participant.



The Turkish Penal Code imposes penal sanctions for producing, trading in or obtaining narcotic and stimulant substances, for purchasing, receiving or possessing them with intent to use them, and for acts such as facilitating or encouraging their use by others.

Among these sanctions, in addition to fines of varying amount, prison sentences of between 20 and 30 years are imposed for the crimes of producing, importing and exporting drugs, sentences of between 10 and 20 years for the crime of trading in drugs, sentences of between 5 and 10 years for the crimes of facilitating or encouraging the use of drugs, and sentences of between 2 and 5 years for the crimes of using drugs and possessing them with intent to use them.

In connection with the acts of using narcotic or stimulant substances or possessing them with intent to use them, Article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code introduces into the legislation the options, as an alternative to punishment, of the case against the person concerned being postponed, and of a treatment and/or probation order being issued for the duration of the postponement. Should the individual in question infringe the obligations imposed on him or her during the period of the postponement, or use drugs again, then a public prosecution may be opened with a demand for a prison sentence of between 2 and 5 years.

In addition, Article 192 of the Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237) contains provisions for active repentance in the case of drugs crimes.

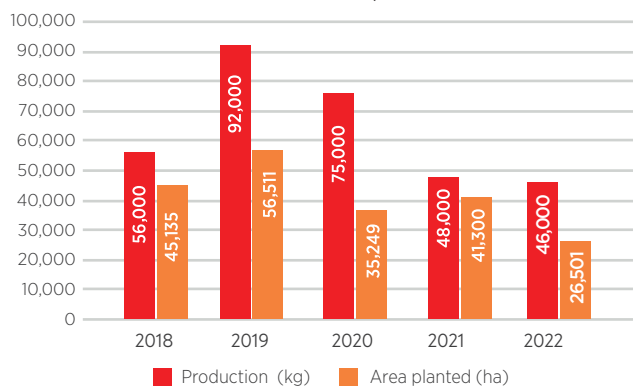
Under the Law on Drugs (Law No. 3298) and the Regulation on the Cultivation, Control, Harvesting, Utilization, Disposal, Purchase, Sale, Export and Import of the Opium Poppy:

The opium poppy is cultivated for medical purposes in Türkiye, India, Australia, France, Spain and Hungary, as the world's main legal producers, under the supervision of the United Nations. Türkiye is acknowledged to be one of the world's traditional opium poppy producers and a supplier of poppy-based alkaloids. The parts of Türkiye where the opium poppy may be cultivated are determined by Presidential Decree. The cultivation of the opium poppy for any purpose whatsoever in any region other than those designated by Presidential Decree is forbidden. The opium cultivated is controlled in accordance with the Law on Drugs (Law No. 3298) and with the Regulation on the Cultivation, Control, Harvesting, Utilization, Disposal, Purchase, Sale, Export and Import of the Opium Poppy which was promulgated on the basis of this law. It is subject to inspection by the Turkish Grain Board (TMO) and the law enforcement agencies.

Pursuant to Council of Ministers Decree (Presidential Decree, in the current circumstances) No. 2015/7725 on the Trade and Purchase of Opium Poppy Capsules and Seeds, which was published in the Official Gazette No. 29392 of June 20th 2015, and which remains in force today, permission has been granted since 2015, subject to the issue of a license, for the cultivation of the opium poppy and the production of unscratched opium poppy capsules in any part of the provinces of Afyonkarahisar, Amasya, Burdur, Çorum, Denizli, Isparta, Kütahya, Tokat and Uşak, in the districts of Balya, Bigadiç, Dursunbey, İvrindi, Kepsut, Savaştepe and Sındırgı in the province of Balıkesir, in the districts of Alpu, Beylikova, Çifteler, Günyüzü, Han, Mahmudiye, Mihalicçık, Seyitgazi and Sivrihisar in the province of Eskişehir, in the districts of Ahırlı, Akören, Akşehir, Beyşehir, Derbent, Doğanhisar, Hüyük, Ilgın, Kadınhanı, Seydişehir, Tuzlukçu, Yalınhüyük and Yunak in the province of Konya, and in the districts of Şehzadeler, Yunusemre, Demirci, Gördes, Köprübaşı, Kula, Sarıgöl and Selendi in the province of Manisa.

The opium poppy capsules produced in the legal growing areas are purchased from the producers through the local offices of the TMO and transported to the Afyonkarahisar Alkaloids Factory for

processing. The morphine and derivatives produced in the Afyonkarahisar Alkaloids Factory are used to meet the needs of pharmaceuticals plants in Türkiye and abroad for raw-material alkaloids (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of the Turkish Grain Board, 2023).



Graph 1.2 Amounts of Opiate Raw Materials Produced in Türkiye (in Morphine Equivalents) and Areas of Land Planted with Opium Poppies (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of the Turkish Grain Board, 2023).

Poppy Cultivation Application System (HÜBAS)

HÜBAS was added to the Regulation on the Cultivation, Control, Harvesting, Utilization, Disposal, Purchase, Sale, Export and Import of the Opium Poppy through an amendment published in the Official Gazette No. 30827 of July 10th 2019.

Before 2019, farmers wishing to cultivate the opium poppy would fill in a petition form distributed to the local mukhtars by the TMO and submit this form to the mukhtar. The mukhtar would then approve these applications by signing them by hand and deliver them to the TMO. Those applications that were approved would be converted to licenses and entered in the computers manually.

Under the amendments made in the current opium poppy regulation, it is now compulsory for farmers wishing to engage in opium poppy cultivation to apply online via the HÜBAS system developed by the TMO, and the practice of distributing petition forms has been discontinued.

Due to HÜBAS:

- Farmers are able to apply for a license to cultivate the opium poppy using their computers or mobile phones, and do not have to bother with paper documents.

- The mukhtars are able to approve the farmers' applications without having to bother with paper documents.
- The applications can be approved by the TMO offices on the system.
- Reports can be produced on the system about the applications for which all the required approvals have been obtained, and which have been converted to licenses, and very detailed statistical information can be obtained.

HÜBAS is integrated into the systems of the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change General Directorate of Land Registration and Cadastre and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Agricultural Reform.

While HÜBAS is essentially a software application developed for the purposes of the activities of the TMO with respect to the opium poppy, use is also made of it during the measurements and controls carried out in conjunction with law enforcement in May and June each year.

The Use of Satellites in the Control and Measurement of Opium Poppy Cultivation

In 2018, talks began with Türksat Satellite Communications Cable TV and Operations Inc. (TÜRKSAT) on the possibility of carrying out the measurement and control of areas planted with the opium poppy, and estimating the yield, in a shorter time and with fewer personnel by means of satellite images. In this context, pilot work was conducted in limited areas using foreign satellite images in 2019 and images from Türkiye's local and national satellite GÖKTÜRK-1 in 2020. As a result of these pilot activities, it was found that the measurement and control of areas planted with the opium poppy could be conducted, and yields estimated, successfully by means of instantaneous satellite images.

In 2022, an agreement was signed by the Ministry of National Defence and TÜRKSAT with a view to commercialising the satellite image capacity of GÖKTÜRK-1 that is not in military use, and accordingly the rights to commercial operation of the GÖKTÜRK-1 satellite were granted to TÜRKSAT.

From now on, the work to be done in the areas of opium poppy cultivation will be conducted technologically in integration with HÜBAS using fewer personnel.

To this end, the TMO and TÜRSAT signed an agreement on the “Project for Monitoring of Opium Poppy Production Areas through Satellite Images and Controlling Compliance with Planting Declarations over the WEB” on December 7th 2022. All the related activities are to be completed in 2023 (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of the Turkish Grain Board, 2023).

Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances

According to Article 3 of Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances, “The cultivation of hemp exclusively for the purpose of making cannabis and the preparation, import, export and sale of cannabis by any means whatsoever is forbidden”.

The planting and cultivation of hemp is subject to permission. Permission is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the basis of the Regulation on the Cultivation of Hemp and the Control Thereof.

Legislative Arrangements

The Regulation on the Cultivation of Hemp and the Control Thereof was published in the Official Gazette on October 21st 1990 with the aim of preventing the production of narcotic substances based on hemp in Türkiye.

Since the regulation was published, important changes have come about in agricultural technology and in the legislation. The provisions of the regulation were revised in 1999. Subsequently, following an evaluation of the requests made and the problems reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, consultations were held with the institutions concerned and the regulation was amended again with a view to eliminating the deficiencies that had come to light, incorporating points referred to in recent laws, strengthening the fight against the illegal cultivation of hemp and developing documents to assist in the aforementioned tasks and procedures.

The revised “Regulation on the Cultivation of Hemp and the Control Thereof” was published in the Official Gazette No. 29842 of 29th September 2016.

The revised regulation does not contain any provision that permits the growing of the plant except for the purpose of obtaining fibre, stalks and seeds. The only additional arrangement relates to scientific research.

Principles and procedures are set out for the determination of the regions where hemp is to be grown, the licensing of its cultivation, the conduct of the necessary controls, and the actions to be taken in cases of unlicensed cultivation.

Under Article 5 of the Regulation, hemp can be cultivated, subject to permission, in all districts of the following 20 provinces:

Amasya, Antalya, Bartın, Burdur, Çorum, İzmir, Karabük, Kastamonu, Kayseri, Kütahya, Malatya, Ordu, Rize, Samsun, Sinop, Sivas, Tokat, Uşak, Yozgat and Zonguldak.

Farmers wishing to cultivate hemp for its fibre, seeds and stalks or for similar purposes must apply to the highest administrative office in the place where they wish to cultivate the plant between January 1st and April 1st.

Hemp plants grown without permission for any purpose whatsoever are destroyed in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances and the case is referred to the judicial authorities. In addition, in order to prevent cannabis being produced from legally grown plants after the harvest, the left-over parts of the hemp plant such as branches, leaves and flowers have to be destroyed immediately.

Table 1.1 Breakdown of Hemp Cultivated for Fibre and Seeds in the Years 2019-2022 (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Plant Production, 2023).

Year	Product	Area Planted (Da)	Production (Tons)
2019	Hemp (Fibre)	160	19
	Hemp (Seeds)	536	20
2020	Hemp (Fibre)	96	9
	Hemp (Seeds)	4,241	273
2021	Hemp (Fibre)	729	21
	Hemp (Seeds)	1,079	20
2022	Hemp (Seeds)	1,136	38
	Hemp (Seeds)	1,141	146

1.4. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1.4.1. International Cannabis Policies and Türkiye

As already mentioned, the international control of narcotic substances is governed by the UN Single Convention of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. These conventions classify the substances into various schedules (lists) depending on their medical use, their abuse, their potential to cause addiction and other similar criteria.

The substances that are controlled under the UN conventions are subject to control regimes that envisage different legal arrangements and obligations depending on the lists in which they are included. These obligations are the minimum requirements which all countries that are party to the agreements must implement in their own national legislation. The parties to the conventions are also free to implement tighter control measures.

Although cannabis is subject to international control in accordance with the relevant lists of the UN Single Convention of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, it has become the most widely debated drug in the world in recent years.

Claims that hemp is a miracle plant with medical and scientific uses have led to ongoing demands for the current status of the plant and the substances produced from it under the UN conventions to be altered. In the wake of these demands, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) called on the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) to examine and evaluate the debates on the topic and the assertions being made on the basis of scientific evidence. Subsequently, on January 24th 2019, the WHO submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations containing six recommendations concerning cannabis and cannabis-related substances that had been finalized by the ECDD as a result of research and evaluation work lasting for 18 months.

The recommendations were as follows:

1. That cannabis and cannabis resin, which were included in Schedule I and Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention, should be deleted from Schedule IV,
2. That Dronabinol (delta-9-THC), which was included on Schedule II of the 1971 Convention, should be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention and deleted altogether from the 1971 Convention,
3. That THC isomers, which were included in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention, should be added to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention and deleted altogether from the 1971 Convention,
4. That extracts and tinctures of cannabis, which were included in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, should be deleted from the UN conventions,
5. That an explanation on cannabidiol preparations should be provided in a footnote to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, and
6. That preparations of Dronabinol (Delta-9-THC) should be included in Schedule 3 of the 1961 Convention.

As a result of further discussions under the aegis of the CND on the six recommendations concerning cannabis and cannabis-related substances, and of meetings of the group of experts in which Türkiye participated actively, only the recommendation that cannabis and cannabis resin should be deleted from Schedule 4 of the 1961 Convention was approved when a vote was held with the participation of 53 CND member states took place on December 2nd 2020; the other five recommendations were rejected. Türkiye voted for the rejection of all the recommendations.

The results of the voting took effect on January 22nd 2021 after all the member states were informed of them by the Secretariat of the CND. Accordingly,

“cannabis and cannabis resin” were removed from Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention and remained subject only to Schedule I of the same convention.

The vote does not mean that the international drug control regime has been altered in such a way as to **liberalize cannabis or, in other words, to exclude cannabis from the category of narcotic substances**. All that has changed is that it has become relatively easier to conduct **medicinal and scientific research** on cannabis and its resin.

Along with the judicial, administrative, sociological, economic and other arguments that were set out jointly by all its national institutions, the negative stance adopted by Türkiye on the said six recommendations during the process described above was affected, quite independently of the voting procedure on cannabis, by the implementation by some countries of cannabis policies the conformity of which to the UN conventions is highly open to question, and by the mistaken social perceptions which these policies have generated on a global scale.

The first thing that comes to mind upon any mention of cannabis is that it should not be forgotten that it is still the most widely abused narcotic substance around the world, and the one that is most commonly seized, that it has a high potential for addiction, and that it is an important step in the transition to other drugs (stronger drugs).

At the same time, new threats have been created by the various cannabis products and semi-synthetic cannabinoids derived from cannabis which have come into being as a result of the erroneous cannabis policies which some countries have implemented. In the light of these considerations, institutional and social awareness must be the top priority when taking steps for the cultivation of hemp for medical purposes and devising control regimes.

The counter-narcotics policies and practices adopted by different countries have direct and indirect effects on one another. The fight against drugs needs to be conducted in global harmony.

1.4.2. The IPA II EU Project on Strengthening the Capacity of Turkish Forensic Laboratories in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking

The EU twinning project entitled “Strengthening the Capacity of Turkish Forensic Laboratories in Combating Illegal Drug Trafficking”, which commenced on September 3rd 2018 and was conducted together with the United Kingdom, with the Criminal Department of the Turkish National Police as beneficiary and the Criminal Department of the Gendarmerie General Command as co-beneficiary, was completed on December 3rd 2020.

In this connection, the Regulation amending the Regulation on the Implementation of Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances, which was drafted in order to serve as a basis for profiling activities, went into effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette No. 31267 of October 7th 2020. In line with this regulatory amendment, a protocol drawn up to determine the tasks and procedures for the conduct of profiling activities within the current *modus operandi* of the two institutions was signed on March 9th 2021.

The procurement of the 21 analysis instruments which it was planned to purchase under the project has been completed. Eleven of these have been installed in the Ankara Regional Criminal Police Laboratory and ten in the Gendarmerie Narcotics Laboratory.

Using data obtained by profiling drugs (heroin, cocaine and amphetamine derivatives) to establish connections between different events is expected to increase the effectiveness of the fight against organized crime. The Criminal Department of the TNP began work on determining the impurity profiles of amphetamine derivative drugs on July 9th 2021. The profiling procedure has been applied to 329 samples and from among these 16 connection reports have been made to the units concerned.

1.4.3. Drug Decision Support System (UKDS)

Drugs for 2016-2018 which took effect upon the publication of the Prime Ministerial Circular No. 2014/19, a task was assigned to the TUBİM of the TNP Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) concerning the gathering of national data in real time. In order to fulfil this duty, an EU project was developed entitled Strengthening the Data Collection Capacity of TUBİM. Funded through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), the project consisted of twinning and supply components, which were to be managed independently of one another.

The aim of implementing the said project was to gather information and data on the activities con-

ducted by national institutions and organizations in the fight against drugs as rapidly as possible, and hence to develop policies and strategies rapidly and effectively.

The twinning component of the project was launched with Romania on August 8th 2018 and completed on February 14th 2021.

The supply component of the project encompassed both hardware and software elements.

The procurement of the equipment required for the full establishment of the UKDS has been completed and tests have been carried out successfully.

The flow of data from public institutions and organizations commenced with the completion of the final acceptance process for the project on April 12th 2022.

CIRCULAR

From The Presidency

Re: The Fight against Addiction

CIRCULAR

2019/2

In order to pursue with determination the fight against addictions to substances such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and against behavioural addictions such as technology and gambling, and to ensure coordination among the ministries and public institutions and organizations, the High Council for the Fight against Addiction (High Council) has been re-established under the chair of the Deputy President and with the participation of the ministers of Justice; Family, Labour and Social Services; Environment and Infrastructure; Youth and Sports; Treasury and Finance; Interior; National Education; Health; Agriculture and Forestry; Trade, and Transport and Infrastructure; and of the deputy president of the Presidential Health and Food Policies Board. If the Deputy President is unable to take part, the High Council shall be chaired by the Minister of Health.

A council chaired by the deputy minister of Health and provincial coordination councils chaired by the governor may be established by the High Council upon the proposal of the Ministry of Health to conduct duties within the framework of the strategies and action plans produced by the High Council. Working groups may also be set up by the High Council as needed.

The Ministry of Health shall serve as the secretariat of the High Council, council and working groups and follow up on the decisions taken.

The Ministry of Health shall prepare progress reports at six-monthly intervals and submit them to the High Council for its evaluation. The evaluations made, the activities conducted and the results obtained shall be shared with the public by the Chair of the High Council as an annual activity report.

All kinds of support, assistance and facilitation that may be needed by the councils in their activities conducted in the field of the fight against drugs shall be provided by the public institutions and organizations concerned, and duties and responsibilities undertaken in the implementation of the decisions taken shall be performed meticulously.

Circular no.2017/23 has been repealed.

Please be informed and act accordingly.

13 February 2019

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
PRESIDENT

CHAPTER

2

FIGHTING DRUGS:
THE SUPPLY DIMENSION

2.1. GENERAL TRAFFICKING TRENDS

Crimes related to the trade in illegal drugs have persisted, becoming an increasingly severe problem around the world. They have also continued to increase in Türkiye. The development by criminal organizations of new methods for trafficking and transport, the growing share of synthetics in the illegal drugs market, the use of new methods and chemicals in production and the failure of laws to respond sufficiently to the reality on the ground are all making it more difficult to combat drugs crimes and obliging the units combating them to devise new methods.

Türkiye is located on still frequently used drug trafficking routes. Moreover, historically important routes for legal trade between different regions pass through Türkiye's territory and cross its maritime and air borders, and criminal organizations typically prefer legal trade routes for their illegal transport activities. For these reasons, new trends in drug trafficking and smuggling appear regularly in Türkiye from year to year.

In addition to these realities and developments, the rapid development of communications and transport is leading to changes in the activities and methods used by criminal drug organizations. The increasing share of illegal drug trafficking in cross-border crimes has led those groups and organizations that commit these crimes to cooperate increasingly with similar entities in other countries and regions and even with terrorist organizations. This cooperation enables drug smuggling rings to procure drugs directly from the production regions and introduce these products directly into the consumer regions.

Reports and other documents published by international organizations active in combating drugs, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) provide a comprehensive review of

the problems and threats caused by the drugs problem at the global and regional levels.

According to the data and reports of both international and regional organizations linked to the fight against drugs, North America, East and Southeast Asia, the Near and Middle East and Central and Western Europe continue to be the most commonly reported production regions and sources of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), South America of cocaine and West and Southwest Asia for opioids.

It is well known that regional conflicts and instability furnish suitable conditions and circumstances for crimes related to illegal narcotics, as well as for other types of crime. For example, the conflict in Syria that has been ongoing since 2011 has resulted in this country becoming numbered among the most significant global producers and source countries for amphetamine-type stimulants, especially Captagon. The continued instability has resulted in the production of illegal drugs to bordering countries. It is thought that a similar situation may arise due to the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine that began in February 2022. It is quite possible that the war, which is still ongoing, may lead to changes to the trafficking of illegal drugs along the Black Sea route, which is one of the branches of the Balkan route and includes the maritime borders of Ukraine. The military movements in the region due to the war are considered likely to prompt smugglers to seek out alternative routes.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), which are not covered by the UN Conventions of 1961 and 1971, but which are an increasing cause of public health issues, are exhibiting increasing diversity. New varieties of these substances are being identified on the illegal drugs markets every year and new controls are being put into place by individual countries and the relevant

international organizations. Although most of them are not covered by the said Conventions, the abuse of NPSs causes serious health problems similar to those caused by the abuse of drugs that are subject to international control. NPSs which are plant-based or produced entirely synthetically are frequently encountered substances both on the drugs market in Türkiye and on international drugs markets. As in previous years, synthetic cannabinoids continue to be the most frequently encountered NPSs in Türkiye.

The global limitations imposed on travel and other activities during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021 brought about changes in drugs smuggling, just as they did in many other aspects of life. With the lifting of restrictions following the pandemic, drugs smuggling is observed to have reassumed its previous dimensions, but with new smuggling methods in place.

2.1.1. Heroin Trafficking Trends

Heroin is a semi-synthetic opioid obtained from opium, which is produced naturally by the opium poppy.

Afghanistan remains the source of the majority of the heroin supplied to the global drugs market. It is estimated that 80% of the global demand for opioids is met by Afghanistan (UNODC, 2022 Afghanistan Opium Survey). Despite the take over of the country's administration by the Taleban in August 2021 and the ban declared by the Taleban on the cultivation and production of all forms of illegal drugs in April 2022, Afghanistan continues to be the most frequently reported source of the heroin seized around the world. Myanmar and Mexico are the other most prominent suppliers of heroin at the global level after Afghanistan.

Among the 50 countries around the world where opium production was reported between 2015 and 2019, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Mexico together account for an estimated 97% of world production (UNODC, 2021, p. 87).

In addition to the supply of heroin at the global level, Afghanistan also accounts for the greatest proportion of illegal poppy cultivation and opium production. In 2022, the poppy cultivation area

increased by 32% over the previous year, the area under cultivation reached 233,000 hectares and production amounted to 6,200 tons (UNODC, 2022 Afghanistan Opium Survey).

Apart from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Laos in South East Asia and Mexico and Guatemala in Central America feature highly among the world's poppy cultivating and opium producing countries. Following the military coup in Myanmar, the area under poppy cultivation rose from 29,000 hectares in 2021 to 40,100 hectares in 2022, with an increase of 33% (UNODC Myanmar Opium Survey, p.1). Myanmar (with 6% of global opium production) and Laos (with 1% of global opium production) are the suppliers of opium to the South East Asia Region, East and South East Asia and Oceania.

Opium produced in Latin America, mainly Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala, is the source of heroin procured in the USA and to a lesser extent on the South American market (UNODC, 2022, p.75).

2020 was the record year for global heroin and morphine seizures (with an increase of 46% over the previous year). The amount seized in the South West Asia region increased by 60% over the previous year. There were also increases in the amounts of heroin seized in the South Asia and Oceania regions, while there were falls in the Europe, Continental America and Africa regions (UNODC, 2022. p.86-87).

Recently, changes have been observed in the geographical locations of illegal drug production, especially in the case of synthetics. In early 2021, a ton of opium was seized in the port of Vancouver, Canada and 2.5 tons of heroin were seized in one raid towards the end of 2022 at the same port. The amount of opium seized in Canada, which is known as a country of high fentanyl consumption and smuggling, tripled between 2018 and 2021 from 576 kg to 1.7 tons. Given that three heroin labs were discovered in Canada in 2016, it is thought that heroin production is becoming widespread in North America, especially in Canada. Although we have filed a request for information through the INCB on the source country of the opium seized, the route through which it travelled and the reason why it was brought to Canada, we have not received any official or unofficial response so far.

Another example of heroin production spreading outside its traditional regions of production is Europe. The heroin produced in the labs discovered in European countries is destined for both European countries and other countries (UNODC Afghan Opioid Trade Project; Report on Heroin Production in Europe in the 2013-2020 Period, 2022). Three heroin production facilities were identified in the Netherlands in 2021 (EMCDDA European Drug Report, 2023, p.10). In addition to raids on the production facilities that were identified, 5,730 litres of acetic anhydride, the basic precursor in heroin production, was seized in four raids carried out by Belgian, Latvian and Dutch authorities. The main reason why heroin has started to be produced in Europe is thought to be that traffickers can access the heroin precursor acetic anhydride more easily and cheaply here because a significant amount of this chemical is produced in Eastern and Western European countries. The main point that arises here for countries to the west of Türkiye is the increased risk that opium latex and base morphine will begin to be smuggled to Europe.

National and international seizures suggest that heroin smuggling generally takes place by road transport with the contraband being hidden among legal goods.

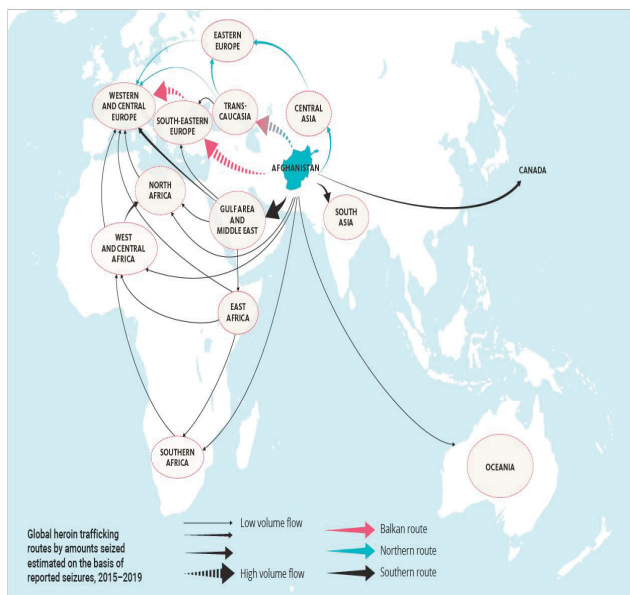


Image 2.1 Trafficking Routes for heroin originating from Afghanistan (UNODC)

The Balkan Route, the Southern Route and the Northern Route are still actively used in smuggling Afghanistan-sourced opioids, primarily heroin, to neighbouring countries and other parts of the world.

However, among the said routes – and particularly in the case of the Balkan Route – more and more variants and branches of the said routes (the Caucasian Route, the Northern Black Sea Route, the Eastern Mediterranean Route, the Northern Iraq-Syria Route etc.) are observed to be coming into intensive use for drug smuggling.

The Balkan Route: Starting from Afghanistan and reaching Central and Western Europe through Iran, Türkiye and the Balkan countries, the Balkan Route has been the most frequently used route for trafficking opiates, including heroin, to Europe for decades.

In 2019, 50% of the heroin and morphine seized globally outside Afghanistan was seized by countries located along the Balkan Route (UNODC, 2021, p.95).

Between 2015 and 2019, more than 70% of the heroin seized in Western and Central Europe entered through the Balkan Route while 18% entered through the Southern Route, 7% through the Northern Route and 3% from Southeast Asia (UNODC, 2021, p.95).

Türkiye occupies a vital position on the Balkan Route, due to its substantial, record-setting heroin seizures. The 2019 EU Drug Markets Report states that as the Balkan Route is still the key corridor through which heroin enters the EU, Türkiye is of central importance in preventing the entry of heroin into EU markets (EMCDDA & EUROPOL, 2019, p. 16).

In the EU region, which is the most important market for heroin from Afghanistan, seizures more than doubled in 2021 by comparison with the previous year, reaching 9.5 tons (2023 European Drug Report). The same year was a record year for heroin seizures in Türkiye, at 22.2 tons. In Iran, which is also one of the world’s leading countries for heroin seizures, 25.5 tons were seized in 2021.

Due to its location on the Balkan Route, which is still the most heavily used route for the trafficking of opiates originating in Afghanistan, Türkiye has historically been one of the leading countries for heroin seizures at the global level. In 2022, however, there was a sharp decline in the amount of heroin seized in Türkiye (64% less than the previous year). In Iran, which like Türkiye is another leading country for heroin seizures at the global level, there was a similar fall in heroin seizures in 2022 (32% over the previous year). Although it is not possible to pinpoint the underlying cause of this decrease in the amounts seized, it is thought that it may have been a consequence of the coming to power of the Taliban in August 2021, of the proscription by the Taliban of the cultivation and production of all drugs, including the cultivation of poppies, in April 2022, and of the general state of uncertainty in the country.

Another possible reason for the decline in heroin seizures in Türkiye and Iran could be related to effective law enforcement activities and the large amounts seized in previous years. It may be said that illegal activity along the Balkan Route may have shifted to maritime routes. In support of this point, the UNODC publication “Analysis of Opiate Stamps Seized in the Indian Ocean, 2017-2021” states “Seizures of opiates – and methamphetamine – have been increasing in the Indian Ocean”, which constitutes an important part of the Southern Route. It will only be possible to reach a clearer interpretation of the shifts in routes after observing the heroin situation around the world and in Europe in the next few years.

In 2022 the cultivation area under poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased by 32% over the previous year (UNODC, Opium Cultivation in Afghanistan, November 2022) and reached 233,000 hectares. Given recent developments in Afghanistan, it is considered that criminal organizations might be stocking up and that the increase in the harvest due to the growth of the area under cultivation may lead to increases in

the amounts of heroin seized along the Balkan Route in the years ahead.

Another important point is that with the provision of heroin falling due to developments in Afghanistan, criminal groups might turn to smuggling fentanyl, which is a type of synthetic opioid. Mexican criminal groups are currently known to be producing illegal fentanyl aimed at the USA market (EUROPOL EMCDDA EU Drug Markets Report - Methamphetamine Module, 2023, p.7).

In addition to heroin trafficking, it has been observed that the part of the Balkan Route that passes through Afghanistan, Iran and Türkiye is starting to be used more frequently for the trafficking of methamphetamine.

The Southern Route: Another significant route used for smuggling opioids sources from Afghanistan is the Southern Route. The Southern Route begins in Afghanistan, with the transport of illegal drugs to Pakistan (and to some extent to Iran) for transport to Gulf countries, from where they are moved onwards to Europe through South or West Africa. Compared to the Balkan Route and the Northern Route, the Southern Route is the one with the most maritime trafficking.



Image 2.2 Heroin Trafficking Routes along the Southern Route (UNODC)

It is thought that the significant contributions made to international operational cooperation by

Türkiye and increased law enforcement measures and effective controls along the borders of Türkiye have forced drugs traffickers to search for alternative routes, with most turning to the Southern Route.

The share of global heroin and morphine seizures by countries along the Southern Route (excluding Pakistan) has risen from 3% in 2015 to 5% in 2020. It is thought that the cause of the increase in opioid seizures along the Southern Route may be the increasing transport of opioids from South-West Asia to South Asia (UNODC, “Analysis of Opiate Stamps Seized in the Indian Ocean, 2017-2021”). Recently, there has been an increase in the amounts of opioids and methamphetamine seized in the Indian Ocean, which forms a significant part of the Southern Route, due to the seizures carried out by international naval forces (UNODC, “Analysis of Opiate Stamps Seized in the Indian Ocean, 2017-2021”, p.9).

The increase in heroin seizures in European ports and on maritime routes along the Southern Route would appear to support the above argument.

The Northern Route: The Northern Route is used in the smuggling of opiates originating in Afghanistan to the Russian Federation, which is the target region, via the Central Asian countries Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. There is also a lesser-used branch of the Northern Route used in smuggling opioids into Russia which runs through the South Caucasus.

Compared to the Balkan and Southern routes, the Northern Route targets only one country (Russia) and therefore the amounts of opioids smuggled is lower. Twenty years ago, the amounts of heroin and morphine seized along the Northern Route amounted to 10 tons per year, accounting for 10% of global seizures. However, this amount fell to 3.9 tons per year in 2011-2015 and to just 1.5 tons per year in 2016-2019 (UNODC, “Illicit Financial Flows from Trafficking of Opiates Along the Northern Route”, p.10).

In the transport of opioids from Afghanistan to illegal drugs markets, the Northern Route runs from the northern borders of Afghanistan through Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan and finally ends in the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

2.1.2. Cannabis and Derivatives Trafficking Trends

Cannabis continues to be the most commonly used drug throughout the world. Unlike other plant-based drugs the production of which is concentrated in a few countries, cannabis is grown in almost every region of the world and is the most frequently cultivated and smuggled illegal narcotic substance. Herbal cannabis, cannabis resin and liquid cannabis are the types of cannabis most commonly encountered on the illegal drugs markets.

While the production and trafficking of herbal cannabis is observed in many regions around the world, the production and trafficking of cannabis resin is considerably more frequently in certain countries and regions.

In the 2016-2020 period, cannabis resin seizures were concentrated in North Africa and Western Europe, which together account for around 60% of production, trafficking and consumption at the global level, and in South West Asia, which accounts for a third of global activity. These regions were followed by the Near and Middle East region (World Drugs Report, Booklet 3, 2022, p.21).

In 2020, the amount of cannabis resin seized around the world increased by 29% to 2,190 tons and the amount of herbal cannabis seized globally increased by 15% to 4,707 tons (World Drug Report, Booklet 3, 2022, p.13).

The greatest volumes of cannabis resin trafficking take place from Morocco to Spain and from Afghanistan to other Western Asian countries. Spain is the main entry point for cannabis resin targeting the Western and Central European markets. Cannabis resin is also smuggled from

Morocco to other North African countries, in addition to Spain (World Drug Report, Booklet 3, 2022, p.21).

Cannabis continues to be the most widely consumed narcotic substances at the global level. In 2020, it was estimated that around 209 million people around the world had used cannabis within the last year (UNODC, 2022, p.18).

The amount of cannabis resin and herbal cannabis seized in the EU region in 2021 was the highest in the last ten years (2023 European Drug Report, p.16).

It is also reported that 815 tons of cannabis resin (up from 588 tons in 2020) were seized in 201,000 operations carried out by EU countries in 2021, while 255 tons of herbal cannabis (up from 157 tons in 2020) were seized in 230,000 operations that took place in the same year, (European Drug Report, 2023).

2.1.3. Cocaine Trafficking Trends

Cocaine, which has a stimulating effect on the central nervous system, is obtained from the leaves of the *Erythroxylon Coca* plant, which grows mostly in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

Bolivia, Colombia and Peru continue to be countries that produce the most cocaine. As well as being the largest producers, these are the countries where the coca plant is cultivated the most. Although coca cultivation and production are essentially regional in nature, new regions of cocaine production and trafficking have emerged with the conspicuous expansion of groups producing and distributing cocaine in recent times (INCB Annual Report 2022, p.55).

The most recent global data on cocaine production and seizures show that cocaine production and trafficking is still concentrated in certain regions. However, the recent increase in cooperation between drug-producing and trafficking groups of Latin American origin and similar groups outside of the continent, together with the frequent use of alternative chemicals in cocaine processing, have

led the production and trafficking of cocaine to spread beyond the traditional regions.

According to UNODC estimates, the total area under illegal coca cultivation expanded from 156,500 hectares in 2015 to 234,200 hectares in 2020. Most cultivation took place in Colombia with 143,000 hectares, followed by Peru with 61,800 hectares and Bolivia with 29,400 hectares. Between 2015 and 2020, the amount of illegal cocaine produced more than doubled from 977 tons to 1,982 tons (INCB Annual Report 2022, p.55).

Worldwide seizures of cocaine have been increasing since 2015, with a record amount of 1,424 tons of cocaine being seized in 2020. Most seizures took place in South America, which accounted for 61% of the total. South America was followed by Central and Western Europe with 15% of seizures, North America with 12% and Central America with 10% (INCB Annual Report 2022, p.56).

The record increase in both worldwide cocaine production and trafficking over the past decade has resulted in significant increases in cocaine seizures in Europe, which is the most significant market for cocaine at the global level. In fact, the greatest increase in drug seizures in Europe between 2011 and 2021 came in the case of cocaine seizures, which increased by 416% (European Drug Report, 2023).

In 2021, a record amount of 303 tons of cocaine (up from 211 tons in 2020) was seized by EU countries. Belgium (96 tons), the Netherlands (72 tons) and Spain (49 tons) continue to be the EU countries that seize the greatest amount of cocaine. These three countries are also the three main entry points for cocaine trafficking targeting Europe. In 2022, 100 tons of cocaine (up from 91 tons in 2021) was seized in the Belgian port of Antwerp, which is the largest seaport in Europe and one of the main points of entry for cocaine trafficking (European Drug Report, 2023).

There was an increase in the number of cocaine and methamphetamine labs identified in 2021 increased by comparison with 2020 (European Drug Report, 2023).

The establishment of separate centres for the production, extraction and packaging of cocaine, and the identification of such centres, shows that cocaine production has taken root in Europe (European Drug Report, 2023).

In 2021, Spain identified 16 cocaine labs, Belgium 11 cocaine processing centres and the Netherlands seven cocaine extraction labs, some of which were large in scale. Moreover, 14 packaging facilities were also identified in the Netherlands. In addition to the facilities identified, the fact that the Netherlands seized 637 kg of potassium permanganate (in two seizures) and Belgium 387 kg of potassium permanganate (also in two seizures) in 2021 corroborates the view that large-scale cocaine production has begun in the Europe region.

In line with these global developments, there has been an increase in cocaine seizures by the Turkish law enforcement authorities in recent years.

2.1.4. MDMA/Ecstasy Trafficking Trends

Ecstasy is a synthetically produced amphetamine-type stimulant.

Europe (the Netherlands and Belgium in particular) continue to be the largest worldwide producers and suppliers of Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). The foremost reasons why MDMA production is concentrated in Europe is because the continent is home to large-scale production centres for the precursor and other chemicals required. This allows illegal drugs producers to access the chemicals they require more cheaply and easily. A comparison of the amounts of MDMA seized in Europe and in other regions outside of Europe, including Türkiye, and an examination of the trafficking routes show that the MDMA produced in Europe generally targets markets outside Europe. Although Türkiye is generally a target country in the trafficking of MDMA produced in Europe, it is also used as a transit region for trafficking activities that target Near and Middle Eastern and Gulf countries.

In the 2016-2020 period, the greatest number of labs was identified in Europe (54% of the worldwide total). Europe was followed by Oceania (23% of the worldwide total), Asia (13%) and continental America (9%) (UNODC, 2022a, p.74).

There was a 123% increase in the amount of MDMA seized in Europe in the 2011-2021 period (European Drug Report, 2023).

In the 2016-2020 period the Netherlands with 36% and Belgium with 11% were reported to be the main exit and source countries in Ecstasy trafficking in the world. Other European countries such as Germany, Spain and France were also the most frequent exit and source countries (UNODC, 2022a, p.78).

In 2020 the amount of Ecstasy seized in the world increased by 23% to 20 tons (UNODC, 2022a, p.45).

In 2021, 12 MDMA labs were uncovered in the Netherlands (up from 21 in 2020), two in Belgium and one in France. Two tableting facilities were also uncovered in Poland and one in Spain. In addition, there was an increase in the seizure of MDMA precursor from 2 tons in 2020 to 2.5 tons in 2021 (European Drug Report, 2023).

In 2021, EU countries carried out 10,000 MDMA seizure operations (down from 13,000 in 2020). In these seizures, a total of 1.5 tons of MDMA and 3.5 million MDMA tablets ((down from 1.6 tons and 4.7 million tablets in 2020) were seized. In the same year, Türkiye seized 7.6 million MDMA tablets (down from 11.1 million in 2020) (European Drug Report, 2023).

2.1.5. Captagon Trafficking Trends

Captagon, which belongs to the phenethylamine synthetic narcotic group that also includes amphetamine, and which containing fenethylamine, was first produced by a pharmaceutical company in Germany in the 1960s for medicinal purposes. Captagon is also the trade name of this medical product.

Fenethylamine was included in Schedule II of the United Nations 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances for the first time in 1986. In this way, the production and use of the medicine Captagon was prohibited (EMCDDA, 2018, p.4).

In recent years, tablets branded Captagon but which make use of low levels of amphetamine instead of fenethylamine as their main active substance have come to be encountered frequently on the global drugs market.

From a global perspective, Captagon trafficking and production is generally seen to be concentrated in Near and Middle Eastern countries such as Syria and Lebanon, and to a lesser extent in Jordan.

Seizures in the region in 2021 and 2022 show that trafficking routes were diversified in order to reduce the risks. While Lebanon and Syria continued to be the main source countries, there was an increase in seizures carried out by Jordan and Iraq on their borders with Syria (INCB Annual Report, 2022, p.108).

In 2020, the country that seized the most Captagon in the world was Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia was followed by the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Lebanon (UNODC, 2022a, p.71).

Syria seized 50 million Captagon tablets in 2020 and 2021 while in the first half of 2022 it seized 145 million Captagon tablets, which was record in the country's history (INCB Annual Report, 2022, p.108).

In some earlier Captagon seizures, it was thought that Europe was being used as a transit region for the trafficking of Captagon produced in Lebanon and Syria to the Near and Middle East (usually Saudi Arabia) and North Africa (usually Libya). A case in support of this assessment is the seizure of 84 million Captagon tablets by Italian authorities at the port of Salerno aboard a ship sailing from Syria to Sweden in July 2020.

Similarly, in March 2021, ten million Captagon tablets were seized in Austria in an operation during which suspects of Belgian, German, Austrian, Hungarian, Lebanese, Syrian and Turkish nationality were detained. According to media reports the Captagon was of Syrian origin and was brought by sea to Belgium, from where it was transported overland to Austria with plans to send it onwards to Saudi Arabia. The criminal organization which ran drug storages in various towns in Germany and Austria is thought to have transferred between 25 tons and 30 tons of Captagon tablets from Austria to Saudi Arabia by air between 2016 and 2021 (UNODC, 2021b, p.73).

Although traditionally the production of Captagon is known to have been concentrated in the Middle East, a shift in production has been observed in recent years, especially towards Europe.

Recent large seizures in Europe indicate that in addition to small scale production in Europe, large-scale production facilities have been established (UNODC, 2022a, p.71).

As in 2021, traffickers have continued to search for new routes in order to smuggle Captagon into the European market. Two seizures in Rhodes, Greece in January and February 2022 in which hundreds of thousands of Captagon tablets were seized indicate that the trend has continued into 2022 (INCB Annual Report, 2022, p.108).

In addition, the large seizures by European and other countries may be early signs that new markets have emerged for Captagon trafficking.

Indeed, in March 2021, Malaysia seized 94.8 million Captagon tablets in what is the country's largest drugs operation to date (INCB, 2021, p.107).

2.1.6. Methamphetamine Trafficking Trends

Methamphetamine is a synthetic stimulant that belongs to the Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) class along with other substances with high addiction potential including Captagon, amphetamine and Ecstasy. Methamphetamine is most frequently found on the illegal drugs markets in the form of powder, crystals, liquid and tablets.

Between 2010 and 2020, the amount of methamphetamine seized around the world increased fivefold. In 2020, 375 tons of methamphetamine was seized, representing an increase of 16% over the previous year. This accounted for 71% of all ATSs seized in 2020 (UNODC, 2022a, p.45).

The most common source regions for methamphetamine worldwide are East and Southeast Asia, where it is most commonly encountered in the form of tablets and is referred to as *yaba*. Crystal methamphetamine, which is named "crystal meth", "ice" or shabu, is of greater purity than the tablet form (EMCDDA & EUROPOL, 2019, p.112). Record amounts of

methamphetamine have been seized in East and South East Asia (171.5 tons) (UNODC Synthetic Drugs in East and South East Asia - Latest developments and challenges, 2022).

In 2021, 12 EU countries uncovered 261 methamphetamine labs (up from 215 in 2020), of which 15 were found in the Netherlands and nine in Belgium. The highest number of labs (188) were identified in Czechia (up from 182 in 2020). Also in 2021, 15 EU countries seized 723 kgs of the precursor ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in powder and tablets form (down from 955 kgs in 12 EU countries in 2020) (European Drug Report, 2023).

In addition, EU countries seized 1.2 tons of methamphetamine in 7,000 seizure operations in 2021 –a drop of 47% over the previous year (2,3 tons) (European Drug Report, 2023). Despite the sharp fall in the amount of methamphetamine seized in the EU region, the EMCDDA's "Wastewater analysis and drugs – a European multi-city study" report indicates an increase in methamphetamine use. In addition, it is thought that the record increase in cocaine trafficking targeting Europe has lowered demand for other stimulants and that this situation may be another reason for the fall in methamphetamine seizures in the EU region.

Mexican criminal groups, which play an important role in methamphetamine production at the global level, are observed to have been playing an increasing part in the production of methamphetamine in Europe recently. Substantial quantities of methamphetamine of Mexican origin have been confiscated in a number of seizures in the EU region. These seizures point to significant cooperation between European and Mexican criminal groups in the distribution and supply of methamphetamine (EUROPOL EMCDDA EU Drug Markets Report - Methamphetamine Module, 2023, p.5).

Another recently emerging trend in global methamphetamine production and trafficking is the use of chemicals that are not subject to controls in the production of the drug.

The 6.1 tons of ephedrine seized in 2021 amounted to only about half of the quantity seized in the previous year and constitutes the lowest amount seized in the past decade. Despite the fall in the amount of ephedrine seized, there has been an increase in

the quantity of methamphetamine. This apparent contradiction may be explained, at least partially, by traffickers' use of alternative precursor (INCB Precursors Annual Report, 2022, p.14).

In East and South East Asia, where methamphetamine production and abuse continues to pose a major risk to public health, the market for illegal drugs is seen to have expanded, given the record seizures of this drug in tablet form. More than 1,770 tons of illegal drugs were seized, mostly in Myanmar. Despite the high qualities of methamphetamine seized in the region, the amounts of precursor used in methamphetamine production seized remained low. Meanwhile, it was observed that criminal groups engaged in the production of drugs are increasingly turning to the use of uncontrolled chemicals in the production of methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs (INCB Annual Report, 2022, p.90).

Recently Afghanistan has been reported by some countries, notably Iran, to have become a global source and exit country for trafficking in methamphetamine produced from the ephedra plant. For example, the Iranian authorities stated that nine of the ten tons of methamphetamine which they seized between March 2020 and November 2020 originated in Afghanistan ("Methamphetamine developments in South Asia: the situation in Iran and the implications for the EU and its neighbours", 2021, p.4). However, the fact that most of the methamphetamine seized in Türkiye is seized in provinces bordering Iran does not support this assessment by Iran.

In recent years, there have been concerns that the ephedra plant is being used as a precursor for the production of methamphetamine. Although there is no reliable data so far as to the scope of such usage, studies and field research indicate that in one of the large markets in South Western Afghanistan, enough ephedra was traded to produce 220 tons of methamphetamine (INCB Precursors Annual Report, 2022).

The rise in methamphetamine production in Afghanistan, which has been observed since 2012, and which is a major cause of concern for Western Asian countries, continued in 2021. Methamphetamine from Afghanistan- continues

to be seized in Iran, Pakistan, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Europe, South East Asia, South Asia and Oceania. Furthermore, there is a high risk of existing heroin smuggling routes being used to smuggle methamphetamine and this may result in a supply-side market for methamphetamine being formed in countries where demand for it is currently low. Iran and Türkiye have seized significant amounts of methamphetamine within their borders (INCB Annual Report, 2022, p.101).

The amount of methamphetamine seized in Iran between March 2019 and March 2020 increased by 208% over the same period a year earlier to reach 17 tons. Iran seized 20.5 tons of methamphetamine in 2020, rising to 25.1 tons in 2021 and 30.3 tons in 2022.

Just as there has been a significant increase in methamphetamine production in known source regions, so new production regions in various regions have been observed. Other new developments in methamphetamine production and consumption at the global level include the development of new production techniques, an increase in the use of uncontrolled chemicals, the frequent use of such chemicals to obtain precursors for production and the unprecedented demand for methamphetamine from users. These developments in the production and trafficking of methamphetamine are thought to underlie the increase in methamphetamine seizures both in Türkiye and at the global level.

While methamphetamine in crystal form is frequently encountered in Europe, significant amounts of methamphetamine in liquid form as well as in crystal form have been observed during seizure operations in Türkiye. It is thought that criminal organizations have begun trafficking in liquid methamphetamine as a new way of transporting the drug that helps to avoid it being noticed during controls. Facilities for transforming liquid methamphetamine into crystal form have been identified in some provinces of Türkiye, notably İstanbul. Significant amounts of crystal and liquid methamphetamine have been seized at these facilities, where the persons apprehended have been mainly of Iranian nationality. Various chemicals used in

transforming methamphetamine have also been seized at these facilities.

It has been noted that the purity of samples of the liquid methamphetamine seized turns out to be very low when compared to that of crystal methamphetamine.

We are faced with a new trend of legal merchandise being soaked in liquid methamphetamine as a way of bringing the drug into Türkiye, after which it is separated and converted back into crystal methamphetamine in various provinces.

For example, in an operation conducted in İstanbul in November 2022, magnesium silicate (talcum powder) soaked in liquid methamphetamine was seized along with methamphetamine that had been converted into crystal form and chemical substances used in the conversion process.

Given that talcum powder does not play any role in the stages of production of methamphetamine, this substance was clearly used to mask the methamphetamine. Furthermore, samples of the liquid methamphetamine that was seized were low in purity, with values of between 0.4% and 7%.

This was the first time that the use of magnesium silicate as a masking element had been observed in Türkiye, and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has been contacted to determine whether or not this method has been seen in other countries.

In an operation conducted in Tekirdağ in April 2023, the methamphetamine precursor ephedrine was recovered in bags of what appeared to be ground animal feed/hay, along with other chemical substances of various types. These operations may be indicators of a change to the trend of methamphetamine seizures in Türkiye, particularly those in provinces neighbouring Iran and incidents in which Iranian nationals are involved in other provinces.

In some recent seizures in Türkiye of tablets that appear to be ecstasy, the tablets were found as a result of analysis in criminal laboratories to contain methamphetamine instead of MDMA. The supply to drug abusers of tablets that appear to be ecstasy but which actually contain methamphetamine is thought to be a risk factor for Türkiye.

2.2. OPERATIONAL **ACTIVITIES** **AND SEIZURES** IN TÜRKİYE

In Türkiye, the Turkish National Police (TNP), the Gendarmerie General Command (JGK), the Coast Guard Command and the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement (GMGM) are actively engaged in combating the supply of drugs.

In addition to these institutions, important duties in combating the supply of drugs are assumed by the relevant units of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and by institutions such as the Institute of Forensic Medicine (ATK), the Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK) and the Turkish Medicines and Medical Device Agency (TITCK).

Türkiye’s law enforcement forces regard trafficking in drugs as a crime against humanity and continue to fight it in a spirit which views “all the world’s children as our own children”. As part of this approach, Turkish law enforcement attaches the same importance to international cooperation for combating drugs as it does to combating drugs at the national level. In a total of 60 instances of operational cooperation established with 23 countries between 2015 and 2023, approximately 61 tons of cannabis, 3.1 tons of heroin, 7.3 tons of cocaine, 504,000 ecstasy tablets and 9.6 million Captagon tablets have been seized.

In 2021 security forces intervened in 215,771 incidents throughout Türkiye while in 2022 they intervened in 246,237 incidents – an increase of 14.1%. A total of 313,786 suspects (an increase of 6.5% over the previous year) were apprehended during these interventions.

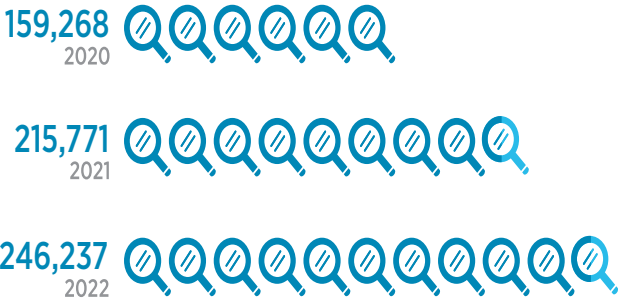
The increases in the number of operations conducted against drugs crimes and in the number of suspects apprehended are not by themselves sufficient to quantify either the drugs problem or the success in combating it. Similarly, a fall in the number of incidents and suspects would not necessarily mean that the fight against drugs is succeeding. This is because drugs crimes only come to light when law enforcement authorities intervene. A meaningful measurement of the drugs problem or of the success in combating it only becomes possible when many parameters are taken into account, including the reports of such crimes, the diversity of narcotic substances found at street level, the street price index for narcotic substances, deaths from overdoses and the numbers of persons in treatment.

A breakdown of the 246,237 drugs incidents recorded in Türkiye in 2022 by the type of crime shows that:

- 202,527 incidents (82.2%) concerned the purchasing/receipt/possession of drugs with the intent to use them (TCK art. 191),
- 37,085 incidents (15.1%) concerned the production and trafficking of drugs (TCK art. 188),
- 5,725 incidents (2.3%) were violations of Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances,
- 585 incidents (0.2%) related to facilitating/promoting the abuse of narcotics or stimulants (TCK art. 190), and
- 313 incidents (0.1%) were violations of Law No. 3298 on Narcotic Substances (see Table 2.1 below).

Table 2.1 Distribution of Criminal Incidents in 2022 by Type of Crime

	TCK art. 191	TCK art. 188	2313	TCK art.290	3298	Total
No. of incidents	202,527	37,085	5,725	585	315	246,237
%	82.3	15.1	2.3	0.2	0.1	100.0



Graph 2.1 Numbers of Incidents by Year

231,652
2020



294,604
2021



313,786
2022



Graph 2.2³ Number of Suspects by Year

The breakdown of the 313,786 suspects apprehended in 2022 by type of crime shows that:

- 241,821 suspects (77.1%) were processed for purchase/receipt/ possession of narcotic substances with the intent to use them (TCK art. 191),
- 66,070 suspects (21.1%) were processed for producing or trafficking in narcotic substances (TCK art. 188),
- 4,861 suspects (1.5%) were processed for violation of Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances,
- 707 suspects (0.2%) were processed for facilitating/promoting the abuse of narcotics or stimulants (TCK art. 190), and
- 327 suspects (0.1%) were processed for violation of Law No. 3298 on Narcotic Substances (see Table 2.2 below).

Tablo 2.2 2022 Distribution of Suspects Apprehended in 2022 by Type of Crime

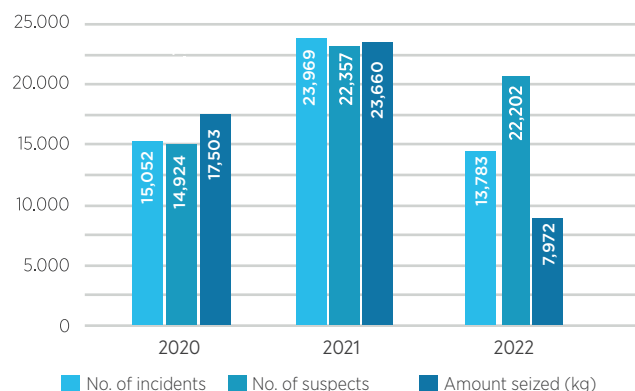
	TCK art. 191	TCK art. 188	2313	TCK art. 290	3298	Total
No. of suspects	241,821	66,070	4,861	707	327	313,786
%	77.10	21.10	1.50	0.20	0.10	100.00

2.2.1. Heroin

Heroin Seizure Statistics

In 17,503 incidents that took place in Türkiye in 2022, 7,972 kgs of heroin (a decrease of 64% over the previous year) was seized.

³ There are *double entries* in data for the number of suspects. Eliminating double entries, the number of suspects is 239,987



Graph 2.3 Amounts of Heroin Seized and Numbers of Incidents and Suspects, 2020-2022

A sharp fall was recorded in heroin seizures in 2022, by comparison with the record quantity seized in 2021. The total amount of heroin seized by all law enforcement units in 2022 was 7,972 kg. However, the fall in the amount of heroin seized was not reflected in the number of incidents in which the authorities intervened or the number of suspects apprehended.

13,783
2020



22,202
2021



7,972
2022



Graph 2.4 Amount of Heroin Seized by Year (kg).

In 2022, there was a 17.3% increase in the number of heroin incidents in which the authorities intervened compared to 2021 (Graph2.5).

15,052
2020



14,924
2021

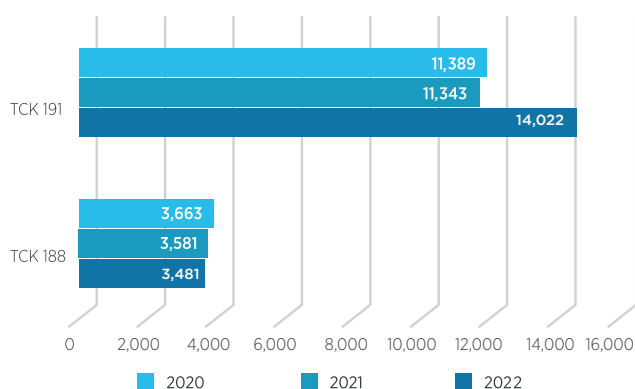


17,503
2022



Graph 2.5 Numbers of Heroin Incidents by Year.

The distribution of heroin incidents by type of crime shows that while 75.7% of incidents fell under TCK 191 and 24.3% under TCK 188 in 2020, 76% fell under TCK 191 and 24% under TCK 188 in 2021, and 80.1% under TCK 191 and 19.9% under TCK 188 in 2022 (Graph2.6).



Graph 2.6 Distribution of Heroin Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

In 2022, there was a 5.8% increase in the number of heroin suspects apprehended by comparison with the previous year (Graph2.7).



Graph 2.7 Numbers of Heroin Suspects by Year.

The total amount of heroin seized in 2022 was the lowest for the past five years. There may have been a shift in the Balkan Route.

Despite an increase (of 17.28%) in the number of heroin incidents and an increase (of 5.82%) in the number of suspects compared to the previous year, the proportion of heroin incidents to overall incidents was 7.1% (up from 6.91% in 2021) and the proportion of heroin suspects to overall suspects was 7.54% (down from 7.58 in 2021)

Opium Poppy Seizure Statistics

In 2021, there was an increase of 56.7% in illegal opium poppy cultivation incidents and an increase of 27.3% in the number of plants seized compared to the previous year. In the 193 incidents in 2021, 33,744,307 illegal opium poppy plants were seized and destroyed.

In 2022, there was an increase of 34.8% in illegal opium poppy cultivation incidents and an increase of 16.9% in the number of plants seized over the previous year. In 315 incidents in 2022, 39,451,147

illegal opium poppy plants were seized and destroyed. Of the 39,451,147 opium poppy plants seized, 34,540,366 were identified and seized through the HÜBAS system.

The significant increase in the number of illegal opium poppy plants does not indicate any increase in heroin production. Rather, it is thought to be the result of the effective use of HÜBAS to identify irregular cultivation.

Table 2.3 HÜBAS sistemi dahil haşhaş bitkisi yakalamaları (kök)

Poppy plants	2020	2021	2022
Incidents	182	193	315
Amount seized (no. of plants)	26,509,914	33,744,307	39,451,147

2.2.2. Cannabis, Cannabis Derivatives and Cannabis Plants

Cannabis and Skunk Seizure Statistics

Skunk is a type of cannabis that generally arrives in Türkiye from Europe, is obtained through the crossbreeding of different cannabis seeds (Cannabis Sativa and Cannabis Indica), contains high levels of THC and is also known as Hybrid Cannabis, Sinsemilla and Nederwiet (Dutch Cannabis). Due to its rich THC content, it might quickly lead to psychiatric disorders in abusers.

In the 2020-2022 period there has been a significant fall in the amount of cannabis seized in Türkiye, excluding skunk. For example, while approximately 88 tons of cannabis was seized in 2020, the amount seized fell by 33.3% to 58.5 tons in 2021. In 2022, 28% less cannabis was seized compared to 2020, at 63.3 tons. As for the amount of skunk seized across the same period, 5.8 tons of skunk was seized in 2020. This fell by 4.5% to 5.5 tons in 2021 but then rose by 56% in 2022 compared to the previous year to reach 8.6 tons.

Evaluating the three year period from 2020 to 2022 in terms of cannabis and skunk seizures, it is observed that while there were sharp falls in the amount of cannabis seized, there was a significant increase in the amount of skunk seized.

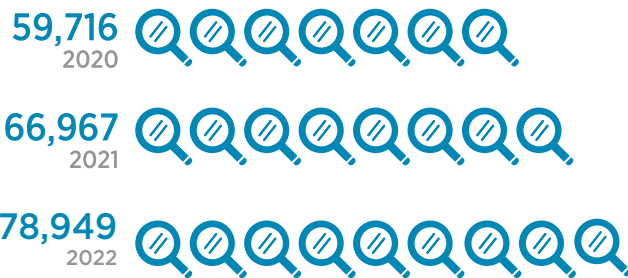
In 2022, there were 73,212 cannabis and skunk incidents in Türkiye during which 93,639 suspects were apprehended and 71,967 kgs of cannabis and skunk were seized.



Graph 2.8 Amounts of Cannabis and Skunk Seized by Year (kg)⁴

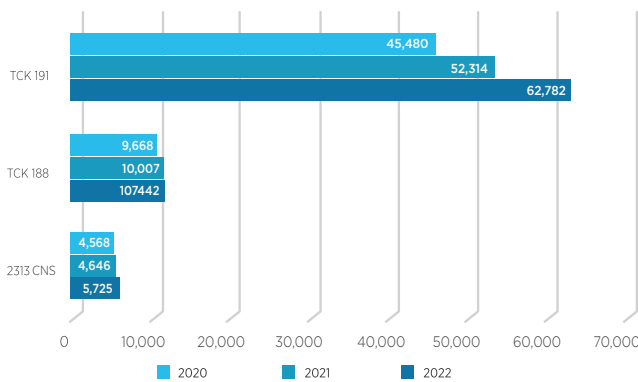
In 2022, there was a 12.2% increase in the amount of cannabis and skunk seized over the previous year (Graph 2.8).

There was also an increase of 17.9% in the number of cannabis and skunk incidents in which the authorities intervened in 2022 by comparison with the previous year (Graph 2.9).



Graph 2.9 Number of Cannabis and Skunk Incidents by Year⁵

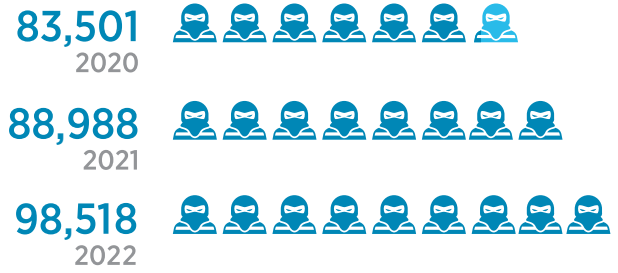
The distribution of cannabis and skunk incidents by year and type of crime is shown below (Graph 2.10).



Graph 2.10 Distribution of Cannabis and Skunk Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

4 As it is a type of cannabis, figures for skunk are included in the tables below
5 The tables also include incidents pertaining to seizures of cannabis plants

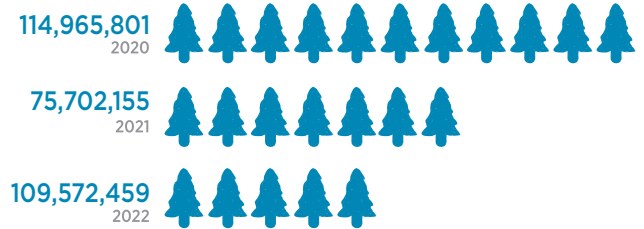
There was a 10.7% increase in 2022 in the number of suspects apprehended in connection with cannabis and skunk by comparison with the previous year (Graph 2.11).



Graph 2.11 Numbers of Cannabis and Skunk Suspects by Year⁶

Cannabis Plant Seizure Statistics

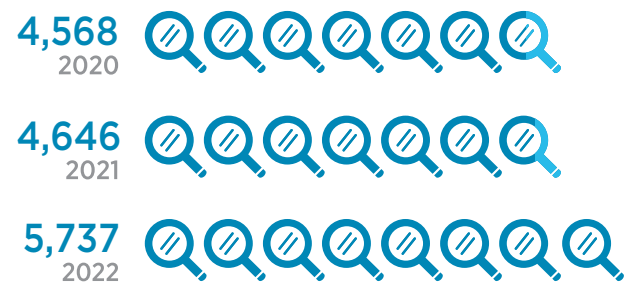
In addition to its legal cultivation, the cannabis plant is grown illegally in almost all regions of Türkiye, although its cultivation is more heavily concentrated in certain regions. In 2022, 87.7% of all cannabis plant seizures occurred in two provinces: Diyarbakır (70.1%) and Bingöl (17.6%).



Graph 2.12 Numbers of Cannabis Plants Seized by Year

In 2022, there was a 44.7% increase in the number of cannabis plants seized over the previous year (Graph 2.12).

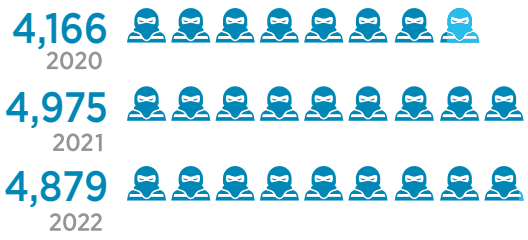
There was also an increase of 23.5% in the number of cannabis plant incidents in 2022 over the previous year (Graph 2.13).



Graph 2.13 Numbers of Cannabis Plant Incidents by Year.

6 The tables also include incidents pertaining to seizures of cannabis plants

In 2022, there was a fall of 1.9% in the number of cannabis plant suspects apprehended compared to the previous year (Graph 2.14).



Graph 2.14 Numbers of Cannabis Plant Suspects by Year

As a result of work carried out by the personnel of the TNP Counter-Narcotics Department, simultaneous operations carried out in all parts of Türkiye against suspects thought to be illegally cultivating cannabis plants indoors with the intention of obtaining cannabis led to the processing of 303 suspects in 201 and 198 suspects in 2022 under articles 188 and 191 of the TCK and Law No. 2313 (CND, 2023).

2.2.3. Cocaine

Cocaine Seizure Statistics

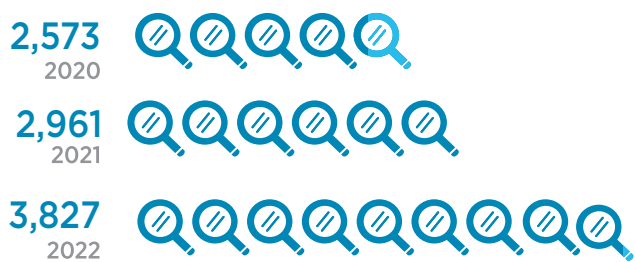
In 2022, law enforcement authorities in Türkiye intervened in 3,827 incidents involving cocaine during which 5,647 suspects were apprehended and 2,299 kg of cocaine was seized.

The amount of cocaine seized in 2022 was 19.1% lower than in the previous year (Graph 2.15).



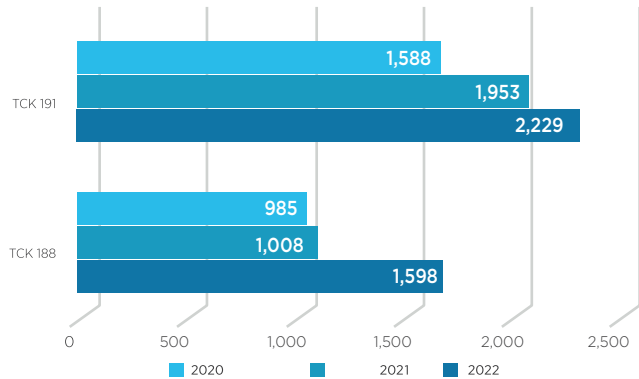
Graph 2.15 Amounts of Cocaine Seized by Year (kg)

The number of cocaine incidents in which the law enforcement agencies intervened was 29.2% higher than the previous year (Graph 2.16).



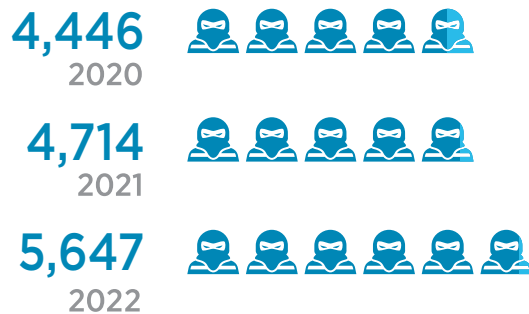
Graph 2.16 Number of Cocaine Incidents by Year

The distribution of cocaine incidents by type of crime shows that 61.7% of incidents fell under TCK 191 and 38.3% under TCK 188 in 2020; 66% under TCK 191 and 34% under TCK 188 in 2021, and 58% under TCK 191 and 42% under TCK 188 in 2022 (Graph 2.17).



Graph 2.17 Distribution of Cocaine Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

In 2022, there was a 19.8% increase in the number of cocaine suspects apprehended over the previous year (Graph 2.18).



Graph 2.18 Numbers of Cocaine Suspects by Year.

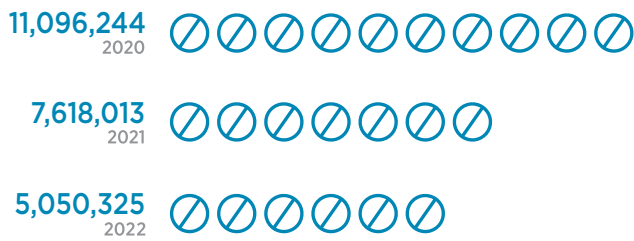
Given the increases in the number of cocaine incidents and the numbers of suspects by comparison with the previous year, the proportion incidents involving cocaine to all drug crime-related incidents was 1.55% (up from 1.37% in 2021) and the proportion of cocaine suspects to the total number of suspects was 1.8% (up from 1.6 in 2021).

2.2.4. MDMA/Ecstasy

MDMA/Ecstasy Seizure Statistics

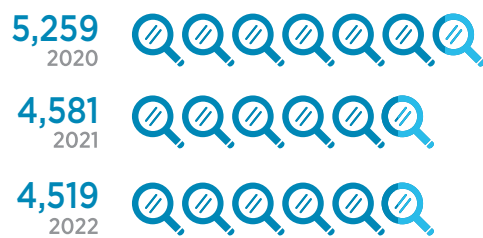
In 2022, there were 4,519 ecstasy incidents in Türkiye in which 6,494 suspects were apprehended and 5,050,325 ecstasy tablets were seized.

The quantity of ecstasy seized in 2022 was 33.7% lower than in the previous year (Graph 2.19).



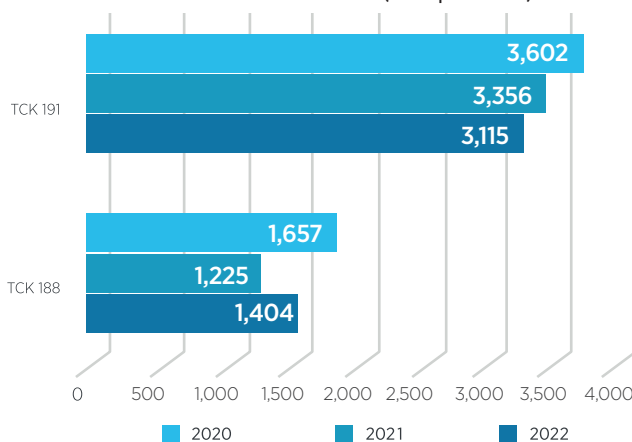
Graph 2.19 Numbers of Ecstasy Tablets Seized by Year

In 2022, the number of incidents involving Ecstasy decreased by 1.3% by comparison with the previous year (Graph 2.20).



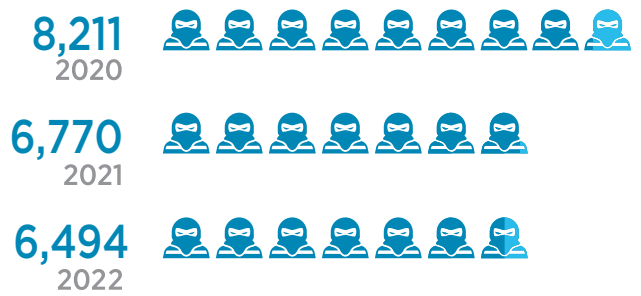
Graph 2.20 Numbers of Ecstasy Incidents by Year

The distribution of Ecstasy incidents by type of crime shows that while 68.5% of incidents fell under TCK 191 and 31.5% under TCK 188 in 2020, 73.3% fell under TCK 191 and 26.7% under TCK 188 in 2021, and 68.9% fell under TCK 191 and 31.1% under TCK 188 in 2022 (Graph 2.21).



Graph 2.21 Distribution of Ecstasy Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

Along with the fall in the number of Ecstasy incidents in 2022, the number of suspects apprehended declined by 4.1% over the previous year (Graph 2.22).



Graph 2.22 Numbers of Ecstasy Suspects by Year

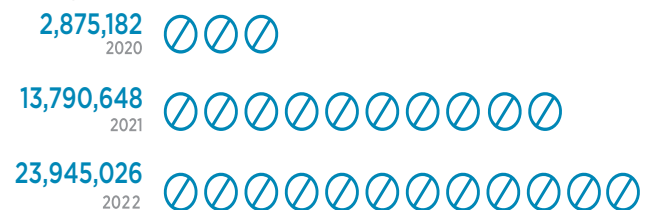
By comparison with the previous year, there was a decrease of 1.35% in the number of Ecstasy incidents and 4.08% in the number of suspects. The proportion of Ecstasy incidents to total incidents was 1.84% (2.12% in 2021) and the proportion of apprehended Ecstasy suspects to overall suspects was 2.07% (2.3% in 2021).

2.2.5. Captagon

Captagon Seizure Statistics

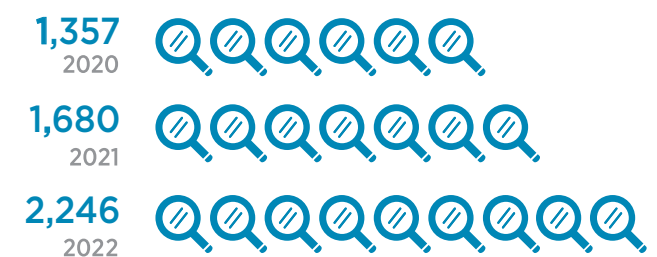
In 2022, there were 2,246 incidents related to Captagon during which 2,967 suspects were apprehended and 23,745,026 Captagon tablets were seized.

2022 saw a 73.6% increase in the quantity of Captagon seized compared to the previous year (Graph 2.23).



Graph 2.23 Numbers of Captagon Tablets Seized by Year⁷

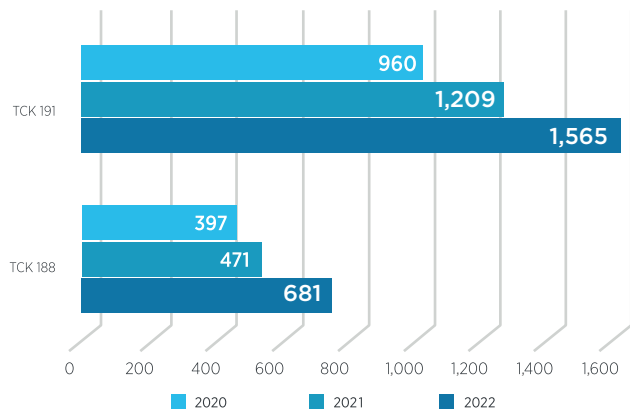
In 2022, there was a 33.7% increase in the number of Captagon incidents (Graph 2.24).



Graph 2.24 Numbers of Captagon Incidents by Year

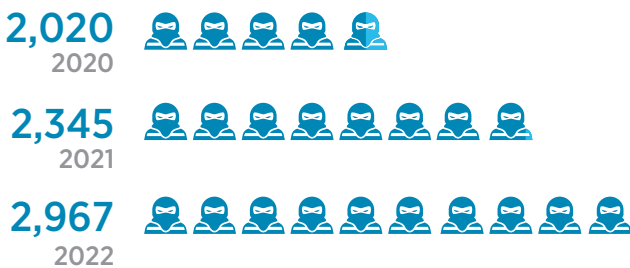
⁷ 1 kg of Captagon is estimated to be 5,000 tablets.

The distribution of Captagon incidents by type of crime shows that while 70.7% of incidents fell under TCK 191 and 29.3% under TCK 188 in 2020, 72% fell under TCK 191 and 28% under TCK 188 in 2021 and 69.7% under TCK 191 and 30.3% under TCK 188 in 2022 (Graph 2.25).



Graph 2.25 Distribution of Captagon Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

In line with the increase in the number of Ecstasy incidents in 2022, the number of suspects apprehended rose by 26.5% over the previous year (Graph 2.26).



Graph 2.26 Numbers of Captagon Suspects by Year

2.2.6. Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine Seizure Statistics

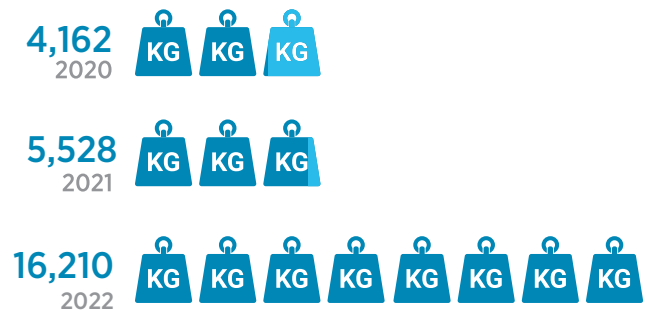
The sharp increase in methamphetamine seizures in Türkiye that began in 2019 continued in 2020 and 2021, and in 2022 the greatest quantity of methamphetamine in the history of Türkiye was seized. The increase in the amount seized is reflected in the number of incidents of abuse.

In view of the methamphetamine seizures carried out by Turkish law enforcement units within the country and in border provinces, it is apparent that Türkiye is a target country in methamphetamine

trafficking. At the same time, the seizure by Turkish customs units of approximately 250kg of methamphetamine of Mexican origin destined for the Philippines- in the cargo section of İstanbul Airport on 17 January 2022 and the capture of 156kg of methamphetamine of Mexican origin destined for China, also in the cargo section of İstanbul Airport, on 22 January 2022 could be initial signs that Türkiye is also being viewed as a transshipment country on account of its geographical location.

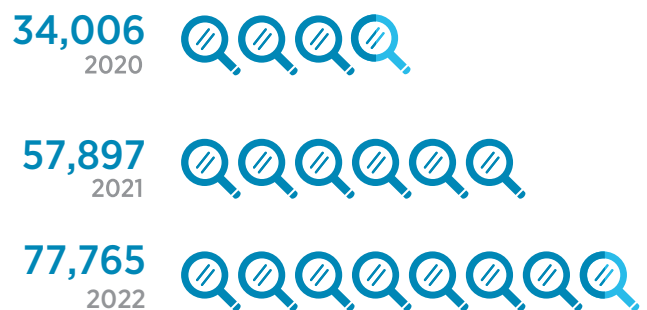
In 2022, there were 77,765 incidents involving methamphetamine in Türkiye in which 101,193 suspects were apprehended and 16,210kg of methamphetamine was seized.

The amount of methamphetamine seized in 2022 was almost triple the amount seized in the previous year (Graph 2.27).



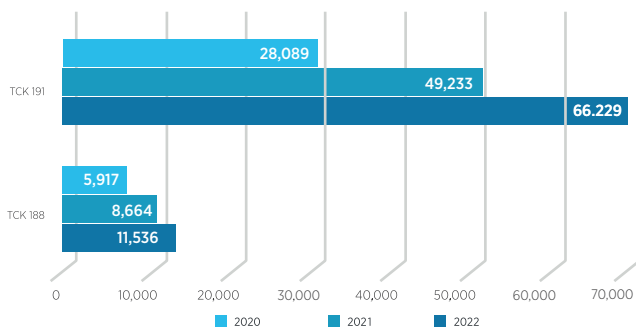
Graph 2.27 Amounts of Methamphetamine Seized by Year (kg).

In 2022, the number of methamphetamine incidents increased by 34.3% over the previous year (Graph 2.28)



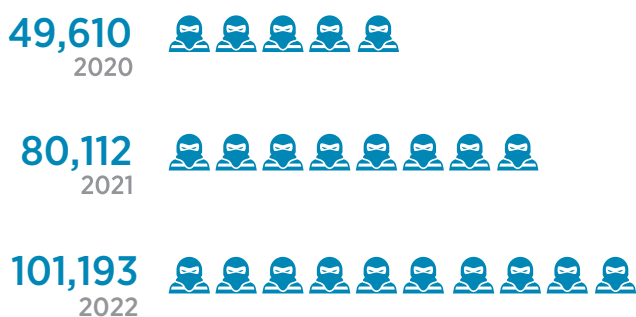
Graph 2.28 Numbers of Methamphetamine Incidents by Year

The distribution of methamphetamine incidents by type of crime shows that while 82.6% of incidents fell under TCK 191 and 17.4% under TCK 188 in 2020, 85% fell under TCK 191 and 15% under TCK 188 (Graph 2.29).



Graph 2.29 Distribution of Methamphetamine Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

2022 saw a 26.3% increase in the number of methamphetamine suspects apprehended by comparison with the previous year (Graph 2.30). At 16,210kg, the total quantity of methamphetamine seized is an all-time record.



Graph 2.30 Numbers of Methamphetamine Suspects by Year

The numbers of ecstasy incidents and suspects increased by 34.32% and 26.31% respectively by comparison with the previous year. Incidents involving methamphetamine accounted for 31.58% of all drug crime incidents (26.83% in 2021) and the proportion of methamphetamine suspects to the total number of drugs crimes suspects was 32.25% (27.19% in 2021).

2.2.7. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) have emerged as a wide range of drugs classified into 14 different categories, such as *cannabinoids*, *cathinones*, *tryptamines*, *opioids*, *benzodiazepines* etc. which are not subject to controls under the United Nations Drug Control Conventions.

Many of these substances mimic the effects of drugs that are subject to controls at the international level (*cocaine*, *cannabis*, *heroin*,

LSD, *ecstasy*, *methamphetamine* etc.) and are frequently supplied to the global drugs markets as “legal highs” in place of the listed drugs.

The appearance of more NPS on the global illegal drugs market poses significant risks to public health and new threats to national/international drugs policies, and creates the need to adopt new approaches.

As of June 2023, the global level UNODC NPS database reported a total of 1,212 NPS. While 429 new NPS were reported in 2022, 103 new NPS were reported in the first five months of 2023 (UNODC EWA, 2023).

The NPS that were most frequently identified in the 2016-2020 period were stimulants, mainly cathinones and phenethylamines. These were followed by synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, hallucinogens (mainly tryptamines and some phenethylamines) and opioids (mainly fentanyl) (UNODC, 2022a, p.92).

The most essential means for combating these drugs are monitoring, sharing information, the establishment of a functional early warning system and awareness raising.

In addition, it is of vital importance to increase the capacity of existing laboratories for the rapid identification of these substances and their effects.

On the EMCDDA Early Warning System, of which Türkiye is a member through TUBİM, the number of NPS identified for the Europe region as of 2023 is 947. Of these, 52 were identified for the first time in 2021, 41 in 2022 and 14 in 2023 (EMCDDA, EDND, 2023).

Synthetic Cannabinoids

Synthetic cannabinoids are the largest of the NPS categories being monitored in Europe as well as in Türkiye. They continue to be found on the drugs markets in various forms despite the control measures taken at the global and national levels, including generic approaches.

Cannabinoids are traditionally sprayed on plant material, tobacco and sometimes cannabis, to give the impression that they are plant-based. and then smoked. In recent years there has been an increase in cases in which paper materials have been impregnated with cannabinoids or they have been prepared as e-liquids for e-cigarettes.

As a result of the recent ease of access to low THC cannabis products in some regions of Europe, it has been observed that these substances are being mixed with synthetic cannabinoids and that new threats have emerged in the form of products containing cannabis and synthetic cannabinoids which are accessible even by children.

One of the most striking examples of this situation is the seizure of 37kg of candy containing the synthetic cannabinoid 5F-EDMB-PICA by Swedish customs in August 2021 (EMCDDA, 2022, pp.21 *25 years of early warning and response to new psychoactive substances in Europe*).

There has also been an increase in the number of incidents in which synthetic cannabinoids were identified in e-cigarettes throughout Europe. In some cases, as the products are sold with the information that they contain “low levels of THC or cannabidiol (CBD)”, the buyers may not even be aware that they are abusing synthetic cannabinoids (EMCDDA, 2022, pp.21 *25 years of early warning and response to new psychoactive substances in Europe*).

Synthetic Cathinones:

Synthetic cathinones have become the second largest group of NPS to be monitored in Europe following synthetic cannabinoids. They are sold as “legal” alternatives to controlled stimulants such as amphetamine, MDMA and cocaine. In Europe, synthetic cathinone seizures fell sharply after reaching a record 1.9 tons in 2016 and the visibility of these substances on the drugs market declined. However, there was a sharp increase in 2020, with seizures amounting to 3.3 tons.

Most of the synthetic cathinones seized in the EU in 2020 were sourced from India (EMCDDA, 2022, p. 21 *25 years of early warning and response to new psychoactive substances in Europe*).

In 2021, synthetic cathinone seizures in Europe continued to rise, reaching a total amount of 4 tons (EMCDDA, 2023, p. 34 *European Drug Report*)

Synthetic Cannabinoids (BONZAI) and Seizure Statistics

Synthetic cannabinoids are completely synthetic narcotic substances with sedative and hallucinogenic effects. Around 300 types of such chemicals are known. Breaking down the raw material that is brought

into Türkiye from abroad, mainly from China, is quite easy. However, reproducing it requires professional labs. Toxic ingredients such as pesticides and agricultural chemicals are added to the recipe. Many abusers perceive the toxic effect of these ingredients as the effect of the narcotic substance. In some cases, this this substance has been seized after it has been sprayed onto herbal products such as sage, damiana, veronica, thyme, cannabis, henna, Indian henna or cumin and these products have been impregnated with it, or after it has been sprayed onto paper.

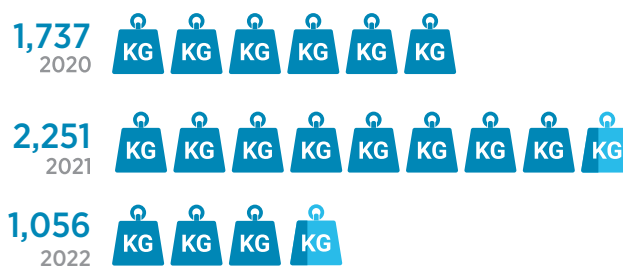


The spraying of these products onto herbal products and sometimes onto cannabis leads to a strong but incorrect assumption on the part of the abusers that the product is not synthetic (chemical).



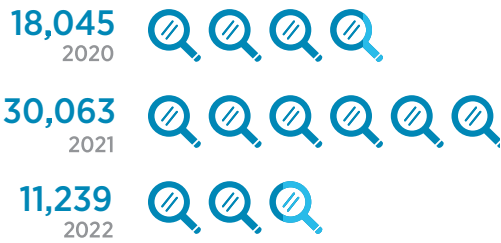
There were 30,063 synthetic cannabinoid incidents in Türkiye in 2021 in which 41,056 suspects were apprehended and 2,251kg of a synthetic cannabinoid known by its street name as “Bonzai”, was seized.

The year 2022 witnessed a 53.1% decline in the quantity of synthetic cannabinoids seized by comparison with the previous year (Graph 2.32). Of the 1,056kg of cannabinoids seized, 22.7kg was in the form of raw material. One kilogram of raw material may be used to produce between 330kg and one ton of substances intended for use.



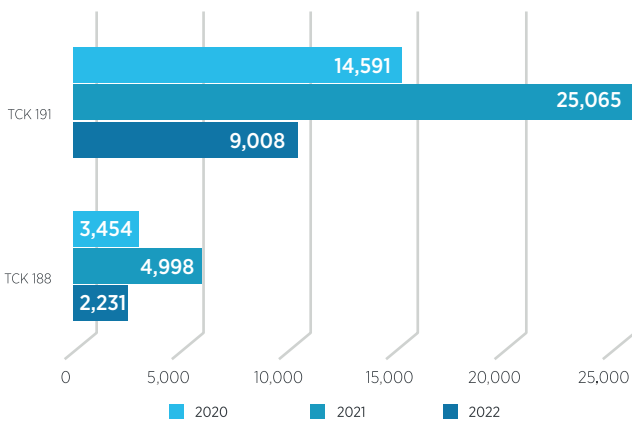
Graph 2.31 Amounts of Synthetic Cannabinoids Seized by Year (kg).

In 2022, there was a fall of 62.6% in the number of incidents involving synthetic cannabinoids compared to the previous year



Graph 2.32 Numbers of Synthetic Cannabinoids Incidents by Year

The distribution of synthetic cannabinoid incidents by type of crime shows that while 80.9% of incidents fell under TCK 191 and 19.1% under TCK 188 in 2020; 83.4% fell under TCK 191 and 16.6% under TCK 188 in 2021 and 80.1% under TCK 191 and 19.9% under TCK 188 in 2022 (Graph 2.33).



Graph 2.33 Distribution of Synthetic Cannabinoids Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

The number of suspects apprehended in 2022 in connection with synthetic cannabinoids was 64.6% lower than in the previous year (Graph 2.34).



Graph 2.34 Numbers of Synthetic Cannabinoids Suspects by Year

The Early Warning System The Early Warning System

The fight against New Psychoactive Substances, which are spreading rapidly in Türkiye as in the rest of the world, is being carried out through the TUBİM Early Warning System (EWS) National Working Group, which was initiated in 2006 and became fully operational in 2008.

The Early Warning System meets regularly twice a year in June and December and includes representatives of the ministries of Justice, Health, Agriculture and Forestry and Trade as well as the TNP, JGK, Coast Guard Command, universities and other relevant institutions.

The institutions included in the EWS fill out a Report Form for New Psychoactive Substances (sedatives, stimulants, hallucinogens and other substances) whenever they encounter a new substance in Türkiye and submit these forms to TUBİM. Following the submission of a form, a process is initiated to collect information about the substance and its derivatives by contacting the EMCDDA, UNODC and INCB. Meetings are held to determine the risks posed to the country by the **new psychoactive substances** in question, whether identified by international or national institutions. In cases where it is considered necessary, the process for including these substances in the scope of **Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances** is then initiated.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM



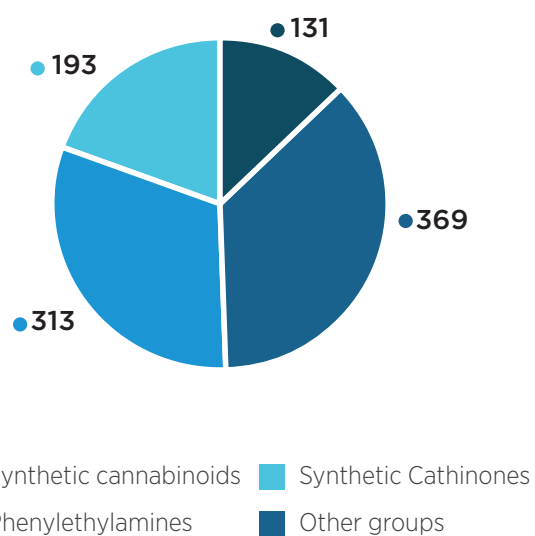
Image 2.3 The Early Warning System

The **Generic Classification System**, which was adopted in 2015, ensures that most new psychoactive substances are covered by the law even before they enter the country.

The 29th and 30th meetings of the TUBİM EWS National Working Group were held in June and September 2022. As a result of these meetings, decisions were taken to include a total of 30 new psychoactive substances within the scope of Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances and these were published in the Official Gazette.

Between 2008 and December 31st 2022, a total of 1,006 New Psychoactive Substances were included in the scope of Law No. 2313 on the Control of Narcotic Substances.

Among the substances that have been included in the scope of Law No. 2313, three types of substance predominate: 31.1% (313) are synthetic cannabinoids, 19.2% (193) are synthetic cathinones and 13% (131) are substances belonging to the phenylethylamine group (Graph 2.35).



Graph 2.35 New Psychoactive Substances Brought under the Law (2008-2022)

A comparison of the global NPS situation and the situation in Türkiye shows that abuse and seizures of the synthetic cannabinoid known by the street name “Bonzai” are more prevalent than abuse and seizures of other NPS.

An examination of NPS incidents and criminal analysis reports in Türkiye in 2022 show that most frequently encountered NPS were the substances known as ADB-BUTINACA, 4F-MDMB-BUTICA, MDMB-4en-PINACA, JWH-210 and 5F-AMB, all of which belong to the synthetic cannabinoids group.

2.2.8. Precursors and Other Chemicals Used in Drugs Production

An increase has been observed in the amounts and types of precursor and alternative chemicals used in the production of illegal sedatives and stimulants seized by Turkish law enforcement agencies.

The seizures of chemicals which have taken place at airports and seaports following investigations seem to show that Türkiye is beginning to be used as a country of transshipment for the trafficking of other precursor chemicals as well as acetic anhydride.

In seizures conducted by Turkish law enforcement in 2022, a total of 72,513 litres and 4,729kg of various chemicals used in the production of illegal sedatives and stimulants were captured.

In a controlled delivery operation at İstanbul Airport in 2021, 4.3 tons of methyl alpha-phenyl acetoacetate (MAPA) and benzyl methyl ketone (BMK) (P2P) were seized. These are precursors for the production of amphetamine and methamphetamine. The chemicals seized originated in China and were destined for the Netherlands.

Investigations launched by the Dutch authorities in connection with this controlled delivery operation led to the seizure of significant quantities of firearms and ammunition. Investigations by the relevant authorities are continuing.

In another controlled delivery operation in İstanbul Airport in 2022, 1.1 tons of BMK was seized. BMK is a precursor for the production of amphetamine and methamphetamine. The quantity seized was of Chinese origin and destined for North Macedonia.

In addition to basic precursors which are not subject to international control and which are used as alternatives, for designer or masking purposes are also being seized in Türkiye.

More than 21 tons of acetyl chloride and 4 tons of benzyl chloride were discovered in a container cargo ship arriving from China at the port of Aliğa, in İzmir. The recent global increase in

seizures of acetyl chloride, especially aimed at heroin production regions, is thought to indicate the new use of acetyl chloride as an alternative to the basic heroin precursor acetic anhydride. At a presentation on recently identified cocaine production labs in South America, notably Colombia, delivered by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) at the INCB Task Force Meetings which the Turkish CND attended, it was stated that the use of sulphuric acid in cocaine production had increased, and that uncontrolled acetyl chloride was being used as an alternative to hydrochloric acid (HCL).

In addition to the substances listed above, customs units have seized significant amounts of sulphuric acid. On July 10th 2021, 24 tons of sulphuric acid was seized while exiting Türkiye via the Cilvegözü border crossing point. In 2022, the rise in seizures of sulphuric acid continued and 57,246 litres of sulphuric acid were seized by customs units in three different seizures at border crossings in Hatay and Kilis. In addition to a wide range of legal uses, sulphuric acid is frequently used at various stages of the production of many narcotics and stimulants (methamphetamine, amphetamine, heroin, synthetic cannabinoids etc.). It is a chemical subject to international control as per Schedule II of the 1988 UN Convention.

Pseudoephedrine, which is a basic precursor for methamphetamine production is either produced illegally or can be obtained from medical preparations that contain the precursor and are trafficked illegally.

There has been a sustained fall globally in seizures of methamphetamine precursors ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. However, seizures of pseudoephedrine obtained from medical preparations in 2021 were twice as high as in 2020 and more than triple the quantity seized in 2018, pointing to a rising trend in the use of such medicines (INCB, 2022 Precursors Annual Report, p. 13).

Acetic anhydride, which is included in Schedule I of the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, is a precursor used in producing heroin from morphine. In addition to

heroin, it is used frequently in the production of amphetamine type stimulants, mainly methamphetamine.

The quantity of acetic anhydride seized globally has fluctuated between 22,000 litres and 214,000 litres since 2001. Between 2016 and 2018, an annual average of 152,000 litres of acetic anhydride was seized globally, but in 2019-2020 this amount fell to 106,000 litres. Since 2018, trafficking in acetyl chloride as an alternative to acetic anhydride has become a significant factor (INCB 2022 Precursors Annual Report, p. 30).

In 2021, approximately 58,600 litres of acetic anhydride was seized around the world. In China, seizures of acetic anhydride fell by 75% from 48,900 litres in 2020 to 12,200 litres in 2021. Among countries which carried out significant seizures of acetic anhydride in 2020, Iran (15,000 litres), the United Arab Emirates (13,300 litres) and Myanmar (12,200 litres) did not report any seizures at all in 2021 (INCB 2022 Precursors Annual Report, p. 30).

In Europe, a total of 5,730 litres of acetic anhydride was seized in four seizures by Belgium, Latvia and the Netherlands. This represented a small increase over the quantity seized the previous year (5,110 litres) (2023 European Drug Report, p. 10). Although the EU is the largest supplier of acetic anhydride in the world, the amount of the chemical seized by EU countries is quite low when compared to the amounts seized by Türkiye and countries close to regions of heroin production.

Some chemicals are used to prevent acetic anhydride from being detected during trafficking. Among the chemicals that are mixed with acetic anhydride for this purpose, the most commonly used is glacial acetic acid.

Acetic acid, which is listed on the INCB's limited international special surveillance list can be used in the illegal production of precursors like P-2-P and 3,4-MDP-2-P. Within the past five years, significant seizures of glacial acetic acid have occurred in some Latin American countries where the chemical is controlled nationally. In 2021, 8,500 litres of acetic acid were seized around the world including 7,600 litres in Peru (INCB Precursors Annual Report, p.32).

The Balkan Route, which is frequently used in the trafficking of Afghanistan-sourced opioids, is also used in the opposite direction for the trafficking of chemicals, notably acetic anhydride, which is used in the production of opioids. Due to its position along the route, Türkiye is one of the countries that seize the highest amounts of acetic anhydride as well as heroin. Investigations launched in this context show that most of the acetic anhydride seized in Türkiye is sourced from Central and western Europe and that it is destined for heroin production regions via Türkiye. In addition to the Balkan Route, there have been significant seizures of acetic anhydride at Türkiye's international seaports.

In 2021, the greatest quantity of acetic anhydride was carried out by Türkiye with 36,300 litres (triple the amount seized in 2020). In the same year, significant amounts of acetic anhydride were also seized by the Netherlands (5,600 litres) and Guatemala (4,400 litres). Data for the first ten months of 2022 show that the amount of acetic anhydride seized around the world has continued to decline (INCB Precursors Annual Report, p.30).

Türkiye made 13 seizures of acetic anhydride in 2021, during which 36,300 litres were seized. In two incidents, in which a total of 25,000 litres was seized, EU countries were named as the sources of the chemical. In 2022, the INCB organized an intelligence sharing meeting among representatives of the countries concerned for the purpose of retrospective investigations into the substances seized (INCB Precursors Annual Report, p.31).

The global fall in acetic anhydride seizures that began in 2018 is continuing. The fact that the amount of acetic anhydride seized in Türkiye in 2021 constituted more than 60% of the total amount seized globally confirms Türkiye's position as a transit country between Europe and the heroin producing regions in Afghanistan (INCB Precursors Annual Report, p.XIV).

Türkiye continues to be one of the leading countries in the seizure of acetic anhydride originating in Central and Western Europe. In 2022, the amount of acetic anhydride seized in Türkiye, at 13,273 litres, was 63.4% lower than the previous year (36,253 litres). Although there has been a decrease in the amount of acetic anhydride seized by Türkiye, it is still higher than the amounts seized in the countries of origin.

2.2.9. Synthetic Pharmaceuticals/Medicines

Along with globalization, the production and consumption of non-standard, fake or uncertified pharmaceuticals has become a significant public health problem.

The combination of modern transport networks, the internet and developing chemicals and pharmaceuticals industries in China and India has facilitated the development of a significant market in this field. The existence of such a market and the potential profits it offers has also drawn criminal groups towards this activity (EMCDDA & EUROPOL, 2019, p.42).

Pharmaceuticals supplied through illegal means may be accessed using different methods.

Some of these methods are:

- The sale of pharmaceuticals to third parties by users with prescriptions,
- The theft of prescription medicines from pharmacies or warehouses,
- Their acquisition through forged prescriptions,
- Purchases from online websites that do not require prescriptions,
- Specific production for the illicit market,
- Manufacturing by criminal groups using their own laboratories and production lines, and the import, repackaging and distribution of the counterfeit medicines by such groups,
- Trafficking of fake pharmaceuticals manufactured abroad into the country (EMCDDA & EUROPOL, 2019, p.42).

Due to global developments, the abuse of medicines described as synthetic pharmaceuticals has increased in Türkiye. The increases in seizures in recent years indicates that the abuse of these pharmaceuticals is rapidly becoming widespread.

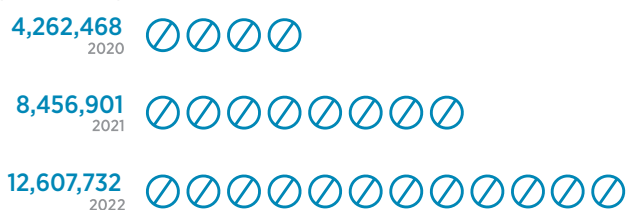
In recent years, in particular, the increased pressure exerted by law enforcement on the streets has struck a significant blow to the supply of drugs and reduced the accessibility of illegal narcotic substances. One of

the reasons for the increased demand for synthetic pharmaceuticals/medicines on the street is thought to be demand from abusers who are unable to access the illegal substances they seek due to this blow to their supply. For this reason, stronger control mechanisms have started to be applied to those groups of synthetic pharmaceuticals/medicines in respect of which the abuse of legal supply chains and legal commerce is found to have increased.

Türkiye too is thought to have been affected by the fluid relationship between NPS and fake pharmaceuticals, by the smuggling of raw materials and trafficking in NPS from countries such as China and India, which are leaders in raw material and pharmaceutical manufacturing, as well as from Europe to some extent, to the rest of the world, and by the conversion of these items by one means or another into synthetic pharmaceuticals in tablet form and their marketing to the world by drugs dealers. Globally, there is a rising trend in seizures of fake medicines of this kind.

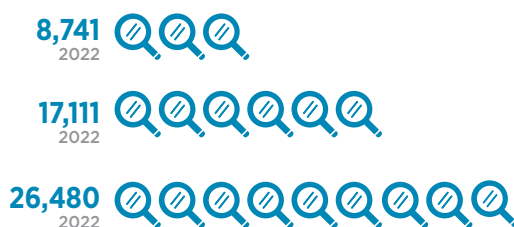
In 2022, Türkiye seized 12,607,432 tablets of synthetic pharmaceuticals/medicines. This was an all-time record.

The quantity of synthetic pharmaceuticals seized in 2022 showed a 49.1% increase over the previous year (Graph 2.36).



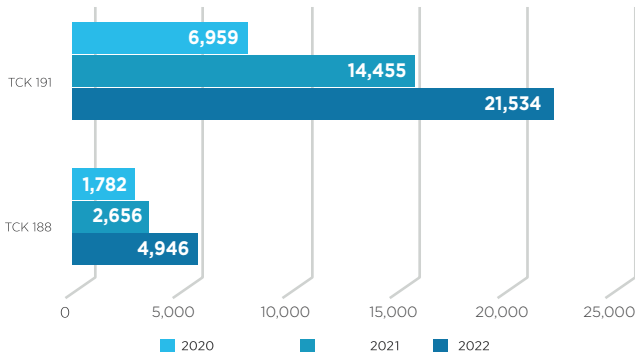
Graph 2.36 Amounts of Synthetic Pharmaceuticals/Medicines Seized by Year

There was a 54.8% increase in 2022 in the number of incidents involving synthetic pharmaceuticals by comparison with the previous year (Graph 2.37).



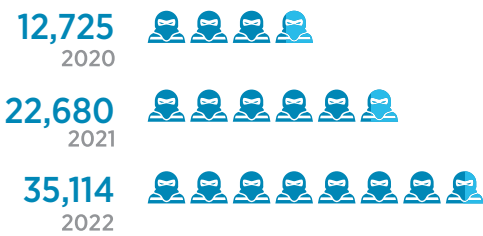
Graph 2.37 Numbers of Synthetic Pharmaceuticals/Medicines Incidents by Year

The distribution of synthetic pharmaceuticals incidents by type of crime shows that while 79.6% of these incidents fell under TCK 191 and 20.4% under TCK 188 in 2020, 84.5% fell under TCK 191 and 15.5% under TCK 188 in 2021 and 81.3% under TCK 191 and 18.7% under TCK 188 in 2022 (Graph 2.38).



Graph 2.38 Distribution of Synthetic Pharmaceuticals /Medicine Incidents by Year and Type of Crime

In 2022, there was a 54.8% increase in the number of suspects apprehended compared to the previous year (Graph 2.39).



Graph 2.39 Numbers of Synthetic Pharmaceuticals/ Medicine Suspects by Year (CND, 2023)

Thus the number of synthetic pharmaceuticals incidents increased by 54.75% and suspect numbers rose by 54.75% over the previous year. The proportion of synthetic pharmaceuticals incidents to the total number of drugs-related incidents was 8.98% (up from 7.93% in 2021) and the proportion of synthetic pharmaceuticals suspects apprehended to overall suspects was 11.19% (9.21% in 2021).

2.3.FIGHT AGAINST CRIME PROCEEDS

Laundering the proceeds of crime is defined as converting all types of proceeds generated by illegal means to other assets while maintaining their value as far as possible, keeping them hidden from official persons and providing them with a legal justification so that they are in line with the law.

Any and all proceeds generated through crime are defined in Article 282 of the Turkish Penal Code as “Laundering the values of assets originating from criminal activities”.

Article 282/1 of the Turkish Penal Code states that “Any person who conducts any act in relation to an asset which has been acquired as a result of a crime which carries a minimum penalty of one year of imprisonment in order to transfer such asset abroad or to give the impression that such asset has been legitimately acquired and conceal the illegitimate source of such, shall be subject to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of three to seven years and a judicial fine of up to twenty thousand days”.

There is a criminal economy with a high level of income generated by manufacturing and trafficking in narcotic substances. Success in fighting these crimes can only be achieved by uncovering the proceeds which constitute their lifeblood.

Analyzing the financial flows among criminals will also lead to the identification of the connection between organized crime and terrorist acts and therefore contribute to the fight against the financing of terrorism.

Under a Ministerial Approval of January 30th 2019, administrative arrangements were completed by establishing the Anti-Criminal Proceeds Branch Directorate within the CND and setting up Anti-Criminal Proceeds Branch Offices in all its 81 provincial units.

Between June 17th 2019 and the end of 2022, 26 training courses on fighting the proceeds of crime and money laundering were delivered to 464 personnel at the central and provincial levels.

The training was coordinated by the CND and conducted by MASAK experts and foreign law enforcement unit officials with the support of academic experts in this field. The training led to greater awareness of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and ensured that the personnel employed are trained and experts in their fields. In the year 2022, six sessions were held and 105 personnel received training.



Image 2.4 A view of the TAIEX Conference

The Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Mechanism (TAIEX) Conference on Fighting the Proceeds of Illegal Drugs Trafficking was held in Ankara in December 2022. The conference was held to raise the level of cooperation in fighting criminal proceeds from the trafficking of narcotic substances, and to share experiences and transfer best practices among the law enforcement units of countries involved in fighting the proceeds of crime. Experts from Türkiye, Sweden, Belgium Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, France and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL) attended the conference.



Image 2.5 A view of the TAIEX Conference

The conference was attended by;

- The contact persons of nine EU member states and the representative of the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Türkiye;

- Representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Treasury and Finance, and
- Representatives of the law enforcement units of the Ministry of Interior.

Having acquired expertise on the issue following the completion of the administrative arrangements and the delivery of the training, the relevant CND personnel have embarked on intensive efforts to identify, prevent and investigate the crime of “laundering the values of assets originating from criminal activities” with respect to matters that fall under the purview of the CND, in close coordination with the provincial units. This work continues to be pursued meticulously and with great determination.

The CND has received orders to conduct the following investigations into the crime of laundering assets originating from criminal activities under TCK 282:

- 10 investigations in five provinces in 2019,
- 25 investigations in 12 provinces in 2020,
- 40 investigations in 18 provinces in 2021 and
- 136 investigations in 32 provinces in 2022.

Of the 203 suspects named in the 25 investigations launched in 2020, 35 were identified as a result of the analysis and preliminary investigations of the CND. On June 30th 2020, the “**Bataklık (Swamp) Operation**” was launched under the coordination of the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office of Ankara. This was to become the largest drugs and proceeds-of-drugs operation in the history of the Republic of Türkiye. As part of the international judicial cooperation in the fight against the laundering of proceeds from drugs crimes, 13 letters rogatory were submitted to eight different countries as part of the BATAKLIK Operation. Despite the three years that have passed since, four letters rogatory have still not received a response.

In 2022:

- 602 suspects who were named in the 136 investigations which the TNP narcotics units were ordered to conduct were apprehended and 12 operations took place covering a total of 32 provinces. TRY11,436,559, USD 39,673, EUR37,991, SAR1,210,000 and GBP100 in cash, bank deposits amounting to TRY 321,319,198, 237 grams of gold, 54 vehicles and 67 real estate properties were confiscated.
- The Counter-Narcotics Branch Directorate of the JGK Anti-trafficking and Organized Crime Department processed 48 suspects in 18 investigations. Through these investigations, TRY1,941,950 in cash, sheep and goats worth TRY500,000, 22 grams of gold, one diamond and 10 'Republic' gold coins were confiscated.
- Investigations by the GMGM Counter-Narcotics Branch Directorate resulted in the confiscation of 65 trailer trucks, 28 automobiles or vans and two buses.

Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK)

The 2018-2023 National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Fight Against Drugs entrusts MASAK, under the heading of "Initiatives and Activities for Preventing the Supply of Drugs", with the duties of "Monitoring the financial dimension of drugs, obstructing the generation of income from drugs trafficking and preventing it from being a source of revenue for terrorist organizations".

In 2022, MASAK provided training on this issue to 152 law enforcement personnel selected by law enforcement units.

With respect to the sharing of financial data in real time during centrally planned operations, MASAK shared information in 208 instances as part of its data sharing, analysis, assessment and examination activities (MASAK, 2023).

2.4. FIGHTING DRUG ABUSE IN TRAFFIC

Article 48 of Law No. 2918 on Highway Traffic (KTK) regulates the sanctions related to the prohibition of driving under the influence of sedative/stimulating substances while Article 97 of the Highway Traffic Regulation sets out the rules and principles for procedures to be followed by traffic officers in determining whether drivers have abused sedative or stimulating narcotic substances.

To implement the law and to combat the social problem of substance abuse, drug testing devices and kits were distributed to traffic police – who are in the field continuously on a 24/7 basis – and started to be used by them in the fight against this problem in 10 initial provinces in 2017, 15 provinces in 2019, 16 provincial traffic units in 2021 and all 81 province traffic units in 2022.

In 2022, tests were performed on 1,836 drivers (up from 1,410 in 2021) using 132 devices. The 673 drivers who tested positive (up from 285 in 2021) were referred to healthcare institutions under the supervision of the judicial authorities. By comparison with the same period of the previous year, there was a 30.2% increase in the number of drivers tested and a 136.2% increase in the number who tested positive in 2022.

In 2022, training was given to 1,915,222 drivers and pedestrians at traffic checkpoints and in public spaces on the harms of driving under the influence of sedative/stimulating substances (TNP - Traffic Department, 2023).

Table 2.4 Distribution of Drug Test Kit User Training Numbers (TNP-Traffic Department, 2023)

YEAR	2020	2021	2022
Training of trainers	-	-	57
Training in smart classrooms	953	1,859	3,281
On location (face-to-face) training	126	-	3,439
TOTAL	1,079	1,859	6,777

2.5. PROJECTS

2.5.1. NARCOTEAMS

In addition to the intelligence and operational activities already being conducted by the CND, a NARCOTEAM project started to be implemented in 2014 primarily to prevent crimes from taking place and to obstruct the accessibility of drugs at the street level. By 2018 narcoteams had been formed in all 81 provinces and the project had become institutionalized (CND, 2023).

Table 2.5 Numbers of Incidents and Suspects in Interventions by Narcoteams by Year (CND, 2023)

Year	No. of Incidents	No. of Suspects	No. of Arrests
2018	37,092	66,535	12,101
2019	45,662	80,358	16,904
2020	50,563	86,207	16,113
2021	69,003	98,455	17,310
2022	76,841	104,218	18,412

2.5.2. Narco-Field Project

Effectively combating street dealers is undoubtedly one of the most important policies for fighting drugs. Success cannot be achieved in combating street dealers without taking adequate preventive measures on the streets, where crime lives. What is special about this project is the way it ensures the unity between preventive measures and operational activities

and ensures that different police units contribute to the fight against narcotic crimes.

This project, conducted by the CND, is based on the prevention aspect of crime and encompasses deterrents not only for street dealers but also for the persons who provide the “demand” – i.e., the drugs addicts. In this sense, the NARCO-FIELD PROJECT has been thoroughly analyzed by the CND and aims to ensure that all the elements of the police collectively make their presence on the street felt.

The project was first implemented in 2018 in 18 metropolitan provinces. It is currently being run in 20 provinces, with the addition of Kahramanmaraş and Kırıkkale in 2019. The activities undertaken under the project are shown in the table below (CND, 2023).

Table 2.6 Narco-Field Project, 2022 (CND, 2023)

Number of Provinces	20
Number of Inspections in Districts	1,914
Number of Inspections in Neighbourhoods	7,367
Number of On-The-Spot Inspections (Streets/Roads)	12,446
Number of Personnel Assigned	134,462
Number of Vehicles Checked in Traffic	1,043,895
Number of Vehicles Issued Administrative Traffic Fines	84,156
Number of Vehicles Banned from Traffic	5,691
Total Amount of Traffic Fines (TRY)	42,849,927
Number of Incidents	17,000
Number of Suspects	19,916
Number of Suspects Apprehended under TCK art. 191	16,388
Number of Suspects Apprehended under TCK art. 188	3,079
Number of Persons Arrested	1,292
Cannabis (gr.)	107,508
Heroin (gr.)	9,252
Poppy tears (gr.)	51
Cocaine (gr.)	9,285
Methamphetamine (gr.)	133,795
Ecstasy (tablets)	11,694
Captagon (tablets)	54,279
Synthetic cannabinoid (gr.)	52,245
Synthetic pharmaceuticals (tablets)	218,675
Other drugs	11,945

2.5.3. NARCONET Operations

While it is a fact that technology occupies a great place in our lives, it is inevitable that unless used with awareness, it can be harmful. Despite being a very recent innovation, social media has evolved into a communication network which enables social interaction through smart phones, tablets and computers, can be accessed easily by the masses anywhere and at any time, and is capable of changing the daily habits of humanity. Social media has become a channel via which social media accounts sometimes openly promote, the abuse of drugs, encourage their followers to take sedatives and stimulants, and facilitate abuse by provide information on how to take narcotic substances, whether through the spoken and written word, images, songs or video broadcasts.

The “Martyr Arda Can” operation, which was carried out simultaneously in 27 provinces on November 28th 2017 under the coordination of the CND and in collaboration with the Counter Cyber-Crimes Department was the first of its kind in terms of preventing the drugs-related crimes committed online in Türkiye. A total of 114 units and 511 personnel took part in the operation, which led to legal action against 81 suspects.

Similarly, the following operations have been carried out against persons found to have committed these kinds of crimes online:

- Operation NARCONET-2 carried out simultaneously in four provinces against eight suspects on October 1st 2018 with the participation of 15 teams and 37 personnel,
- Operation NARCONET-3 carried out simultaneously in 26 provinces against 88 suspects on December 13th 2018 with the participation of 168 units and 429 personnel as part of the Martyr Altuğ Verdi Operation,
- Operation NARCONET-4 carried out simultaneously against 75 suspects in 29 provinces on May 27th 2019 with the participation of 100 teams and 290 personnel,
- Operation NARCONET-5, carried out simultaneously in 47 provinces on January 7th 2020, as a result of which legal proceedings

were initiated against 283 suspects who were found to have committed drugs crimes over the internet.

- In 2021, no simultaneous NARCONET operations took place, but the CND prepared enquiry reports on 48 individuals under TCK art. 190 and conveyed the reports to the provinces so that due action could be taken,
- In 2022, 48 suspects were processed as per TCK art. 190 in the context of the simultaneous NARCONET-7 operation coordinated by the CND (CND, 2023).

In all, a total of 534 suspects were subject to legal action under TCK art. 190 as a result of the simultaneous operations carried out between 2017 and the end of 2022 (CND, 2023).

2.5.4. UYUMA Fight Against Drugs Application Project

Making the fight against drugs more effective depends on using technological means to raise the sensitivity of citizens and increase social surveillance and on establishing a permanent and strong environment of social responsibility.

To this end, it was proposed to develop a fully domestic software application to prevent narcotic crimes, to bring all the evidence about crimes to light, to bring criminals to justice and to enable citizens to submit reports quickly in an electronic environment.

Thanks to the UYUMA Project launched by the TNP Department of Information Technologies on September 24th 2018, it is now possible to respond to incidents more rapidly by receiving location information from users and conveying this information to the nearest law enforcement unit under the coordination of 112 Emergency Call Line Units.



By law, it is obligatory to keep the identities of all persons filing reports via UYUMA confidential.



The UYUMA application can be quickly downloaded from Google Play and AppStore. After an easy registration process, users receive an SMS Verification Code, which is entered to complete the registration process and the application is then ready for use.

The UYUMA App was downloaded:

- 34,073 times in 2018,
- 136,964 times in 2019,
- 9,521 times in 2020,
- 294,757 times in 2021, and
- 85,855 times in 2022.

This means that the application has been downloaded a total of 571,170 times in its lifetime.

It is of great importance to expand this project throughout society. Work on publicizing UYUMA continues as part of the projects run by the CND. In the NARCOGUIDE activities conducted at provincial level, citizens are informed about the technical aspects of the application using visual materials.



Image 2.6 Poster for the UYUMA Application

2.5.5. Open Door Project

The Open Door Project was initiated on December 15th 2017 by the Ministry of Interior to provide easy access to public services, handle applications from citizens rapidly and without shortcomings, and increase satisfaction with the provision of public services. The service is provided at 81 provincial governors' offices and 249 district governors' offices.

Applications can be made to Open Door Offices face-to-face, via the www.acikkapi.gov.tr website or using the Open Door Mobile application that can be downloaded to iOS and Android smartphones. Applications are recorded on the electronic system, forwarded to the relevant units and acted upon within seven days.

Applications can be made to Open Door Offices for drugs-related issues. Citizens' drug-related applications are compiled into weekly reports which are conveyed to the local administrative authorities. Depending on their content, the applications are forwarded to the Provincial/District Directorates of the TNP and the Gendarmerie, to Provincial/District Directorates of Health, the General Directorate of Public Health, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Centres (AMATEMs) and Child and Adolescent Drug Addiction Treatment Centres (ÇEMATEM). Applications are also included on the agendas of the Provincial Coordination Councils for the Fight against Addiction.

With respect to drug addictions, 8,095 of the 8,098 applications to Open Door Offices filed between December 15th 2017 and December 31st 2022 were addressed and concluded.

In 2022, 616 applications were filed, of which 615 were concluded.

- **In the Drug Abuse and Sale sub-category of the Police and Security Services category, all of the 1,978 applications to Open Door Offices filed between December 15th 2017 and December 31st 2022 (570 in 2022) were concluded.**
- **In the Alcohol and Substance Addiction Treatment sub-category of the Health category, 5,265 applications were filed with Open Door Offices between December 15th 2017 and December 31st 2022 (1,453 in 2022) and 5,263 applications were concluded.**

The Open Door software system can be enriched with the addition of new modules based on the conditions and needs of the day. In this connection, data on the actions taken as part of the efforts to fight drugs at the provincial level have been entered into the Open Door Reporting System so that they can be analysed.

2.5.6. Derelict Buildings

The 2016-2018 and 2018-2023 National Strategy Document and Action Plans on the Fight Against Drugs, the 2019-2021 National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Fight Against Organized Crime, the 2018-2019 Work Plan, Activities and Projects of the Ministry of Interior and the 2019 Performance Indicators and Objectives all specifically envisage the demolition of derelict buildings and the prevention of access to derelict buildings that will take time to demolish by physically blocking their entrances.

Provincial Governors' offices have been instructed to identify derelict buildings throughout the country, to improve/restore these buildings, demolish them and/or take physical measures to prevent access to them and increase safety measures for the purposes of preserving public order and safety, contributing to the urban aesthetics, preventing environmental pollution, and ensuring an effective fight against crime and criminals, particularly with respect to the supply and abuse of narcotics and stimulants.

The support provided by security units, local authorities and relevant organizations and institutions, and particularly by Governors and District Governors, who have shown great devotion and determination in monitoring and acting on the situation and coordinated effectively in the processes of identifying and demolishing or restoring derelict buildings and taking the necessary safety measures, has been the most significant factor in the success of this effort.

Provincial committees chaired by a Deputy Governor were established in the provinces to ensure coordination among institutions in the identification and demolition of derelict buildings.

When derelict buildings are identified by these committees or reported to them, physical barriers to access are put in place immediately, the buildings

are prevented from becoming locations for drug abuse and the demolition process is set in motion.

The identification and demolition/rehabilitation of derelict buildings in the provinces and districts is currently continuing with as much determination as ever.

Between May 2018 and the end of 2022, 124,374 derelict buildings were identified, and activities to identify more buildings are ongoing. Of the derelict buildings identified, 72.75% (90,478) have been demolished, and 15.70% (19,521) have been restored and/or security measures taken. Thus action has been taken in respect of 88.44% (109,999) of all the derelict buildings identified. Demolition work continues for the remaining 11.56% (14,375) of the derelict buildings identified (Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Provincial Administration, 2023).

2.5.7. Project for Monitoring Drugs and other Psychoactive Substances in Wastewater

Sewage epidemiology is a rapidly developing discipline with the potential to ensure real-time monitoring of data on variations in illegal drug abuse by location and over time.

The 2018-2023 Action Plan for the Fight against Drugs (UMEP) aims to make work on the "Identification of the Amounts of Narcotic Substances in Wastewater" more widespread among relevant stakeholders.

Pursuant to a resolution of the High Council of Fight Against Addiction dated February 15th 2018, it was decided. That wastewater analysis studies should be conducted under the leadership of the Turkish Green Crescent Society with the collaboration of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, and the Institutes of Forensic Medicine at Istanbul University and Çukurova University Preparations were completed and operational activity began in 2019.

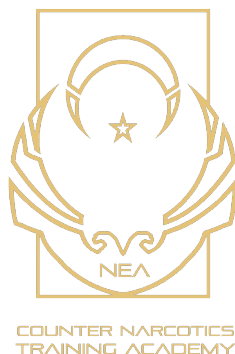
Prior to 2020, the project had been implemented in 49 wastewater treatment facilities in 18 provinces. In 2020, it was determined that the project could also be carried out at a further 64 wastewater facilities in another 44 provinces. Accordingly, the project is currently being implemented in a total of 113 facilities in 62 provinces.

Under the wastewater analysis project, samples are collected in four periods. The sample collection period between March 30th and April 6th coincides with activity schedules in European cities. Implementation continued in 2022.

2.6. TRAINING

2.6.1. Counter-Narcotics Training Academy (NEA)

The Counter-Narcotics Training Academy (NEA) was established in accordance with a ministerial approval of May 3rd 2018 in order to bring a new vision and approach to training within the CND. All training related to the fight against drugs is carried out at the NEA.



The NEA aims to contribute to the training not only of the personnel of the narcotics unit of the TNP but also to that of the personnel of other national law enforcement agencies operating in this field.

In addition to its national training programmes, the NEA also runs activities such as training events, seminars, workshops and symposia for the exchange of knowledge and experience with Balkan countries and members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) at the regional level, and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA), the South Eastern Europe Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC), the Organization of the ASEAN Chiefs of National Police (ASEANAPOL), the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX), the Partnership to Combat Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan (the Paris Pact Initiative), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the European Police College (CEPOL), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the member countries of the Conference on

Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) at the international level, as well as with 106 individual countries in the framework of bilateral security cooperation agreements.

The NEA organizes national training activities in 25 fields and international training activities in 10 fields.

A total of 17,234 personnel benefited from the 154 national training programmes held at the NEA in 2022.

The NEA provided training support to 222 law enforcement personnel from 24 countries through the seven international training activities it held in the framework of international cooperation in 2022.

As part of its cooperation with UNODC, the NEA transferred experience to 24 law enforcement personnel from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia in 2022. These are all countries situated on the Balkan Route.

The NEA has also begun to cooperate with UNODC on training to increase the capacity of national units in Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which are located near Afghanistan.

A training seminar on the “Training Process for International Law Enforcement Forces” was held in Ankara in 2022 with the participation of representatives of SELEC member countries (Moldova, Romania, North Macedonia, Albania, Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Greece and Bulgaria).

The CND provided training support for an online seminar on the “Laundering of Proceeds of Narcotics Trafficking and Combating Laundering” held on March 3rd 2022 by the World Customs Organization’s Regional Office for Capacity Building Europe Region (ROCB Europe). As part of the seminar, experience was transferred to 296 customs personnel from 30 member states of the European Region of the World Customs Union. Furthermore, work was initiated on cooperation with ROCB Europe in the area of training.

In 2022 the CND participated in courses, seminars, meetings and seminars on fighting narcotic crimes and training held by international organizations such as the ECO, INCB, IPA, NCA, PG, UMK, ASEANAPOL, CEPOL and CARICC.

2.6.2. Dog Training Centre Branch Directorate (KEM)

The Dog Training Centre (KEM) Branch Directorate under the CND was established in 1997. Since it was founded, KEM has constantly followed new developments in the field, developed its methods and evolved into an international institution that provides training in 14 different fields not only to the TNP but also to the Turkish Armed Forces, JGK, Coast Guard Command, Ministry of Trade, National Intelligence Organization, fire brigades, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, private security organizations and municipalities at the national level, and to the law enforcement units – especially the police organizations – of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Algeria, Jordan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Qatar and Afghanistan.

KEM trains well-developed, experienced handlers with high levels of knowledge and skills who have adapted to the scientific methods developed for the prevention of crime, as well as service dogs, for a more effective and efficient fight against crime, especially narcotics crimes.

The depth of knowledge and experience accumulated by KEM in the past 26 years and the success of the service dogs and handlers it has trained have consistently attracted attention and earned it the appreciation of the national and international community.

In 2021-2022, KEM delivered 38 different training programmes to a total of 320 personnel. As a result, the number of service dogs has reached 478. The service dogs have taken part with success in many incidents ranging from drug and bomb searches to the finding of missing persons and hostage situations. In 2021, 29% of the total quantities of drugs seized by the CND, by weight, were carried out thanks to the abilities of narcotic search dogs, and they were involved in 31% of all seizures. In 2022, these figures were 29% of the drugs seized by weight and 30% of the number of seizures.

In the last two years, KEM has been at the forefront of many important national and international developments. Some of these are as follows:

As part of the TAIEX project “Innovations in the Training of Narcotic Dogs Used in Law Enforcement Activities and their Handlers” that began in 2021, four personnel were assigned to Hungary, where

they engaged with their hosts in a mutual sharing of information and experience on the fight against drugs and mutually exchanged their knowledge about the training of detector dogs, which play such an active and important role in the fight against criminal organizations.

R&D activities have been launched on the training of technology detection dogs for use in the detection of technological objects, tools and equipment which are difficult to detect and which may be used as evidence, to serve as a deterrent in the fight against crime and criminals. Two technology detection dogs were successfully trained and have entered the service of the TNP.

Work on training dual-task detector dogs began in 2020 with the aim of making narcotics detector dogs more efficient in the fight against narcotics and the proceeds of crime and to help detect banknotes being brought in and out of Türkiye illegally. Six drugs/banknote detector dogs were successfully trained for the TNP.

In 2022, as part of the bilateral cooperation between the CND and UNODC, KEM organized a “Workshop on Task Dog Specialization and Regional Cooperation in the Prevention of Drugs Trafficking” attended by 41 counter-narcotics personnel from 16 countries. Also in 2022, four personnel were assigned to participate and provide training in the “K9 Training of Trainers” event held at the Uzbek State Customs Committee Regional K9 Training Centre in Tashkent under the coordination of UNODC.

Training of Narcotic Substance Detector Dogs

Four “Narcotics Detector Dog and Handler Basic Training Programmes” were organized by the CND Dog Training Centre in 2022. In all, 46 personnel benefited from this training and 46 narcotic substance detector dogs were commissioned.

In 2022, the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement of the Ministry of Trade provided 29 personnel with the “Narcotics Detector Dog Handler and Narcotics Detector Dog Basic Training Course” in a total of six sessions. These personnel were then assigned to provincial units along with 29 service dogs.

Also in 2021, the Gendarmerie Dog Training Centre (JAKEM) of the Gendarmerie General Command provided the “Narcotics Detector Dog User/Trainer Course” to 48 personnel in a total of 6 sessions and 48 Narcotics Detector Dogs were commissioned.

Table 2.7 Numbers of Narcotics Detector Dog Basic Training Courses by Year

Kurum	Name of Training	2020	2021	2022
TNP	Narcotic Detector Dog and Handler Basic Training Programme	7	7	4
	Number of Beneficiary Personnel	51	59	46
	Number of Narcotic Detector Dogs Raised	52	59	46
GMGM	Narcotic Detector Dog Basic Training Course	3	3	6
	Number of Beneficiary Personnel	24	15	29
	Number of Narcotic Detector Dogs Raised	26	24	15
JGK	Narcotic Detector Dog User/Trainer Course	2	2	6
	Number of Beneficiary Personnel	32	56	48
	Number of Narcotic Detector Dogs Raised	32	56	48

2.6.3. New Developments

Analysis Systems Narcotics Network (ASENA)

Cross-border narcotic criminal organizations are operating in an increasingly complex and secretive manner, and the CND is drawing on dynamic and needs-based technical and tactical means of combat such as risk analysis, artificial intelligence and digital transformation in order to uncover their illegal activities in their entirety.



The Analysis System Narcotics Network (ASENA) Project is a data analysis and visualization platform which became active in March 2021 and which makes it possible to conduct comprehensive analyses in the fight against these illegal organizations, which are constantly changing and diversifying their criminal methods on account of the successful project operations undertaken. As an artificial intelligence software network that can be constantly developed according to current trends, ASENA is a completely domestic and national project.

This platform makes use of the experience and data acquired in the fight against crime to identify relationships, links and patterns for deciphering the methods used to commit crimes and capturing criminal elements. In this way, interventions against

narcotics crimes can be launched as they take place, light can be shed on past crimes or contributions can be made to ongoing investigations.

Active use is being made of the ASENA project in the fight against narcotics crimes in particular, but also against other crimes.

From March 2021, when the ASENA project was first used until the end of 2021, 2,033 seizures were made in which 1,183,535 grams of heroin, 955kg of cannabis, 193kg of methamphetamine, 158kg of synthetic cannabinoid (Bonzai), 11 kg of poppy tears, 12 kg of cocaine, 2,133,564 synthetic pharmaceuticals items, 528,781 Captagon tablets, 328,870 Ecstasy tablets, 175,650 counterfeit Turkish lira banknotes, 6,500 counterfeit USD banknotes, TRY230,108, 707 handguns, 42 litres of contraband alcohol and 880 contraband cigarettes were seized.

In 2022 there were 4,301 seizures, in which 687kg of heroin, 3,031kg of cannabis, 461kg of methamphetamine, 49kg of synthetic cannabinoid (Bonzai), 25kg of poppy tears, 16kg of cocaine, 807,776 synthetic pharmaceuticals, 208,982 Captagon tablets, 289,160 Ecstasy tablets, 60,492 counterfeit Turkish lira banknotes, 401 counterfeit USD banknotes, TRY63,118, USD2,212, 437 handguns, 74 litres of contraband alcohol and 2,056,838 contraband cigarettes were seized.

2.6.4. Ministry of Interior Citizen Satisfaction Survey (IVR)

The Ministry of Interior has developed a “Citizen Satisfaction Survey” app to measure the level of satisfaction of citizens receiving services from the central units, subsidiary organizations and provincial governors’ offices of the Ministry and the local units of its subsidiary organizations.

In the Institutional Performance Satisfaction Survey, citizens who receive services from Ministry units are posed seven questions about their perceptions of the Ministry’s policies. Citizens are asked to rate the services on a scale from 1 (lowest satisfaction) to 10 (highest satisfaction). To measure the level of citizens’ satisfaction with the policies implemented in the fight against drugs, an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system activity was held. In 2022, the satisfaction of the 231,925 participants with the policies being implemented worked out to be 75.6%.

CHAPTER

3

TRAINING PREVENTION

3.1. MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

3.1.1. Social Services Centres (SHMs)

All interventions intended for persons experiencing social risks and problems due to addiction and their families fall under the responsibility of the Social Services Centres (SHMs). The forms of social support provided to addicts who have applied to SHMs and to their families are not limited to the detoxification and rehabilitation phases, but also include all processes for which the person needs support. Persons who apply to SHMs due to addiction problems, or who have been identified by the SHMs themselves, are referred to the centres operated by the Ministry of Health and Green Crescent on a voluntary basis. If necessary, cooperation may also be initiated with legal authorities.

3.1.2. Family Education Programme (AEP)

The Family Education Programme (AEP) provides individuals at risk of drug abuse and their families with information on topics like the phases of drug abuse, the factors that increase the risk of drug abuse, proper ways of intervening with members of risk groups, early signs of gravitation towards drug use, coping strategies, techniques to prevent tendencies towards drug use, and the types of substances that are abused. It also contributes to raising the awareness of families with adolescent children about adolescence, the changes that occur during this period, risk-taking behaviour and problem areas in adolescence, and the actions to be taken in such cases, and helps to equip parents with the competency to adopt appropriate attitudes and means of intervention.

The AEP seeks to enable family members to acquire in full all the knowledge, skills and attitudes that constitute the basic life skills required in our

times. To this end, it consists of 28 modules in areas headed by education and communications, law, economics, media and health which encompass the entirety of daily life.

The AEP Module on Protection from Substance Abuse Risk and Drug Addiction reached 386,778 people between 2014 and 2022 via a total of 6,426 training sessions. At the same time, training can be given by AEP trainers/trainer teachers within this module. There are 935 active AEP trainers and 77 AEP trainer teachers.

In 2022, 98,495 persons were reached in 1,232 training sessions within the scope of the AEP (Ministry of Family and Social Services, General Directorate of Community Services, 2023).

3.1.3. Educational Activities of Türkiye's Fight against Addiction (TBM)

Türkiye's Fight against Addiction (TBM), which was launched in June 2017, aims to increase the level of knowledge of target groups about drugs, the harm they do, the places where persons who abuse drugs can be treated and ways of communicating with persons who have abused/quit drugs. While all citizens can receive training under the relevant modules of the TBM (High School, Parents, Adults), the following constitute the priority groups:

- Children above the age of 15 in institutional care,
- All personnel of these institutions and the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations,
- Personnel of public institutions, and
- Families and other citizens receiving services from the Ministry.

Under the TBM, 145 trainer teachers have been trained and there are currently 66 active “trainer teachers” (trainers of trainers) and 404 “trainers” (implementers).

Awareness training sessions carried out in 2022 reached a total of 150,998 people including 23,506 public employees (Ministry of Family and Social Services, General Directorate of Community Services, 2023).ri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2023).

3.1.4. Social and Economic Support (SED)

The School Support Project, which was launched in 2017, aims to increase the effectiveness of the SED service, raise families’ awareness about their children, provide environments and opportunities for children to spend their time outside school valuably and productively, and ensure equal opportunities in access to community resources.

The project focuses on children in middle and high schools who are benefiting from the SED service and supports their development in their free time by organizing academic, social, cultural and sporting activities for them. In this way, it aims to keep them away from undesirable environments, groups or social surroundings in their free time and protect them from accessing, abusing or becoming addicted to the drugs that are present in these environments.

As of the end of 2022, a total of 34,131 children in all 81 provinces had benefited from the School Support Project. Of these, 24,618 were middle school students and 9,513 high school students (Ministry of Family and Social Services, General Directorate of Community Services and General Directorate of Child Services, 2023).



3.2. MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

3.2.1. Work Clubs and Vocational Training Courses (İŞKUR)

Work Clubs, which were launched in 2017, are intensive work and vocational counselling programmes that aim to provide pathways and motivational support for groups requiring special policies including women, young people, persons with disabilities, persons treated for drug addictions, the long-term unemployed and former convicts. There are currently 92 active Work Clubs spread over all 81 provinces.

Under the Work Clubs Programme, 90 training activities were delivered in 2022 in the Health Ministry’s treatment centres for adults and in Green Crescent Counselling Centres (YEDAMs), reaching 533 individuals. The total number of training activities held between 2017 and 2022 was 256, with 1,599 people taking part.

Vocational training courses are conducted as part of ongoing efforts to preserve, increase and develop employment and to reduce unemployment. The aim is to increase the qualifications of unemployed persons registered with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) who either have no profession, or who have a profession but are unable to find employment in this profession or do not have the necessary competencies in it, thereby increasing their chances of employment.

The main objectives of vocational training courses are to help develop the vocational abilities of unemployed persons, reduce unemployment and ensure access to the labour market for groups requiring special policies.

Counselling services, which were introduced in 2015, have provided counselling on work and careers to a total of 10,729 persons, of whom 1,327 were provided with counselling in 2022.

In 2022, 27 persons participated in on-the-job training programme and 29 in programmes for the public benefit, while 254 persons were placed in jobs.

In addition, TBM training programmes were held by the Green Crescent in 2022 for 50 Job and Vocational Counsellors as part of the 2018-2023 National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Fight against Drugs (Ministry of Labour and Social Security, 2023).

3.3. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

Among the activities conducted in 2022 to develop awareness about addictions among young people making use of the youth centres, camps, sports facilities and student hostels operated by the Ministry, and to protect them from becoming addicted:

- 34,972 young people were reached through 1,602 awareness training activities in the youth centres;
- 1,042 athletes were reached through 15 awareness training activities at Athlete Training Centres and Türkiye Olympics Preparation Centres, and
- a total of 110,437 young people were reached through 3,622 activities in the hostels, including 74,423 young people who took part in 2,005 awareness training sessions.

Social, artistic, sporting, cultural and volunteering activities for young people, all of which may be regarded as preventive and protective activities vis-à-vis addictions, are conducted throughout the year at the youth centres operated by the Ministry and continue uninterrupted seven days a week. In 2022, a total of 7,292,407 young people were reached through 700,291 activities that may be considered to constitute preventive and protective activities against addiction at 3,416 youth centres and 317 youth offices.

Staff employed as social workers, psychologists, youth leaders and hostel education officers to deliver services directly to young people in the

youth centres, hostels and provincial and district directorates of the Ministry are provided with training of trainers (ToT) training appropriate to their professions on how to solve any problems of addiction that may arise among young people benefiting from the facilities run by the Ministry.

In this context, ToT was delivered to 470 personnel in 2022.

The total number of personnel reached since the programme of trainer teachers commenced in 2015 has risen to 9,100.

The 240 activities conducted in 2022 in order to raise the awareness of personnel employed in the provincial organization of the Ministry about addiction reached a total of 17,731 personnel, of whom:

- 1,555 were coaches and 533 sports education experts employed in the central and provincial units of organizations attached to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, whether as permanent appointees, contract staff or personnel engaged under services procurement agreements;
- 13,101 were provincial directors of Youth Services and Sports, branch directors, youth centre directors, facility managers, security and hygiene staff and technicians employed in the central and provincial units of organizations attached to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and
- 2,542 were hostel managers and deputy managers, education officers and administrative staff employed in the General Directorate of Credit and Hostels for students in higher education (Ministry of Youth and Sports, 2023).

3.4. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

3.4.1. “The Best Narcotics Police is Mother” Project

In 2021, a survey was conducted as part of the NARKOLOG Project of the Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) with 27,779 persons who had

abused substances at some time in their lives. The mothers of 92.2% of the sample were found to be housewives. In 2022, 90.9% of the mothers were found to be housewives.

In 2021, 83.6% of persons who had abused drugs at home were living with their families. This percentage was 83.6% in 2022. The prevalence of drug abuse among women is far lower than among men.

In view of the available data and the understanding and infinite compassion which mothers show for their children, priority needs to be given and special importance attached to awareness-raising activities for mothers when fighting drug abuse. For this reason, the “The Best Narcotics Police is Mother” project was launched on October 23rd 2020 in line with the instructions of Mr. Süleyman Soylu, the Minister of Interior.

The “The Best Narcotics Police is Mother” training module was prepared by the CND with contributions from the TUBİM Scientific Council and Internal Security Strategies Department and then distributed to the Counter-Narcotics Provincial Directorates. Training sessions are held intensively in provincial centres and in all districts. The target group consists of mothers and adult expectant mothers.

The implementation plan for the “The Best Narcotic Police is Mother” project was adopted through Interior Ministry circular no.2021/7.

The identification of the mothers to be trained under the project, the preparation of the physical environments where the training will take place and the provision of the necessary logistical support (budget, vehicles, equipment, preparation of informative materials, transport, accommodation, etc.) are supervised by provincial and district governorates.

The mothers to participate in the consciousness and awareness raising training are identified in coordination with municipalities, mukhtars, public education centres, NGOs, religious officials and parent-teacher associations. Support is sought from all public institutions, municipalities and universities when determining the venues where the training is to take place.

On the days of the training sessions, various social activities are organized around the venue where

the training is to take place with a view to reaching the widest possible audience.

In order for the activities of “The Best Narcotic Police is Mother” project to reach a mass audience, a website – <https://narkotikpolisianne.com> – has been designed and went live on the internet on March 8th 2022. Rich in content, the website provides information on activities in the provinces and gives access to publications developed as part of the fight against addiction.

As part of the project, the provincial governorates and the Ministry of Interior General Directorate for Relations with Civil Society provide information about the NGOs in the provinces in question which are active in the field and establish cooperation with them. The effectiveness of the campaign and the demand for training are enhanced by ensuring that the activities appear in the printed and visual media and by announcing them on social media.



Image 3.1 Logo for “The Best Narcotics Police is Mother”

In 2022, as a result of the above efforts, 24,245 awareness raising training sessions for mothers and adult expectant mothers were conducted within the scope of the project and 919.698 individuals were reached.

In the period from October 23rd 2020 to the end of 2022, a total of 1,392,285 mothers and expectant mothers were reached through 36,302 activities (CND, 2023).

3.4.2. NARCO-GUIDE Training Module for Adults

In 2017, a Ministry of Interior Implementation Policy for the Fight against Drugs was developed under the coordination of the Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) to ensure that the various units of the Ministry of Interior act in unison, and to determine priorities and draw up a road map accordingly. The policy was developed in line with the views and recommendations of the units concerned.

One of the activities of the Ministry of Interior Implementation Policy for the Fight against Drugs is entitled “Ensuring Effective Utilization of Local Authorities in the Fight against Drugs”. As part of this activity, the CND has developed a “NARCO-GUIDE Training Module” to be used in providing training to groups such as municipal police officers, sanitation workers and private security organizations.

As for the training of the Narco-guides responsible for presenting the module:

Between 2017, when the Narco-guide module was prepared, and the end of 2022, 1,013 personnel benefited from a total of six Narco-guide training of trainers and refresher programmes.

The NARCO-GUIDE training Module aims to increase the awareness of all adults aged 25 and above. It includes the following topics:

- Drug addiction and abuse and their effects,
- Classification of narcotic substances,
- Types of narcotic substance, synthetic pharmaceuticals and volatile substances,
- The importance of the fight against narcotic crimes,
- Characteristics of street dealers,
- Places where drugs are sold and abused,
- Legal situation regarding drug crimes,
- The UYUMA Project,
- Centres offering solutions in the fight against substance addiction.

The NARCO-GUIDE module has been implemented successfully across the country since

November 1st 2017 and is regarded by national and international bodies as an exemplary project in terms of its content for raising awareness.

Tablo 3.1 Breakdown of Numbers of NARCO-GUIDE Training Programmes in 2022 (CND, 2023)

Target Group	Number of Activities	Number of Persons Reached
Military Personnel	125	3,641
Municipal Cleaners	87	4,770
Municipal Police	86	2,945
National Police	2,052	121,120
Shopkeepers	90	961
Workers (Other Sectors)	628	36,180
Public Officials	1,738	121,994
Mixed Groups	122	8,225
Teachers	4,302	135,890
Private Security	775	166,174
School Bus Drivers	68	1,439
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	71	2,444
University Students and Teachers	1,205	129,304
Citizens	15,159	704,714
Parents	2,357	93,447
Total	28,865	1,533,248

NARCO-GUIDE activities reached a total of 1,533,248 adults in 2022 through 28,855 activities.

Between 2017 and the end of 2022, a total of 2,772,950 persons were reached through 49,246 activities (CND, 2023).

3.4.3. NARCO-GUIDE Youth Module

YOn May 20th 2021, the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) adopted a Fight Against Addiction Action Plan. In this context, the Ministry of Interior, which was one of the stakeholders of the action plan, developed a NARCO-GUIDE Youth Module to be used in protective/preventive and awareness-raising activities on addiction aimed at university students, in panel discussions, seminars and lectures to be held in universities

and/or faculties, and in the preparation of videos, films and similar materials intended for university students in conjunction with relevant organizations and institutions.

In the framework of this model, NARCO-GUIDE Youth Module training was provided to 120,106 university students via 1,120 activities in 2022.

Between 2021 and the end of 2022, 1,427 activities were conducted and 151,750 university students were reached (CND, 2023).

3.4.4. NARCO-MIGRANT Project

The NARCO-MIGRANT project was launched on August 19th 2021 as part of the Narco-Guide information activities, with the aim of increasing the knowledge and raising the awareness of foreign citizens in Türkiye about drug addiction. To this end, a Narco-Migrant training module was developed.

Using this module, NARCO-MIGRANT training was delivered with the aid of interpreters to 37,063 foreign citizens in 2022 via 942 activities.

Between 2021 and the end of 2022, 953 activities were conducted and 37,441 foreign citizens were reached (CND, 2023).



Image 3.2 A View of the NARCO-MIGRANT Training

3.4.5. NARCO KAAN Project

The NARCO-KAAN project was launched on February 26th 2022 under the coordination of the Private Security Supervision Department and the Counter-Narcotics Department to increase the awareness of private security guards working in

Türkiye about drug addiction. To this end, a Narco-Kaan training module was developed.

Using this model, NARCO-KAAN training was provided to 176,819 private security guards via 739 activities in the course of 2022 (CND 2023).



Image 3.3 A View of the NARCO KAAN Training

3.4.6. Training for the Fight Against Methamphetamine

A “Fight against Methamphetamine” module has been developed for the law enforcement units attached to the Ministry of Interior and for the personnel of the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement of the Ministry of Trade. The purpose of this module is to be able to combat methamphetamine more effectively, as it is a growing threat both globally and in Türkiye.

In 2022, 982 activities were organized using this model and 32,549 law enforcement personnel were provided with “Fight against Methamphetamine” training (CND, 2023).



Resim 3.4 A View of the Fight against Methamphetamine Training

3.4.7. NARCO- STAND Project

The CNDD began to implement the NARCO-STAND project on June 1st 2017, based on a model successfully used by the Provincial Directorate of Security in Şanlıurfa. The project aims to:

- Ensure that dealers and users and the places where crimes are committed are identified by increasing the sensitivity of citizens in the fight against drugs,
- Explain how the security units conduct their work in the fight against drugs, and
- Inform families about narcotic substances.

In 2022, 2,832,004 persons were reached and 1,224,631 items of informative materials were distributed under the NARCO- STAND project.

The total number of persons reached between 2017 and the end of 2022 was 3,525,782. During this period, 2,654,840 items of informative material were distributed (CND, 2023).

3.4.8. NARCO-TRUCK (“Don’t be a Target; Don’t be Left Without a Target”) Project

The **NARCOTIC TRAINING TRUCK** is the first of its kind in the world in this field. It was developed as part of a project supported by the Ministry of Development and the İstanbul Development Agency and commenced its activities in İstanbul in 2015.



Image 3.5 The İstanbul NARCO-TRUCK

In addition to the original truck belonging to the İstanbul Directorate of Security, a second NARCO-TRUCK was designed and built by

the Konya Directorate of Security and became operational on December 31st 2020.



Image 3.6 The Konya NARCO-TRUCK

The NARCO-TRUCKS make use of specially produced animations on 54 different topics to raise the awareness of students from grade 9 onwards on the harms done by substance abuse.

In 2022, the NARCO-TRUCKS reached 84,926 individuals.

Between 2015 and 2022, 586,012 individuals were reached by the NARCO-TRUCKS (CND, 2023).

3.4.9. The NARCO-191 Project

Besides the measures to be taken to solve the problems encountered in the fight against drugs, increasing public consciousness and raising public awareness are also very important for the prevention of drug-related deaths.

Under the NARCO-191 project, the TNP Counter-Narcotics Department printed 16,000 preventive posters with four different designs and 12,000 stickers of various sizes with three different designs in order to inform target audiences and raise their awareness about the synthetic amphetamine-type drug, methamphetamine.

The posters and stickers were distributed for use in all TNP units and Ministry of Justice probation offices throughout the country.

The preventive posters and stickers were also passed on to the Gendarmerie General Command and the Coast Guard Command in digital form so that they too can use them in their work (CND, 2023).



Image 3.7 Narco 191 Methamphetamine Prevention Poster with the slogan "It's not enough to be good; you have to keep away from the bad too".



Image 3.8 Narco 191 Methamphetamine Prevention Poster with the slogans "Methamphetamine causes addiction!" and "Never use Met!"

3.4.10. NARCO-CONTEST/ Drug Abuse Prevention Poster Contest

Since 2017, the CND has been organizing NARCO-CONTESTS to set out the negative impacts which addiction to drugs has on health, human relations and society, to engage society in the fight against drugs and to explain the harms which drugs do through art works that emerge from within society itself.

Accordingly, a "Drug Abuse Prevention Poster Contest" was organized among university students between January 16th and May 1st 2022.



Image 3.9 Prevention Poster Contest

The contest attracted the participation of 562 individuals with a total of 720 works.

The entries were evaluated by a jury formed of experts in their fields. As a result, a total of five works were named winners, including two special mentions.

The first three places were taken by the works entitled

- "Uyuşturucu Madde Kullanımını Önleme" ["Preventing the Use of Drugs"] by Zehra Erva KARATULUK,
- "Tos Pembe" ["Not so Rosy"] by Adle AYKUT, and

- “Methetme” [“Don’t Met”] by Mehmet BOZKURT,

in that order, while special mentions went to:

- Saadet Nur ALTAY, with her entry “Gençler Üzerinde Uyuşturucu” [“Drugs on Young People”] and
- Betül NAS, with her entry “Uyuşturucu Kapanına Kısılma” [“Don’t get Caught in the Drugs Trap”].

The winning works can be accessed at the CND’s website, www.narkotik.pol.tr, and via its social media accounts (CND, 2023).



Image 3.10 Drug Abuse Prevention Poster Contest – First Prize, with the slogan “Addiction Snaps you from Life”



Image 3.11 Drug Use Prevention Poster Contest – Second Prize, with the words “The Darkness of Pink”



Image 3.12 Drug Use Prevention Poster Contest – Third Prize, with the slogan “Don’t Met! Drugs Destroy Life”

3.4.11. NARCO-Competition / Narco Project Competition

A project competition was held for personnel employed in counter-narcotics units at central and provincial level with a view to developing the solutions proposed by personnel on duty in the fight against drugs offences for the problems they encounter in this work and to enhancing institutional capacity and the sense of participation while generating new approaches and new ideas with respect to all the activities and practices that are the responsibility of the CND.

The competition was held between September 20th and December 23rd 2021. A total of 96 personnel took part, submitting 101 projects.

- The first prize went to the project entitled “Risk Analysis-Supported New Generation Field Surveillance Project (NARCO-AREA 2.0)” designed by officers of the Counter-Narcotics Branch of the Diyarbakir Directorate of Security.
- The second prize went to the project entitled “NARCOFEST” submitted by an officer of the Counter-Narcotics Department IT Branch Directorate.

- The third prize went to the “NARCO-BIS” project prepared by an officer of the Counter-Narcotics Branch of the Adana Directorate of Security.

In addition, special mentions were awarded to:

- The Narco Training Vehicle “SWALLOW” project drawn up by an officer of the Counter-Narcotics Branch of the Amasya Directorate of Security, and
- The “Narcotics Archive Project (NAP)” submitted by an officer of the Counter-Narcotics Branch of the Ağrı Directorate of Security.

3.5. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (MEB) AND GREEN CRESCENT

3.5.1. Turkish Educational Programme on the Fight against Addiction (TBM)

The gradual increase in the numbers of young children trying and abusing tobacco, alcohol and drugs in Türkiye, as in the rest of the world, and the need to take preventive measures, created the need to develop a comprehensive educational programme aimed at increasing the awareness of all segments of society, and especially students, about tobacco, alcohol, substance and technology addiction.

The TBM Educational Programme, which was developed by the Green Crescent in 2014, consists of modules on addictions to technology, tobacco, alcohol and drugs and on healthy living. It is the primary prevention programme for informing the

whole of society, particularly children and young people, about these topics and raising their awareness. The TBM is also the most widespread and inclusive addiction prevention programme in Türkiye. It is implemented by experts and educators including academic experts in addiction, doctors, psychologists and school psychological counsellors.

Implemented under a protocol signed by the Ministry of National Education (MEB) and the Green Crescent Association in 2015, the TBM has developed into a programme that reaches millions of students throughout Türkiye and makes them conscious of harmful habits.

Following MEB, the programme has been expanded in accordance with protocols entered into with many other ministries and institutions. The strategy for expanding the programme has consisted of training trainer teachers (trainers of trainers) first, then having the trainer teachers teach the implementers (trainers) and finally the trainer teachers and trainers to deliver the contents to students and parents. In addition, requests for training from the field are received via www.tbm.org.tr and trainers are directed towards these awareness-raising training sessions, depending on the potential, either by the Green Crescent Education Department or by Green Crescent branches.

The content of the TBM training programme has been drawn up by experts in their fields and members of the Green Crescent Science Board taking into consideration MEB’s acquisitions for the various levels of education. Age-group specific books, brochures, posters and video content have been developed for each of the 34 modules within the framework of 200 acquisitions for an individual to gain awareness about addiction. At the same time, the effectiveness of the programme has been analysed with monitoring and evaluation tools for each module from preschool level to adult level.

As a result of needs analysis carried out by the Green Crescent in 2020 and feedback obtained from the field, the need arose to improve and develop the course content which had been developed for TBM and was being used actively in the training activities in the light of contemporary knowledge and developments in the field of addiction. During

this process, all of the training content developed by the Green Crescent for the TBM so far has been examined and where necessary work has been done to re-write and re-publish it. This work has included the development of presentations, videos, story books, animated films and workbooks.

Posters and brochures about the contents of TBM are openly available for users on the www.tbm.org.tr website. Requests received via the site are forwarded free of charge. By this means, approximately 8 million brochures and 50,000 posters are distributed each year.

To ensure the availability of reference materials on addiction and contribute to this literature, books have been written and published on the topics of addiction to tobacco, alcohol, drugs, gambling and technology and on healthy living. The training modules have been redesigned for each level of education, and sub-modules have been developed in accordance with the students' age groups (e.g.: middle school grades 1-2 and 3-4 etc.).

Table 3.2 Turkish Educational Programme on the Fight against Addiction (TBM) (MEB and the Green Crescent, 2023)

MODULES		Prepared by experts in the field under the guidance of the Green Crescent									
		Preschool		Primary School		Middle School		High School		Adult	
Scientific Board			1-2	3-4	1-2	3-4	1-2	3-4			
	Healthy Living	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Technology Addiction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Tobacco Addiction		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Gambling Addiction				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Alcohol Addiction						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Drug Addiction						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

TOOLS

Books, Guides, Brochures, Presentations, Posters, Supplementary Materials

Distance Learning System Training Portal (tbm.org.tr), Videos

Plans were made for the updated TBM training sets to be made available on digital platforms in 2022 so that they could start to be used in the educational programmes carried out with the target groups by partner organizations and institutions. For this purpose, refresher training sessions started to be held for TBM implementers, headed by those from the Ministry of National Education (MEB). In 2023, it is planned to continue to roll out this training and to distribute the updated training sets.

Also ongoing is the work undertaken in 2022 to ensure unimpeded access to the programme for beneficiaries with visual and hearing disabilities by making it accessible digitally on www.tbm.org.tr, where TBM content is provided on an open-source basis, by making all the training materials available with audio descriptions, Turkish sign language interpretation and subtitles, and by conducting analyses for the more effective use of these materials in school-based implementations to provide accessibility to all the video content for persons with both visual and hearing disabilities.

In 2022, the following activities were conducted as part of the TBM programme:

Over 10 million students and 3 million parents are being reached annually under the Ministry of National Education through a total of 812 trainer teachers and 34,796 implementing school counsellors and psychological advisors. Training is also provided regularly every year by 317 trainer teachers employed by the Ministry of Family and Social Services. In the 2021-2022 school year, awareness-raising training was provided to 3,179,010 students, 70,406 teachers and 729,066 parents.

A total of 3,384 individuals were reached through implementer training carried out through cooperation among MEB, civil society organizations and various public institutions.

With respect to awareness training for public institutions and organizations, this kind of training was arranged in response to requests from provincial and district directorates of ministries, various other public organizations and civil society organizations, and delivered to their personnel. These awareness training sessions reached a total of 108,531 people.

As part of the prevention activities of the Green Crescent, training is also arranged in cooperation with companies wishing to induce an awareness of addictions in their employees. This form of cooperation continued in 2022, when 8,319 company employees were reached through training sessions held either online or face-to-face.

In addition to the activities outlined above, efforts are being made in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education to use the TBM not only to reach children and young people in schools but also to reach adults in all parts of Türkiye and from all segments of society. To this end, a complementary

project, the TBM Adult Education Project has been developed and put into effect. Programme calls are issued every year and applications are received via Green Crescent branch offices.

In this context, 91,930 persons have been provided with training via Green Crescent offices since 2018. Due to the pandemic, online training sessions were introduced in 2020. Since then, the training has been provided with online or face-to-face options. In 2022, 74 Green Crescent branch offices applied to take part in the programme and 47 completed their training. The Green Crescent offices' adult training programmes are being delivered continuously in the field. In 2022, a total of 41,768 adults had been reached with awareness training carried out via Green Crescent offices.

The Green Crescent held two TBM trainer teacher (training of trainers) courses and 174 trainer teachers were trained. Eight TBM implementer training courses were held and 1,277 implementers were trained. In addition, 147 awareness training activities were conducted by headquarters.

A total of 15,561 persons were reached through activities organized by the Green Crescent headquarters, of whom 14,898 individuals received awareness training, 325 teacher training and 338 implementer training.

Awareness training was also carried out under the Adult Education Project organized by Green Crescent branch offices. 12,796 individuals were reached in this way.

E-Learning Approaches in TBM Processes

Aside from the online training sessions offered via the distance learning platform in the context of the TBM Educational Programme, offline training is provided through a powerful education management system using 100% cloud technology which is accessible by computers or mobile devices independent of time and place. This independence of time and place allows it to overcome geographical and regional obstacles and to reach broader masses. Moreover, the importance of supporting the TBM programme, aiming to increase the level of awareness about addiction, with a distance learning dimension became apparent once again as the COVID-19 pandemic spread around the entire world and affected all countries.

E-content is being provided on the distance learning platform in the areas of addictions to tobacco, alcohol, drug, gambling and technology, and of healthy living. Thanks to single-entry integration with Türkiye's digital education platform EBA (Educational Informatics Network), students and teachers can access the content easily using their existing account details.

E-training programmes have gradually been developed in cooperation with subject experts and pedagogues in all the modules of the TBM Educational Programme originally developed in 2014, taking into account the contribution of developing technologies to education, the development of distance learning, user experiences and new trends in educational technologies.

In 2021, the TBM training modules in the fields of healthy living and tobacco, alcohol, drug and technology addiction that were developed for specific age groups with a pedagogical approach in the conditions of COVID-19 were strengthened with online training sessions on the updated distance learning platform, uzaktanegitim.yesilay.org.tr. Within the scope of the TBM, corporate partnerships have been developed and included in the distance learning platform to raise awareness about the fight against addiction. Aside from the TBM's synchronized training sessions, a total of 72,967 persons were reached in 2021 with asynchronic distance training. Of these, 45,527 were in the Ministry of National Education. Approximately 84,477 hours of online training were provided (MEB and the Green Crescent, 2023).⁸

3.5.2. Intervention against Addiction at Schools (OBM) Programme

Addiction is a process which develops with the continuing abuse of harmful substances. A person will try tobacco, alcohol or drugs before developing an addiction, then start using these substances more frequently and in a risky manner and finally become addicted. Therefore, before a person becomes addicted, s/he goes through the process of "being a user" and/or "getting into the habit". The OBM Programme is a set of preventive interventions developed as the outcome of cooperation between

8 TBM training modules can be accessed via www.tbm.org.tr

the Ministry of National Education and the Turkish Green Crescent Society to persuade children and adolescents to give up harmful substances when they are still at the stages of “trying” or “using” them. It was developed by adapting the short intervention programme, which is known throughout the world as one of the most effective methods for intervening against addiction, to the school setting. The OBM Programme aims to prevent many harmful forms of behaviour from turning into addiction through a school-based effort, and to win over the students concerned before they come to be excluded from the education system. In this respect, the OBM Programme is the first and only intervention programme in Türkiye that intervenes against addiction at the school level.

In the OBM programme, school counsellors and psychological advisors become OBM implementers” by participating in training sessions which increase their technical and professional skills for intervention. They then carry out preventive interventions with students in risk groups. Since the programme was first implemented in 2019, 155 trainer teachers and 465 implementers have been trained from among the psychological advisors working in middle and high schools and Counselling and Research Centres (RAMs) in all 81 provinces. Thanks to the interventions of the OBM implementers, harmful habits and behaviour, such as the taking of tobacco, alcohol and drugs and risky use of the internet, are being prevented among students before they turn into addictions. Addiction is an illness which can be very difficult to treat and has high costs and a high risk of recurrence. The development of this illness is being halted, and secondary prevention work is being conducted systematically.

As part of these efforts, a special software application called OBMSoft has been developed to enable implementers to identify at-risk students in schools, register them on a voluntary basis and enter data based on interviews with them. Using the software, the school counsellors and psychological advisors identify the at-risk student, assess the situation of the student on the basis of a risk and needs report which the software creates using the data entered into the system after the interview with the student, and follow up on the situation through further interviews.

From the initial implementation of the programme through to December 2022, 2,648 students were registered in the system and a total of 5,488 interviews were conducted. In addition, 843 interviews were conducted with the students’ families as part of the intervention plans drawn up based on the risks faced by the student. According to the records, work done so far has led to a total of 286 students quitting tobacco, alcohol and drugs, and intervention meetings are continuing with students who have not yet quit the addictive substances they abuse. If necessary, students are being sent to the nearest health institution or YEDAM (MEB and the Green Crescent, 2022).

3.5.3. Green Crescent Life Skills Training Programme (YYBE)

In addition to the educational content of the TBM programme, which aims to develop knowledge, consciousness and awareness, the need has arisen for another training programme to improve the skills of children and young people to say ‘No’ to harmful habits, thus achieving behavioural change as well as disseminating information. The Turkish Green Crescent Society has developed a training programme to meet this need as part of its primary prevention efforts. The **Green Crescent Life Skills Training Programme (YYBE)** is a school-based, protective-empowerment training programme consisting of activities that ensure students live lives free from the risk of addiction, acquire positive behavioural changes and habits and protect themselves from risky environments and circumstances. YYBE is the first programme to have been developed on this scale in Türkiye with a primary prevention approach.

The programme aims to support multiple aspects of the students’ development from the perspective of “healthy living, healthy individuals and a healthy society”. The most important difference between this programme and other preventive programmes is that it focuses on healthy students as well as students at risk and seeks to strengthen them against possible risks. The target group consists of students in grade 7 who have not tried cigarettes, alcohol or other substances, or who have tried these substances but not become users. In addition, reinforcement activities have been developed for students in grade 8.

In terms of its educational approach, the YYBE focuses on learning by doing/experiencing and problem-solving. In this way, it tries to equip students with multiple skills such as coping with stress, coping with negative feelings, self-management, effective communication, critical thinking, decision-making and the ability to say 'No'.

The life skills which the programme aims to develop are classed under the three headings of:

- Coping with negative feelings,
- Self-awareness and body image and
- Relations with peers.

The programme was piloted, and its validity and reliability were tested, with 147 students in four schools in the Bahçelievler district of İstanbul during the 2019-2020 school year. An impact analysis was conducted to assess, on a life-skills basis, the students' skills for refusing cigarettes, alcohol and drugs, their self-sufficiency in protecting themselves from substance addiction, and the effect of the programme in attitudes hostile to addictive substances. Quantitative analysis revealed that the YYBE had been effective in developing the students' life skills and their skills for refusing cigarettes.

In 2021, the process of expanding the programme to 81 provinces was initiated in accordance with a protocol signed between the Ministry of National Education and the Green Crescent. Through an applied training course held between October 2nd and October 28th 2021, 151 school counsellors and psychological advisors from 81 provinces were trained to be YYBE trainer teachers. Following the training, the trainers started implementing the programme with students in their own schools. By the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, approximately 5,000 students in grade 7 had completed the programme.

Simultaneously, work was also conducted during the 2021-2022 school year to measure the effectiveness of the programme in 12 provinces selected based on the NUTS1 statistical classification of regions. The research sought to determine the effectiveness of the YYBE programme delivered as short and long programmes lasting seven weeks and 15 weeks respectively. It was found that both programmes had a significant and lasting effect in

developing the life skills of the students, enhancing their ability to refuse cigarettes, alcohol and drugs and increasing their self-sufficiency in protecting themselves from substance addiction (MEB and the Green Crescent, 2023).

3.5.4. Debating Project

In 2022, a Green Crescent inter-high school Debating Tournament was held with a view to protecting high school students, the group with the highest risk, from addiction, and to instilling positive alternative habits. As part of this project, training camps were organized and high school students who had applied for the project were provided with training on topics such as "Rules of Debating", "How to Find Arguments", "Law" and "Addiction". The tournament attracted considerable interest among students and teachers, and more than 10,000 students took part. Cooperation with MEB for 2023 is also under way. Informational and preparatory sessions are being held ahead of the tournament, in which approximately 5,000 teams from all over the country are expected to participate (MEB and the Green Crescent, 2023)..

3.6. MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Communication Activities for Combating Drugs

A project entitled "If It Had Been Me" has been launched in which views and suggestions regarding the fight against addiction are gathered from participants representing all sections of society with a view to assessing the efforts being made at the local and national levels regarding tobacco, drug, alcohol and behavioural addictions, evaluating problems encountered in fighting addiction at the district, provincial and country levels, as well as the proposed solutions for these problems, obtaining outputs to serve as the basis for the activities to be included in the new action plans and intervention programmes to be prepared for the period after 2023, and identifying good practices conducted at the local level which it would be useful to expand to the whole country.

In this context, workshops on combating addiction were held with a total of 40,390 people in all 81 provinces and 906 districts between March 16th and April 30th 2022 on the theme of “If It Had Been Me”.

Subsequently, province evaluation meetings were held by video conference on September 20th-22nd 2022, September 27th-29th 2022 and October 4th-6th 2022 at which 39 provinces were evaluated with the aim of assessing the work being done at the local level in the fight against addiction, facilitating the sharing of information among the provinces, rolling out good practices and evaluating the results of the provincial and district workshops on the fight against addiction held on the theme of “If it Had Been Me”.

On October 18th-19th 2022, an Assembly to Evaluate the Provincial and District Fight Against Drugs Workshops was held in the presence of Deputy President and BMYK Chairman Fuat OKTAY, Minister of Health and BMYK Coordinator Minister Dr. Fahrettin KOCA and representatives of all the subsidiary bodies. Some 700 individuals participated in the Assembly, including the deputy governors responsible for the fight against addiction, the provincial directors of health and the chief public health officials from each of the 81 provinces as well as academics, experts from the field and representatives of civil society organizations.

During the Assembly, a programme of workshops was held across sixteen rooms. Top-level administrators of the BMYK and of member institutions of the BMYK acted as moderators, while the deputy governors, provincial directors of health, chief public health officers, academics and representatives of relevant institutions and civil society organizations made up the 470 participants.

The Assembly is also of importance for bringing the BMYK chairman and BMYK coordinating minister together with the members of the other subsidiary bodies, the governors or deputy governors who chair the Provincial Coordination Councils for the Fight against Addiction, and the provincial directors of health and chief public health officials who act as the secretariat of these councils, and for demonstrating the extent of coordination between institutions and high-level ownership in the fight against addiction (Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Public Health, 2023).

3.7. PRESIDENCY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

The Presidency of Religious Affairs, which is responsible for enlightening society on religious issues, continued its efforts in the fight against drugs in all 81 provinces in 2022 under the guidance of 1,128 coordinators, of whom 162 were provincial coordinators – one male and one female coordinator per province – and 966 district coordinators. The fight-against-addiction coordinators and personnel assigned to AMATEMs are tasked with carrying out the activities assigned to them by the Presidency of Religious Affairs, taking part in the coordination meetings held at the governorates and in the work done to implement the decisions taken, raising awareness by organizing awareness meetings on addiction in their provinces and districts, and referring persons with addictions to healthcare centres. Following the treatment of these persons, they support their social integration programmes and carry out rehabilitative activities to prevent them from becoming addicted again. These activities are based on the TBM programme module. At the same time, the awareness and informational activities for the target audience also touch on the religious dimension of addiction in such a way as to encompass all its forms.

In this context:

- In 2022, 5,499 special guidance programmes, lectures, seminars, panel discussions etc. were organized reaching 272,291 people. Approximately 20,000-25,000 million citizens are thought to have been reached through 8,964 sermons and 2 homilies preached on the fight against addiction.
- The 162 personnel of the Presidency of Religious Affairs working as provincial coordinators of services in the fight against addiction were provided with an online awareness seminar on the theme of The Best Narcotic Police is Mother on March 23rd 2022.
- The 162 personnel of the Presidency of Religious Affairs working as provincial coordinators of services in the fight against addiction took part

in an awareness seminar on the theme of Ways to Combat Addiction and Cooperation with the Green Crescent on June 9th 2022.

- An online discussion was held with the 162 personnel of the Presidency of Religious Affairs working as provincial coordinators of services in the fight against addiction on September 29th 2022 in order to increase their professional capacities, ensure the unity of services and support their moral self-motivation.
- Students who registered for the summer Quran courses across the country were provided with training sessions on the fight against addiction, particularly addictions to technology and tobacco.
- The Procedures and Principles for the Work of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Services in the Fight against Addiction No.18242 of July 5th 2017 was converted into a directive, and the Presidency of Religious Affairs Directive on Fight against Addiction Services took effect on December 6th of 2022 under Approval No. 3134455.
- The Presidency participated in the Assembly on the fight against addiction held by the Ministry of Health at the Ankara Chamber of Commerce (ATO) Congressium Congress and Exhibition Centre on October 18th-19th 2022.
- As part of the services of Religious Affairs TV in the fight against addiction:
 - ◆ A programme on “Tobacco Addiction and Ways of Treating It” was broadcast on *Hello to the New Day* on February 9th 2022.
 - ◆ A programme on “Quitting Harmful Habits” was broadcast on *The Joy of Friday* on March 4th 2022.
 - ◆ A programme on “Addiction: the Conviction of the Will” was broadcast on *Waiting to Break the Fast* on April 11th 2022.
 - ◆ The September 2022 edition of the Religious Affairs Family Magazine was published with the theme of “Digitalization and Religious Education” (Presidency of Religious Affairs, 2023).

Table 3.3 Activities of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in 2022 and Breakdown of the Numbers of Participants

Type of Activity	Number of Activities	Number of Participants
Sermons	8,964	Approx. 25,000,000
Homilies	2	Approx. 25,000,000
Seminars, Workshops, Lectures, Panel discussions etc.	4,564	94,145
Penal Institution and Probation Classes	935	8,563

3.8. RADIO AND TELEVISION SUPREME COUNCIL (RTÜK)

Law No. 6112 on the Establishment and Broadcasts of Radio and Television Enterprises entrusts the regulation and supervision of radio and television broadcasts to the Radio and Television Supreme Council. The first paragraph of Article 6 of Law No. 6112 stipulates that “The contents and transmission of media services may not be interfered with beforehand and the contents cannot be audited prior to transmission”. In line with the principle of editorial independence, RTÜK does not therefore have the authority to interfere with the types of programmes which media outlets broadcast or to remove programmes from the schedule. Programmes are subject to monitoring in accordance with Law No.6112 only after they are broadcast.

With respect to addictive substances, programmes are monitored in accordance with Clause (h) of the first paragraph of Article 8 of Law No. 6112, which states that media services “shall not be of such a nature as to encourage the abuse of addictive substances like alcohol, tobacco and drugs, or gambling” and with the relevant provisions of Law No. 4207 on the Prevention and Control of the Hazards of Tobacco Products”.

Broadcasts are monitored diligently by Supreme Council experts, and reports are drawn up for those which contradict the provisions of Law No. 6112. These reports and recordings of the broadcasts are then evaluated by the Supreme Council and where necessary sanctions are implemented, subject to the completion of the legal process, under Article 32 of the same Law. The sanctions take the form of warnings, administrative fines, the halting of a particular programme, the removal of the programme from the catalogue, temporary suspension of broadcasting and the cancellation of the broadcasting licence.

In 2022, **two administrative fines** were imposed on media service providers for violations of Clause (h) of the first paragraph of Article 8 of Law No. 6112.

Public Service Announcements, Prioritized Broadcasts and Substitute Broadcasts

The term public service announcement or public information broadcast refers to informative and educational films, sound recordings and captions which are produced by public institutions and organizations, and by civil society organizations such as associations and foundations, which the Supreme Council decides it is in the public interest to broadcast.

Prioritized broadcasts are broadcasts which it is compulsory to broadcast by law and which are discussed and decided upon and sent to media organizations by the Supreme Council after receiving the positive opinion of the relevant ministry or institution.

In 2022, **two prioritized broadcast** requests were received from the Ministry of Health concerning addiction to tobacco.

- Two television public service announcements and one radio public service announcement were requested in the application of February 9th 2022, and
- One television and one radio public service announcement were requested in the application of May 18th 2022.

At the request of public institutions and organizations and civil society organizations which have prepared informative and educational public information broadcasts or films for prioritized broadcasts, RTÜK conducts examinations of these materials based on the provisions of Law No. 6112. For those which are found to be in line with its broadcasting

principles, it then issues decisions to the effect that their broadcast will be in the public interest.

RTÜK continues to take decisions to recommend the broadcast of public information broadcasts and prioritized broadcasts on the fight against drugs, provided it finds them appropriate, when these are prepared and submitted to it by institutions and organizations with responsibilities in this field.

In the context of activities for combating addiction, two substitute programmes were produced, on the topics of tobacco and technology addiction. These programmes are broadcast in the broadcast zones used by programmes the broadcast of which has been halted by RTÜK (RTÜK, 2023).

3.9. TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION CORPORATION (TRT)

The Basic Principles and Broadcasting Rules of the Turkish Radio and Television Law (Law No. 2954) of 1983 oblige it “**not to include subjects that might damage the physical and mental health of society**”. Conforming to this provision, the TRT also conducts its broadcasting activities in accordance with the terms of its General Broadcasting Plan, as a requirement of its public broadcasting mandate.

The following topics were included in documentaries, dramas, educational, cultural and healthcare programmes and news broadcasts broadcast by TRT radio and television channels in 2022:

- What is addiction?
- Addiction and the fight against addiction,
- Meetings of the High Council for the Fight against Addiction,
- Ways of keeping away from addictive substances,
- Types of addiction and the fight against addiction,

- Addiction and the duties of the family in this respect,
- Addiction and the duties of the media in this respect,
- Volatile and narcotic substance traps that are common today and may be encountered by children and young people,
- World No-Tobacco Day,
- Awareness and consciousness-raising activities for mothers in the fight against drugs, as part of the “The Best Narcotics Police is Mother” project of the Ministry of Interior,
- Routes to waste and drug abuse,
- Weeding-out operations,
- Substance, alcohol, tobacco and technology addiction,
- Substance addiction,
- The work of AMATEMs for substance addicts,
- Individual and social harms of substance addiction,
- The process of abuse of volatile and narcotic substances that starts with the use of water pipes,
- The harms of using tobacco and addictive substances
- What is drug addiction and how should it be combated?
- International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking,
- The UYUMA project in the fight against drugs,
- The role and importance of the press in the fight against drugs,
- The fight against drugs and the EU-supported “Drug Abuse Prevention for Youth” project,
- The fight against illegal addictive substances,
- YEDAM activities,
- Green Crescent Week and similar topics.

In addition, 1,141 news items on prevention activities and operations carried out as part of the fight against drugs were broadcast in the news bulletins of the TRT’s media channels (General Directorate of the TRT, 2023).

3.10. GREEN CRESCENT SOCIETY

3.10.1. Camping Activities

As part of the Green Crescent’s camping activities, the Young Green Crescent Society, which was formed to warn children and young people and to include them in the fight, organizes camps, training and visibility activities suitable for the primary school, middle school, high school and university levels in order to spread awareness among the various segments of society.

Among the activities carried out by the Green Crescent among children and young people with a view to raising their awareness of the fight against addictions, the one which generates the most effective feedback is the Young Green Crescent camps. The camp activities are organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Türkiye Scouts and Guides Federation, the Türkiye Red Crescent Association and Beyoğlu Municipality. Through these activities, the Green Crescent has included children and young people in its fight.

In 2022, Young Green Crescent camps were organized with 758 university students at nine different camp venues.

3.10.2. My Club is the Green Crescent Project

One of the most important school-based preventive projects developed by the Green Crescent is the “My Club is the Green Crescent” project. The main aim of this project is to activate the Green Crescent clubs in schools and raise students’ perceptions about the Green Crescent and its work. The project also has other benefits such as mobilizing young volunteers within the Green Crescent and introducing students to the right role models.

To these ends, My Club is the Green Crescent reached 30,000 primary and middle school students across Türkiye through 1,800 Young Green Crescent volunteers from 79 branches in

51 provinces between October 2017 and 2019. A protocol was then signed with the Ministry of Interior to expand the project throughout the country and efforts were launched to achieve this. The aim was to reach more people with this activity by implementing the project in 200 schools including at least one school in all 81 provinces and one school in each of the 39 districts of İstanbul.

By March 2020, when schools switched to distance learning, the project had been implemented in 150 schools. Until 2021, the remaining activities were carried out online.

With the completion of the work with the Ministry of Interior, the My Club is the Green Crescent project reached a total of 60,000 primary and middle school students through 3,600 Young Green Crescent volunteers from 120 branches in all 81 provinces between 2017 and the end of 2021.

In 2022, the project was implemented in 80 branches and 357 schools with a total of 9,075 children.

3.10.3. Green Crescent Ambassadors Project

The Green Crescent also implements the Health Ambassador Project, for which it collaborates with all segments of society in combating addiction. The name of the project was changed to “Green Crescent Ambassadors” in 2018. The project aims to increase the awareness of society about combating addiction by mobilizing local social dynamics and neighbourhood shopkeepers, and hence to prevent addictions.

The project was first put into effect in the Bağcılar and Başakşehir districts of İstanbul. The professional groups which have the most contact with children and young people were identified. Through members of these professions, the project aimed to spread social sensitivity via volunteer shopkeepers.

The shopkeepers participating in the Green Crescent’s Green Crescent Ambassadors project were provided with training to increase their knowledge and ensure that they adopted a common discourse.

The project volunteers were asked to inform the “White Desk” (Tel. No. 153) about derelict buildings, places of alcohol consumption and unused parks in their areas and to refer individuals in their neighbourhoods using alcohol and drugs, or their families, to mukhtars for support – or to the YEDAM for those wishing to receive treatment.

In 2018, work began on extending the project across the country via Green Crescent branches. In that year, it was implemented by 32 Green Crescent branches and reached 3,200 shopkeepers. In this way, the shopkeepers became Green Crescent ambassadors and started to conduct public benefit activities in the fight against drugs.

In 2019, 20 branches implemented the project and 2,000 shop-keepers were reached as a result.

For 2020, a project application call was made to Green Crescent branches, and 36 branches from all over the country completed their applications. However, field activities including visits to shopkeepers could not be conducted due to the measures adopted against the pandemic. The project could not therefore be completed.

In 2021, a total of 71 branches implemented the project: the 36 branches which had applied in 2020 and 35 which made new applications in 2021. The 49 branches which completed the project conducted 9,622 interviews and recruited 2,487 shopkeepers as Green Crescent ambassadors.

In 2022, a total of 80 branches applied to be included in this activity. Visits to 29 branches were completed while the reporting process is continuing in another 42 branches. 3,256 interviews were held and 1,184 shopkeepers became Green Crescent Ambassadors (Green Crescent, 2023).

3.10.4. Peer Training Project

In line with the Green Crescent’s strategic objectives, students working as volunteers at Green Crescent clubs have been provided with training on the use of the TBM peer training content. The goals are to increase the institutional capacities of the Green Crescent’s voluntary organizations and to reach young people, particularly university students, who are the Society’s most important target group.

The Green Crescent Headquarters Directorate of Stakeholder Relations issues project calls for this training in January every year. In consultation with the Young Green Crescent clubs in the universities, the Green Crescent branches select candidates on the basis of the criteria in the application guide, in line with the contingents allotted to them. The application forms which reach the Green Crescent Headquarters Directorate of Stakeholder Relations are then evaluated and the results of the evaluation are forwarded to the Green Crescent branches. The candidates that meet the application criteria are identified and invited to the training venue. The training sessions are delivered by groups of expert trainers. Following the training, candidates who have

received adequate scores in the examination receive a certificate of participation and become TBM peer training implementers. Clubs who have received the training are expected to pass on the training they have received to 1,000 persons in their own universities within one year.

As of 2022, 435 persons had received implementer training and 20,650 students had received peer training about addiction.

In 2023, it is intended to hold three TBM peer training implementer training programmes to train 360 persons as implementers.

3.10.5. Green Stage Project

The Green Stage project is a platform on which celebrities capable of serving as role models and academics from all over Türkiye who are experts in their fields meet up with young people to share their experiences, observations and research, and hold conversations or seminars on themes chosen by the Green Crescent.

It is intended to extend the Green Stage project throughout the country so as to bring young people from other provinces into contact with the people serving as role models and at the same time to increase the organizational capabilities of its branches and to raise awareness of the Green Crescent among the target audience.

The call for applications issued in January 2020 received positive responses from 25 Green Crescent branches, which requested that Green Stage seminars be held in their provinces and districts. These activities were scheduled to begin in March 2021 but were cancelled due to the pandemic.

In the first six months of 2021, events could not be held in halls and similar venues due to the measures adopted against COVID-19. From October 2021 onwards, the demand started to be met while adhering to rules on wearing masks, maintaining social distance and so on. As a result, the Green Stage Project held 16 seminars in nine different provinces reaching 1,669 individuals. The seminar programmes covered the topics of technology addiction, drug addiction, and the Green Crescent and its fields of fight.

The Green Stage conversations could not be held in 2022 due to ongoing work on changes in the content, guests and concept (Green Crescent, 2023).

3.10.6. Family that Protects against Addictions Guide

The Family that Protects against Addictions Guide was developed by the Green Crescent in 2022 as a preventive and empowerment guide aimed at

providing families with awareness about addictions and supporting parenting skills for protection from addiction. Prepared by expert developmental psychologists, the guide contains information and recommendations related to addictions specific to the various age groups. In addition to this scientific knowledge, the guide constitutes a joint work of the Green Crescent family as it incorporates the views and suggestions of parents working for the Green Crescent. These views and suggestions are made available to all families in the guide.

The Family that Protects against Addictions Guide is not simply a book in which parents can read various suggestions. It is also an interactive guide containing activities that enable them and their children to make use of the knowledge they have acquired and apply it in line with their own needs. For this purpose, the guide presents parents with situations which their children might experience and helps them to develop proposed solutions. At the same time, a variety of family activities suitable for different developmental stages are included to strengthen communication within the family and support a variety of children's life skills.

In the first chapter of the guide, information is provided to families on the types of addiction, their causes and their effects on children. The second section contains a parenting test which the parents can use to assess themselves and explains the key parental skills they need to be able to prevent risks of addiction. From the third chapter onwards, in order to enable parents to take precautions appropriate to the age and developmental characteristics of their children, the guide is divided into three sections on early childhood, schooldays and adolescence. For each of these developmental stages, the guide presents the risky aspects of the age range along with suggestions for providing protection against these risks. Age-specific recommendations have been developed for each type of addiction so that parents can take precautions against all of them. The final section of the guide contains information and advice on how parents can notice warning signals or early indications of addictions in their children and guide and orient them appropriately in response.

The Family that Protects against Addictions Guide is intended to reach families in Türkiye and the World and to contribute to the raising of healthy generations by strengthening their families. To this end, it has been made accessible to everyone via www.tbm.org.tr. It has also been translated into Arabic, French, English and Russian for wider use on the international plane (Green Crescent, 2023).

4

CHAPTER

TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND
SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

4.1. TREATMENT

Work on drug addiction treatment in Türkiye is carried out by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with other institutions and organizations in line with the *2018-2023 National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Fight against Drugs* (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

4.1.1. Organization and Provision of Drug Treatment

The institutions providing drug addiction treatment in Türkiye are:

- State hospitals operating under the Ministry of Health,
- Psychiatric clinics of the faculties of medicine of universities,
- University hospitals connected with hospitals under the Ministry of Health and some private hospitals.

Drug addiction treatment in Türkiye is provided in the form of in-patient and out-patient treatment. As of the end of 2022, there were 135 drug addiction treatment centres in operation. 59 centres provide both in and out-patient treatment while 76 centres provide only out-patient treatment. The total number of in-patient beds at treatment centres as of the end of 2022 was 1,388. 79⁹ of the 81 provinces have at least one addiction treatment centre (Graph 4.1).

In the provinces of Bingöl and Gümüşhane, which have no specialized treatment centres (centres licensed to conduct activities specific to addiction), out-patient services are being provided in the psychiatry clinics of the state hospitals.

While out-patient treatment centres are being made widely available, efforts are also under way to increase the number and capacities of in-patient treatment centres.

A mandatory treatment process is also possible in Türkiye. In line with the Law Amending the Statutory Decree No.375 published in issue 30988 of the *Official Gazette* on December 24th 2019, Article 53 of the Turkish Civil Code (Law No. 4721) has been altered to make mandatory treatment processes swifter and more effective. To

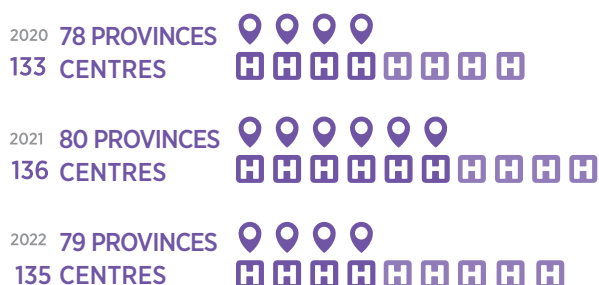
9 There are no treatment centres in Bingöl and Gümüşhane.

this end, the second sentence of the fifth clause of the first paragraph of Article 436 of Law No. 4721 was revoked and the following clauses were added to the paragraph:

“6. In order to obtain an official health board report, blood and similar biological samples and samples such as hair, saliva, fingernails may be obtained from the person’s body, necessary medical interventions may be carried out on the person and if needed, the person may be placed in a healthcare organization for a maximum of twenty days upon a preliminary report by the physician.

“7. In order to implement decisions made in line with this article, force may be used against the person concerned if needed and necessary medical help may be obtained from healthcare personnel.”

NUMBERS OF TREATMENT CENTRES BY YEARS



Graph 4.1 Distribution of Drug Addiction Treatment Centres and the Provinces where they are Located by Year (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

4.1.2. Out-patient Treatment Network

Out-patient treatment programmes for drug addiction are becoming more and more widespread around the world. However, in Türkiye, particularly among the relatives of patients, there is a strong conviction that addiction treatment can only be provided as an in-patient procedure. In fact, many patients can put their own lives and environments in order and pursue an out-patient treatment programme in line with a treatment plan developed by a physician.

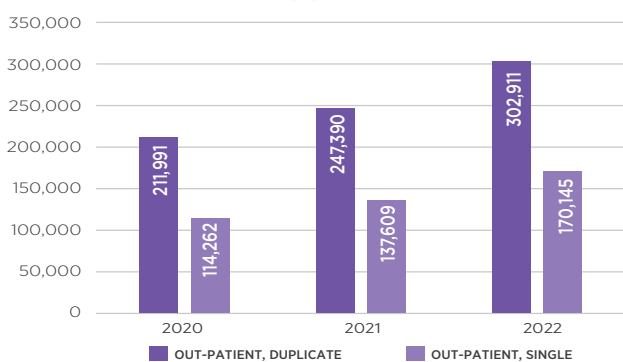
Patients who apply to treatment centres for addiction treatment are first assessed by a doctor. This assessment takes into consideration the various factors that might affect the treatment, including the type of drug abused, the form in which it is taken, the patient’s adaptation to treatment, and his/her family relations and social life. Accordingly,

a decision is made on whether the patient is to receive out-patient or in-patient treatment.

In the case of a decision to begin out-patient treatment, the patient is prescribed medication, arrangements are made for his/her participation in individual and group therapy sessions, and appointments are scheduled to control his/her progress. Meetings are also held with the families of both in-patients and out-patients.

While there were only three out-patient treatment centres across the country prior to the publication of the 2015 Emergency Action Plan, out-patient treatment centres were rapidly rolled out to facilitate access to this form of treatment. As of the end of 2022, there were 76 out-patient treatment centres providing services throughout the country.

After alcohol and nicotine abuse disorders are eliminated from the data, based on the diagnosis codes, the total number of applications made to treatment centres alone for out-patient treatment in 2022 was 302,911¹⁰. Of these applications, 113,981 were referrals by probation services.



Graph 4.2 Distribution of Out-Patients by Year (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

4.1.3. In-patient Treatment Network

The treatment of patients who apply to treatment centres for treatment for addiction and for whom it is decided following the physician's assessment that in-patient treatment would be appropriate begins with detoxification and continues with psychosocial interventions. In-patient treatment generally lasts 14-21 days.

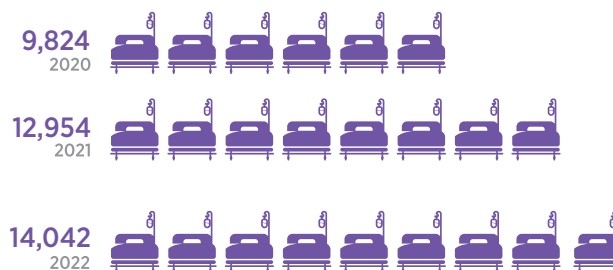
In addition to the medical treatment provided by the treatment centres, individual and group therapy sessions are held and work and occupational therapy activities (ceramics, mosaic

¹⁰ The data includes duplicate records.

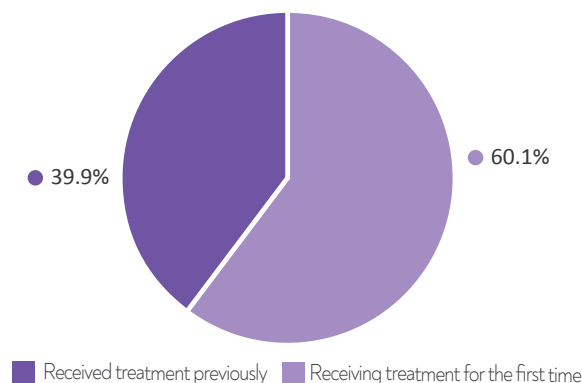
classes, jewellery design, painting, sports, reading, etc.) are organized under the guidance of trainers from public education centres.

While out-patient treatment centres are being made more widely available, efforts are also under way to increase the numbers and capacities of in-patient treatment centres. Prior to the publication of the 2015 Emergency Action Plan, services were being provided in 33 in-patient treatment centres with a capacity of 712 beds. By the end of 2022, the number of treatment centres had been raised to 59, the total bed capacity had been increased to 1,388, and there were in-patient treatment centres in operation in 32 provinces. Efforts are being made to increase the number of treatment centres to cover all healthcare regions. The opening of new in-patient treatment centres has been included in the investment plan.

59 of the 135 treatment centres in Türkiye provide in-patient treatment. The number of applications for in-patient treatment in 2022 was 18,187¹¹. When duplicate records are removed, the total number of individuals is 14,042¹².



Graph 4.3 Distribution of Individual In-Patients by Year (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health)



Graph 4.4 Distribution of Patients Applying to Treatment Centres in 2022 (%) (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023)

¹¹ The data includes duplicate records.

¹² The analyses in this chapter were conducted on the basis of 11,373 forms filled during the application of 14,042 individual patients.

Of the patients applying for treatment in 2022, 60.1% stated that it was the first time they had received treatment and 39.9% stated that they had received treatment before (Graph 4.4).

Table 4.1 2022 Distribution of Persons Treated in Treatment Centres in 2022 by Substance Abused¹³ (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023)¹⁴

ICD Code	Number of Out-patient Applications (ICD F10-F19)	Number of In-patient Applications (ICD F10-F19)
F11 (Opioid Addiction)	113,991	7,042
F19 (Addiction to Multiple Drugs and Other Psychoactive Substances)	121,154	8,851
F12 (Cannabinoid Addiction)	53,504	818
F15 (Addiction to Caffeine and Other Stimulants)	7,897	725
F14 (Cocaine Addiction)	1,852	275
F16 (Hallucinogen Addiction)	1,725	232
F18 (Inhalant [Volatile Substance and Thinner] Addiction)	1,084	111
F13 (Sedative and Hypnotic Substance Addiction)	1,074	133
Total	302,911	18,187



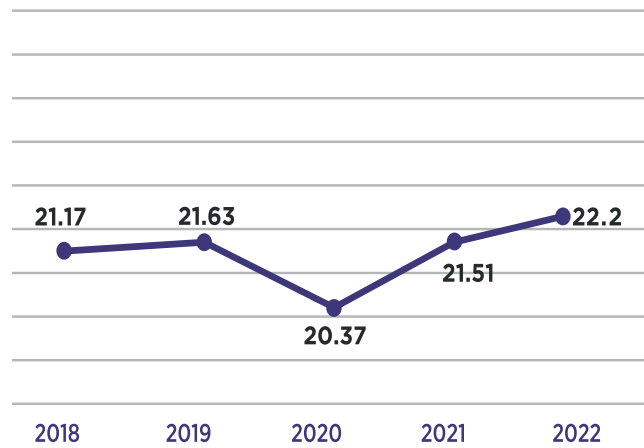
Graph 4.5 Distribution of Persons Treated by Gender (%) (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023)

An examination of the distribution of in-patients in 2022 by gender shows that 92.3% were men and 7.7% were women (Graph 4.5). These statistics are consistent with the gender profile of users identified in the CND NARCOLOG study and

¹³ Includes probation data.
¹⁴ The data includes duplicate records.

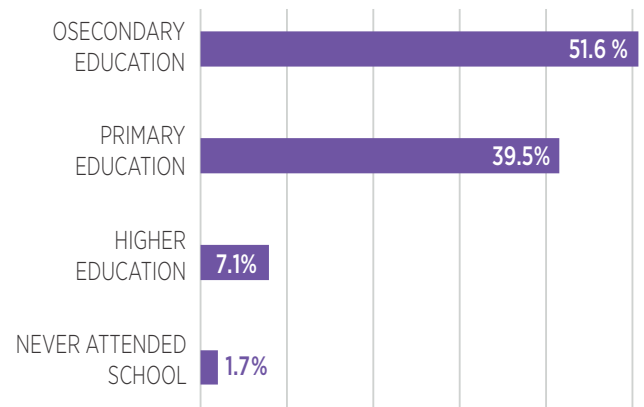
the Survey of Attitudes and Behaviour towards the Use of Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs in the General Population in Türkiye (GPS).

The average age of patients applying for treatment worked out at 29.45 years. The distribution of those treated by age group points to a concentration of applicants aged between 25 and 34. The share of patients in this age group within the total number of patients is 52.6%.



Graph 4.6 Distribution of Persons Treated by Age of First-Time Use (%) (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023)

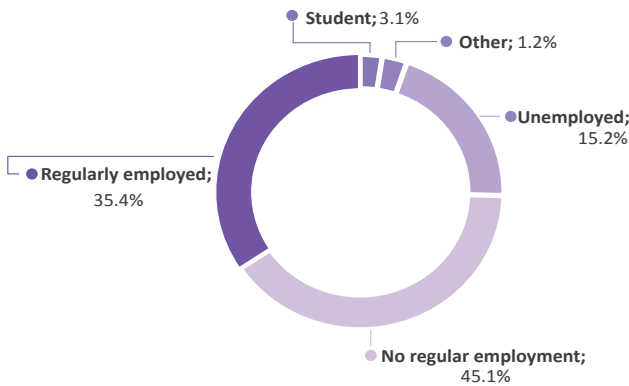
The average age of first-time-use among persons receiving in-patient treatment in 2022 was found to be 22.2 years (Graph 4.6).



Graph 4.7 Distribution of Persons Treated by Level of Education (%) (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

An examination of the level of education completed by patients receiving treatment in 2022 showed that,

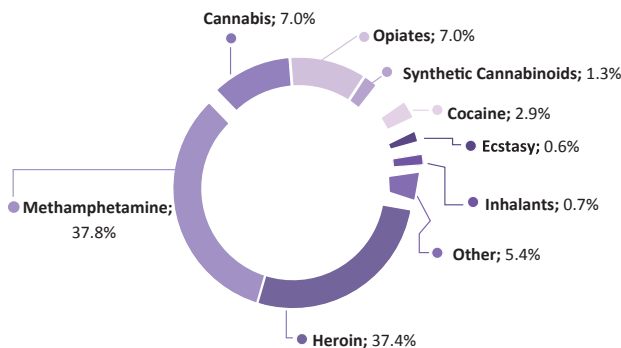
- 51.6% had completed middle school,
- 39.5% had completed primary school,
- 7.1% had completed high school, and
- 1.9% had never attended school (Graph 4.7)



Graph 4.8 Distribution of Persons Treated by Employment Status (%) (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

A glance at the employment status of patients receiving treatment in 2021 shows that,

- 15.2% were unemployed,
- 45.1% had no regular job,
- 35.4% had a regular job and
- 3.1% were students (Graph 4.8).



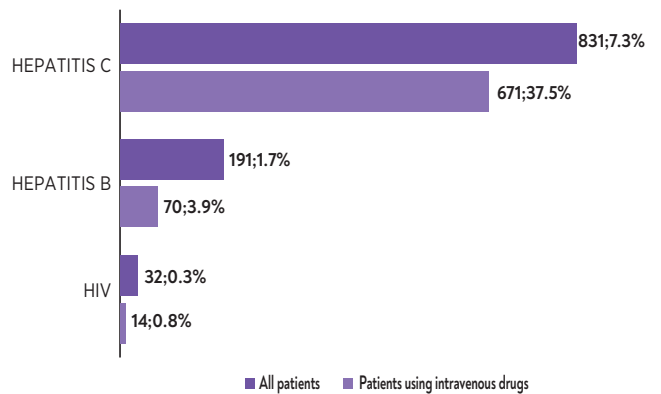
Graph 4.9 Distribution of Persons Treated by Substance Abused (%) (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023)

Graphs for the distribution of persons receiving treatment in 2022 by the substance abused indicate that:

- Graphs for the distribution of persons receiving treatment in 2022 by the substance abused indicate that:

- 37.4% were treated for heroin (43% in 2021),
- 37.8% for methamphetamine (25.6% in 2021),
- 7.0% for cannabis (11.6% in 2021),
- 1.3% for synthetic cannabinoids (5.8% in 2021),
- 7.0% for other opiates (4.2% in 2021),
- 2.9% for cocaine (2.7% in 2021),
- 0.6% for Ecstasy (0.8% in 2021),
- 0.7% for volatile substances (1.4% in 2021) and
- 5.4% for other substances (5.2% in 2020) (Graph 4.9).

In 2022, screening tests for HIV and viral hepatitis were carried out on patients receiving in-patient treatment in addiction treatment centres having used drugs intravenously.



Graph 4.10 Distribution of the Results of Screening Tests Carried Out on Persons under Treatment who had Used Drugs Intravenously (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023)

Of the patients receiving in-patient treatment, 1,787 were observed to have used intravenous drugs. As a result of screening tests:

- 191 patients (1.7%) tested positive for Hepatitis B,
- 831 patients (7.3%) tested positive for Hepatitis C, and
- 32 patients (0.3%) tested positive for HIV

Among patients who had used intravenous drugs:

- 70 patients (3.9%) tested positive for Hepatitis B,
- 671 patients (37.5%) tested positive for Hepatitis C, and
- 14 patients (0.8%) tested

4.1.4. Recent Developments

Three in-patient treatment centres were opened in 2021 with a view to increasing the effectiveness and availability of in-patient treatment services in line with the Action Plan. Accordingly, 59 in-patient treatment centres with a total bed capacity of 1,350 are now in service, excluding psychiatry clinics. Meanwhile, four out-patient treatment centres also went into operation.

Efforts are under way to open rehabilitation centres to support persons with addictions spiritually, help them to keep up their societal, family and professional roles, and ensure that their wellbeing continues after medical treatment is completed. To this end, four out-patient rehabilitation centres were opened in 2021, raising the number of these centres, which are a new phenomenon in Türkiye, to six nationwide. One of the six out-patient rehabilitation centres specializes in children and adolescents.

One of the primary goals of the Ministry of Health is to provide high-quality, effective healthcare services on an equitable basis and to ensure that healthcare services are accessible, effective, impactful and of high quality. With this in mind, a Clinical Protocol on the Treatment and Monitoring of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders has been published. The Clinical Guide, which is an essential source of information for clinics, is currently at the printing stage. When ready, it will be distributed to mental health and diseases specialists and child and adolescent mental health and diseases specialists working in hospitals. The guide can be accessed via the website of the Ministry of Health¹⁵.

The need has arisen to identify standards in order to maximize the quality of the services provided in centres offering treatment for addiction under the Regulation on Addiction Counselling, Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centres and to ensure the same level of service quality is provided at every centre. To this end, a Minimum Operating Standards Guide has been published. The guide will be used initially at adult and child-and-adolescent in-patient

157 https://shgm.saglik.gov.tr/Eklenti/42286/0/alkolmaddekullbozuklklaritedaviizlemkp05012022pdf.pdf?_tag1=0BCAA049767C1154EB02DAF253584C2892076C2A

treatment centres and out-patient and in-patient rehabilitation centres in four provinces identified as pilot provinces.

4.2. REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Rehabilitation is a process that consists of in-patient and/or out-patient, pharmacological and/or psychosocial treatment following detoxification and which aims to ensure that persons continue to avoid substances and regain their functionality. The process also encompasses social reintegration.

Social reintegration programmes provide support in the form of counselling or treatment to persons who have tried drugs or have become drug addicts, and seek to increase the social functionality, level of welfare and current wellbeing of persons who have received treatment through rehabilitation, training, employment, housing, social relationships and the social environment. In these ways, they seek to reintroduce the target group into society.

4.2.1. Ministry of Family and Social Services

Child Support Centres

Children in need of protection who have substance addictions and whose medical treatment and medical rehabilitation for substance abuse has been completed, and who are subject to a care order under Law No. 5395 on Child Protection, are admitted to Child Support Centres with a view to ensuring their social reintegration.

Child Support Centres are live-in social service institutions that provide temporary care and protection to those children placed under care and protection orders because they have been forced into crime, been victims of crimes or been exposed to social risks on the street who are found to need psychosocial support until such time as these needs

have been met. Within this period, these centres also carry out work to arrange the children's relationships with their families, immediate surroundings and society in general. They have separate structures and specializations based on the situations that the children have been victims of, whether they have been forced in crime, their age and their gender.

The main objective of these centres is to provide services to meet the children's basic needs, to determine their physical, emotional, psychological and social needs and make the necessary interventions, and to prepare them to return to their families or immediate surroundings or to benefit from other social service models.

Should any of those children who for any reason cannot be supported while living with their families, and who have been placed under care and protection under Law No. 5395 on Child Protection, have become addicted to substances, a protective healthcare order is obtained and arrangements are made for the envisaged treatment to be provided by the Ministry of Health.

For children who have completed the medical treatment and medical rehabilitation for substance abuse provided by the Ministry of Health, a detailed expert assessment is conducted which takes account of their needs, individual characteristics and life experiences, and the social service model most appropriate to their situations is selected. Among these children, those who are considered to need psychosocial support are admitted to Child Support Centres specialized in this area.

The centres are specialized according to the children's vulnerabilities, age and gender. There are 14 Child Support Centres with a maximum capacity of 40 children each which provide psychosocial support to children, whose medical treatment for substance abuse and rehabilitation has been completed by the Ministry of Health. Special care is taken to establish Child Support Centres providing services in the field of substance addiction in the same cities as ÇEMATEMs and AMATEMs are located.

The buildings where Child Support Centres provide their services consist of detached houses located within a campus. The centres include spaces such as living units, areas for children to study and play, indoor and outdoor sports areas, hobby gardens, animal shelters, training workshops and therapy and interview rooms.

For children receiving services from Child Support Centres, and for their families, a programme of psychosocial support and intervention called the Anka Child Support Programme has been developed. The aim of this programme, implemented in the Centres, is to ensure the personal development of the children taking their individual differences and needs into account, to overcome trauma, to bring about behavioural change with respect to being forced into crime, street life and substance addiction, and to develop positive attitudes and behaviour.

Foreseeing a multi-directional approach to intervention, the Anka Child Support Programme's Individual Needs and Risk Assessment Form (BİRDEF) comprises the following elements: Group Activities; Individual Counselling; Family Activities; Elements of a Supportive Environment; Approach Principles for Support Personnel, and Institutional Approach in Crisis Intervention.

The programme includes modules on topics such as personality development, bringing about behavioural change with respect to substance addiction and the acquisition of life skills for an orderly life. These modules are delivered to the children. In addition, Basic Personnel Training is provided to all personnel working at Child Support Centres as part of the programme.

Arrangements are made for children under protection and care at the Child Support Centres to participate in education in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education.

Those children who have found themselves outside the formal education system are oriented towards vocational education in cooperation with the national labour agency, İŞKUR.

Children receiving services from the Child Support Centres are provided with various social, cultural and sporting activities and workshops to strengthen their social reintegration. Many of the children acquire athletes' licenses in a range of sports. Activities that encourage children to participate in sports activities are ongoing under the protocol signed with the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

A Values Training Programme is being implemented at the centres as part of the cooperation protocol signed between the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Presidency of Religious Affairs. Pursuant to this protocol, a "Values Training through Activities" programme is conducted by religious

officials assigned to the Child Support Centres by the provincial mufti offices. In this context, educational activities are provided to contribute to the children's religious, spiritual and moral development.

The activities below have been carried out under a project launched in 2017 with the aim of informing target groups of children below the age of 18 and their families about the adverse effects of drugs, raising their awareness on the issue and referring individuals in the target groups to the social service models they need:

- Mobile teams have been formed at provincial level to identify children forced to work/beg in the street and to ensure that they benefit from the relevant social services and social assistance. The teams are made up of personnel working at state institutions and organizations (Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services, Provincial Directorate of Security, Local Authorities, Provincial Directorate of National Education, etc.). Mobile teams are currently in operation in all 81 provinces.
- As of the end of 2022, 17,902 families and 39,699 children had been provided with counselling services provided to children forced to work/beg on the streets, and to members of their families, as part of the fight against drugs.
- Education, counselling and health measures have been taken in the case of 3,314 children who were forced to work/beg on the streets. The families of 11,952 children have been provided with Social and Economic Support (SED) or with support via the Social Cooperation and Solidarity Foundations.

Guidance and counselling activities aimed at protecting children benefiting from the services of the General Directorate of Child Services who are of secondary school age but are not in education or employment from drug addiction and directing them towards education/employment were originally included in the Action Plan but were removed by a decision taken at the BMYK meeting on December 30th 2019. At the BMYK meeting held on May 7th 2020 it was decided to reintroduce these services. Accordingly, all 81 provincial directorates of Family and Social Services were asked to make plans for activities aimed at preventing substance abuse in children. Children resident in Child Support Centres, Children's Houses, Children's House Sites and Children's Initial Admission Centres, and those

receiving the Social Economic Support service and supported while staying with their families have been provided with information, guidance and counselling, orientations to formal education, orientations to vocational training and employment, orientations to sports training courses, camps and social and cultural activities, skills acquisition activities on daily planning, effective communication, crisis intervention and coping with problems, psychosocial support and similar activities. This work is continuing under the coordination of the provincial directorates.

The 14 existing Child Support Centres (ÇODEMs) that offer services related to substance addiction have been assessed/ Taking their areas of specialization, capacities and physical conditions into account, arrangements have been made to set up multi-functional rooms where workshop activities can be carried out.

In 2022, 246 of the children under protection and care receiving services from the ÇODEMs for substance addiction completed their psychosocial support training (Ministry of Family and Social Services, Directorate General of Child Services, 2023).

4.2.2. Ministry of Health

Activities carried out as part of the Rehabilitation Model for Addicts (BAHAR)

The Rehabilitation Model for Addicts (BAHAR) was developed to ease the reintegration of individuals into social life following their treatment for addiction, without relapsing into drug abuse, by ensuring that they remain in contact with treatment facilities. In this context, the first centre providing out-patient treatment was opened on January 2nd 2018 within the Erenköy Training and Research Hospital for Psychiatric and Neurological Diseases.

In the treatment of addiction, rehabilitation is the stabilization phase during which support is provided for patients' treatment following detoxification and their free time is organized. The aim of the rehabilitation process is for the individual to overcome problems that can lead to addiction such as anger, stress and difficulty saying 'No', to learn methods for not reverting to drugs, and to acquire the proper

communication and life skills for existing in society. To achieve this, individual counselling, family and group activities, social skills training, psycho-education and work and occupational activities are provided.

The BAHAR model plans for rehabilitation to be conducted on an in-patient or out-patient basis for a period of 3-6 months, depending on the characteristics of the individual concerned. There ensues a process of social reintegration during which activities are conducted towards re-inserting the person into their working or educational life. In this way, individuals who have been treated for addictions will be enabled to begin a new life and precautions against them starting to take drugs again will be increased.

Fifteen centres are operating under the BAHAR model, of which four are for in-patients (adults) and 11 for out-patients (10 for adults and one for children and adolescents).

The in-patient BAHAR centres are operating in the provinces of İstanbul, Bursa (2) and Diyarbakır, and the out-patient BAHAR centres in Denizli, Diyarbakır, İstanbul (2), Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, Sivas, Şanlıurfa and Tekirdağ.

Training of Personnel Working at Primary Healthcare Services

The process of fighting drugs has been strengthened by ensuring the active participation of family physicians, who are the first ports of call in the healthcare system. The “Training Programme for Fighting Addiction”, which was first developed in 2015 and then updated in 2018, seeks to increase the effectiveness of the services provided at the primary health level with respect to fighting drugs and to ensure that family physicians are qualified to carry out the necessary interventions concerning individuals who abuse or are addicted to drugs and their families.

The work carried out between January 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022 with respect to those activities of the National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Fight Against Drugs (2018-2023) which it was planned to conduct under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health are detailed below.

Work on the Fight against Addiction in Primary-Level Health Services

In order to increase the effectiveness of the services for fighting addiction provided at the primary level, training of trainers (ToT) training was delivered to 219 personnel (physicians, psychologists, social workers, child development specialists and sociologists). In addition, refreshment training continues to be given to physicians and other personnel once every two years.

Training sets and a guide for fighting addiction have been prepared to ensure that the training programmes provided are standardized and these documents are being distributed.

Besides the Family Health Centres, face-to-face counselling and support services are also being provided for addicted patients and their relatives at the Healthy Living Centres so as to strengthen efforts to fight addiction through primary healthcare services.

In all the Healthy Living Centres that are actively operating in the 81 provinces, Training for the Fight Against Addiction was provided to 332 professionals including psychologists, social services experts and child development specialists. On-line refreshment training on knowledge and skills for approaching patients who abuse or are addicted to substances and their families was delivered to Healthy Living Centre staff on March 1st and March 3rd 2022. In addition, a “Basic Addiction Training” programme was developed for personnel. This training was provided on-line to psychologists, social workers, nurses and health officers employed in the treatment (detoxification) centres.

When individuals apply to the Family Health Centres or the Psychosocial Support Units at the Healthy Living Centres for counselling and support for drug addiction, whether for themselves or on behalf of their relatives, an assessment is made, counselling services are provided and work is done to ensure that the addicted individuals are included in the treatment system. Interviews are held regularly and

the treatment process is begun. Persons receiving addiction treatment at Healthy Living Centres are also followed-up and monitored.

Having an addict in the family deeply affects the family and disrupts family dynamics. These centres also provide family members with support and counselling about the addiction process, the approach to adopt vis-a-vis the addict and the things that can be done to steer the addict towards the treatment system.

A Healthy Living Centres Fight Against Drugs software programme has been developed to ensure that the persons who apply to the psychosocial support units at the Healthy Living Centres on their own behalf or on behalf of their family are monitored in a standardized manner throughout the country and that the data are tracked. The software was introduced across the country in 2020. As a result of the integration of the software used by the Healthy Living Centres with the Alo 191 system, appointments can be made at Healthy Living Centres via ALO 191. In this way, patients and families who have applied to Healthy Living Centres can be tracked via the Consultation Hotline. In addition, in order to increase the effectiveness of the treatment provided, patients who have applied to the Alcohol and Substance Addiction Treatment Centres and Child-Adolescent Substance Addiction Treatment Centres are contacted, with their consent, via Alo 191 and their treatment is closely monitored. Feedback calls continue to be made at regular intervals with the consent of the person concerned.

Under a pilot practice introduced in 2021, persons who have completed their probation period and given their consent to phone calls can be contacted by the Ministry of Health's Alo 191 service and their subsequent progress monitored. With the consent of the persons concerned, feedback calls continue to be made at regular intervals. During the phone calls, motivational talks are given to encourage the persons to stay away from drug abuse and to ensure that those who have relapsed into drug abuse obtain support from the healthcare services again (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

In-Service Training of Healthcare Personnel Working at Psychiatry Clinics and Substance Addiction Treatment Centres

In-service training is provided to specialist doctors in adult and child-and-adolescent mental health and disorders so as to strengthen the capacities of psychiatry polyclinics and have them take a more active role in the treatment of drug addicts. In this context, training was provided to 960 psychiatric specialists from all 81 provinces.

Arrangements have been made for treatment for addiction to be provided in the psychiatry clinics of 92 hospitals in 51 provinces across the country by the doctors who have received the above training. In this way, it has been made possible for treatment for addiction to be provided in psychiatry clinics as well as in special treatment centres, while it has become easier for addicted patients or members of their families to access the treatment system.

The content of the Physicians' Training on Substance Addiction, intended for specialists in mental health and disorders has been updated. The new audio-visual training module has been integrated in the Distance Healthcare Training System (USES) of the Ministry of Health.



Image 4.1 Physicians' Training on Substance Addiction

All of the psychiatric specialists employed in health facilities attached to the Ministry of Health throughout the country have been registered in the system.

Training on Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Addiction (SAMBA training) is being provided as part of the in-service training provided to increase the knowledge of personnel working in treatment centres about addiction and to ensure unity of practice. Since 2014, training has also been provided under the “Certified Training Programme for Personnel to be Employed in the Treatment of Drug Addiction”.

As part of the efforts being made to increase the efficiency and performance of counselling, treatment and rehabilitation centres operating across the country, a Minimum Function Standards Guide (ASİS) has been prepared to ensure that all the centres provide the same standard of service. This guide was published on January 6th 2022.

In addition, a separate training module has been developed for the “Out-Patient Monitoring Programme”, which is included in the ASİS Guide and which it is planned to implement in the out-patient treatment centres.

Advice and Support Line for the Fight against Drugs (Alo 191)

The Advice and Support Line for the Fight against Drugs (Alo 191) was launched on July 8th 2015 and operates on a 24/7 basis. Between July 2015 and December 2022, the hotline received 436,799 calls.

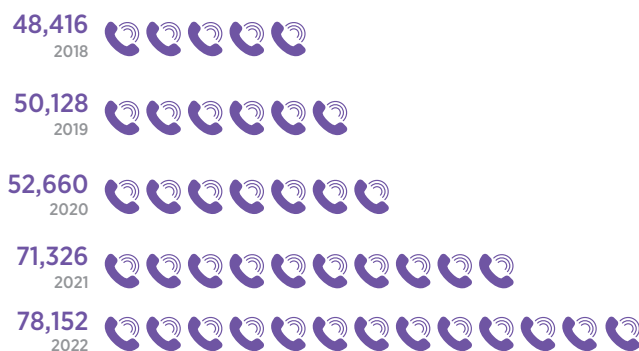
The Alo 191 Advice and Support Line for Fighting Drugs is a 7/24 live-support solution centre, which provides counselling and support services on drugs directly and makes referrals in line with the needs of the caller. The services are provided by 104 specially trained personnel, the majority of whom are psychologists and sociologists. It provides services to persons calling on their own behalf or on behalf of their relatives without asking for any identifying information such as the caller’s name or identity number. However, for persons calling to make a hospital appointment, this information is necessarily collected upon the consent of the caller.

For persons who declare that they have abused drugs, a risk assessment is conducted and low- and high-risk individuals are identified. Persons at low risk are oriented towards their family physicians or psychiatry

clinics through motivational discussions. If they are students, they are directed towards the school counsellors at their schools. Persons at high risk are given information about the drug they are using and oriented towards psychiatry clinics or AMATEMs for treatment by means of motivational discussions.

Should persons who declare that they have abused drugs so request, appointments are made for them at the most suitable treatment centre. In addition, persons undergoing treatment who give their consent are contacted at least six times a year (at the end of one week, 15 days, a month, three months, six months and a year) to monitor how their treatment is going and ensure that they remain in contact with the treatment units.

At the end of the call, those persons who are willing are surveyed by means of an interactive voice response (IVR) survey, as a way of measuring the level of satisfaction with the service provided by the hotline. According to the caller satisfaction survey conducted in 2022, 96.5% of those who received services from the Alo 191 Advice and Support Line for the Fight Against Drugs were found to be satisfied with the services provided by the line.



Graph 4.11 Numbers of Services Provided by the Alo 191 Advice and Support Line for the Fight Against Drugs by Year (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

In service training for the personnel of the Alo 191 Advice and Support Line for the Fight Against Drugs continued in 2022. The in-service training was provided in small groups on the topics of “Motivational Talking Techniques”, “Substances and Addiction” and “the Probation Process in Drugs”. In addition, operators with deficiencies were provided with one-to-one training.

A public information film made to increase public recognition of the hotline and strengthen its branding was broadcast in the media.

Efforts are also being made to inform the public, and particularly young people, through the internet and social media about the harms of drug

abuse and the treatment and counselling services available. The website alo191.saglik.gov.tr, which was developed and launched in 2017, had been visited 786,842 times for this purpose by the end of 2022 (Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Public Health, 2023).

Table 4.2 Numbers of Services Provided by Alo 191 in 2022 and Main Topics

Topic of Call	Number of Calls
Request for Treatment	40,771
Request for Information on Alcohol Addiction	10,094
Request for Support (Communication, Motivational Talk and Craving, by the Family/Addict)	8,222
Request for Information on Feedback Calls	6,017
Request for Information on Mandatory Treatment	5,372
Medical Emergency Referral	2,216
Suspicion of Drug Abuse in Persons under 18 and Requests for Information and Treatment	1,881
Request for Information on Social Security/SSI/Lack of Financial Means	917
Request for Information on Probation	643
Information and Guidance on Reporting of Drug Trafficking, Sales or Use	978
Information on Substances	319
Complaints	312
Violence	181
Requests (jobs, etc.) following Substance Addiction Treatment	86
Training Request (School/Institution Trainings aimed at Preventing Drug Abuse, etc.)	51
Messages of Thanks	46
Vehicle Use (Legal Processes related to Driving under the Influence of Substances)	46
Total	78.152

4.2.3. CND Workshop on the Fight Against Drugs

A “Workshop on the Fight Against Drugs” was held by the Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) on December 23rd 2022 with the participation of public institutions and organizations and of persons with an addicted family member. The aims were to enable all the stakeholder institutions and families with an addicted member to point out the deficiencies and difficulties encountered in the fight against drugs – encompassing issues related to supply, training, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation – along with the gaps in legislation and policies, to develop proposed solutions and methods and techniques for addressing these problems, to generate new pathways and policies, and to strengthen coordination.

The outputs of the workshop regarding goals, expectations, evaluations and conclusions were gathered together under 29 headings and published in the form of a book which was forwarded to the relevant institutions and organizations for use in their work.

4.2.4. Green Crescent Society Green Crescent Counselling Centres (YEDAMs)

The Green Crescent Counselling Centres (YEDAMs), which have become increasingly widespread in the provinces of Türkiye, constitute an example of outpatient psychosocial treatment services. Established as a project of the Turkish Green Crescent Society, YEDAMs provide psychosocial services to addicts, members of their families and persons at risk of addiction. The YEDAM system is built around recovery from addiction and the prevention of relapse. As of the end of 2022, activities were continuing in a total of 105 centres in the 81 provinces and in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The YEDAMs focus primarily on alcohol and substance addiction. However, they also started to providing services to combat addictions to the internet and tobacco in 2019 and addiction to gambling in 2020. In 2022, Gambling Group Therapy was introduced to provide psycho-education for gambling addicts and facilitate

sharing among these individuals. Besides the provision of information, the group therapy includes sessions on change, on coping with desires, feelings and thoughts and on crisis and crisis management (The Green Crescent, 2023).

YEDAM Workshops

The YEDAMs aim to ensure that persons who have achieved a certain level of progress in recovering from alcohol and substance addiction or who have completed their treatment come to engage actively in all areas of life by supporting them with a holistic social service.

In the YEDAM Workshop, workshop activities are carried out in gastronomy, sports, graphic design and handicrafts. Addicts who have been referred to the YEDAMs and family members approved by the treatment steam are able to make use of the YEDAM Workshop.

Workshop and social activities are provided at the YEDAMs to support the rehabilitation of persons with addictions. The goal here is to increase the social reintegration of the addicts, to make them aware of their skills and to help the healing process by enhancing social interaction. In 2022, YEDAMs provided 5,335 workshop activities throughout Türkiye and organized 1,518 activities to increase social reintegration and keep individuals away from risky environments.

Table 4.3 2022 Distribution of the Number of Applications to YEDAMs in 2022

	Number
Initial applications	15,337
Number of psychotherapy sessions	76,720
Number of follow-up counselees	12,753
Number of social service interviews	30,722
Number of employment agency (İŞKUR) interviews	206
Number of persons placed in employment	42
Number of counselees participating in workshops	1,278
Number of home visits	197

Green Crescent Türkiye Rehabilitation Model

The Green Crescent has constructed an original and scientific Rehabilitation Model in accordance with Turkish culture that is grounded in the therapeutic community approach, the principle of rehabilitation through the development of social reintegration skills while living together, the belief that the community itself is the healing power in treatment and the philosophy of the *Ahi* guilds.

While completing their treatment through a daily programme of group and individual therapy sessions, persons treated in rehabilitation centres also learn a profession from one of its masters by attending certain workshops (carpentry, cookery, repairs, etc.). They also perform their daily chores (laundry, cleaning, etc.) for themselves.

In this way, the patients can become individuals who are able to stand on their own feet, who have gained self-respect and confidence, and who live in harmony with and are of benefit to society. The rehabilitation is designed on the basis of the individual, the family and society. The model is built on a foundation in which these three tabletars are conceived of as harmonious and integrated.

This model:

- Is to be put into practice so as to address the fight against drugs from a holistic standpoint.
- Aims to reinforce the connection between treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration when dealing with addiction and to increase the effectiveness of these efforts.
- Incorporates the therapeutic community approach – an approach that allows for the addicts to be rehabilitated by developing their social reintegration skills while living together.
- Is designed with a structure based on the individual, the family and society.
- Is an original model designed in keeping with Turkish culture which is also founded on the philosophy of the *Ahi* guilds.

- Was designed with the aid of 13 reviews by domestic organizations, 7 comprehensive workshops, 23 one-to-one interviews with partners abroad, 25 reviews by overseas organizations and field visits to five countries. A scientific model was developed following numerous meetings and workshops in Türkiye and abroad.

In 2021, work began to open rehabilitation centres in the provinces of Bursa and Diyarbakır.

In 2022, all the necessary steps were completed for the planned centres in Bursa and Diyarbakır, including their construction, the treatment algorithm, quality processes, the formation and employment of the teams, and the choice and installation of furnishings and fittings. Thus both centres have been made ready to admit patients. The necessary stakeholder relations have also been put in place to enhance the workings of the process. Licensing procedures are under way (The Green Crescent, 2023).

CHAPTER

DRUG-RELATED
DEATHS

The data on deaths directly related to drugs are collected from autopsy records the analysis of which has been completed by the Institute of Forensic Medicine (ATK) of the Ministry of Justice.

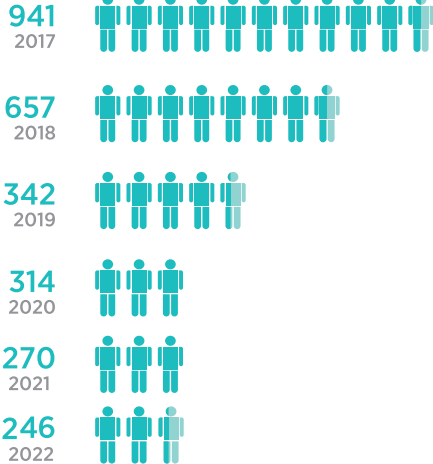
The Graphs for deaths directly related to drugs cover deaths occurring due to the consumption of one or more illegal substances (opium and its derivatives, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine and its derivatives, hallucinogens and new psychoactive substances), in some cases in connection with alcohol and/or psychoactive medicines, and deaths occurring in hospital following a coma occurring for the same reasons.

All deaths directly related to drugs are confirmed by means of law enforcement investigation records and autopsy findings.

The Graphs for Drug-Related Deaths in 2022 were finalized by the ATK and forwarded to the Turkish National Police in June 2023. The results show that 246 deaths directly related to drugs occurred in 2021.

In 2022,

- In addition to Turkish nationals, nationals of 10 other countries died from directly drug-related causes¹⁶.
- 224 of the dead (90.4%) were Turkish citizens.

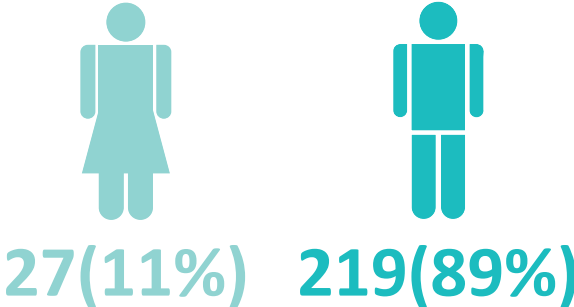


Graph 5.1 Breakdown of Drug-Related Deaths by Year (Ministry of Justice, Institute of Forensic Medicine, 2023).

The number of deaths directly related to drugs in 2013 was 232. This number increased by 114% to 497 in 2014, by 19% to 590 in 2015 and by 56%

to 920 in 2016. Although the number increased again in 2017, the increase was the lowest of the past six years, at 2.3% (941 drug-related deaths). The number of drug-related deaths then began to decrease, falling by 30.2% to 657 in 2018, by 47.9% to 342 in 2019, by 8.2% to 314 in 2020 and by 14% to 270 in 2021. The downward trend continued in 2022, when drug-related deaths decreased by 8.9% to 246. Thus, a 74% decline has been recorded since 2017, the year when drug-related deaths peaked.

An examination of the distribution of drug-related deaths by gender shows that in 2020 93.3% of the deaths (293 deaths) occurred among men and 6.7% (21 deaths) among women. In 2021, 90.7% of the deaths (245 deaths) involved men and 9.3% (25 deaths) women. In 2022, 89% of the deaths (219 deaths) occurred among men and 11% (27 deaths) among women. While deaths of women do not seem high in quantitative terms, recent years have seen an increase in the proportion of deaths involving women.



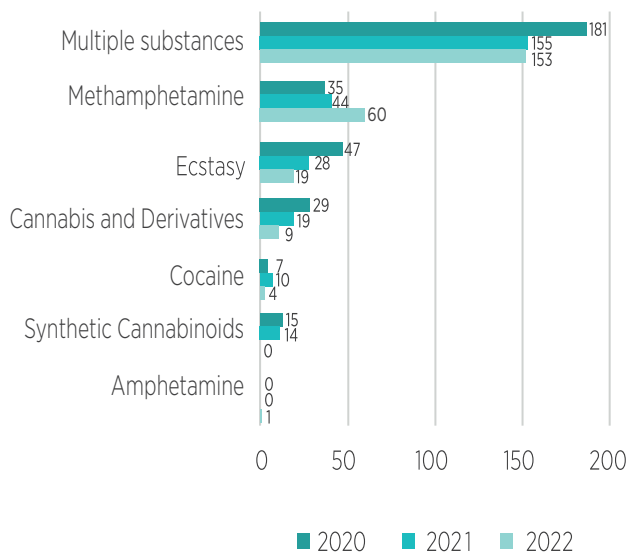
Graph 5.2 Breakdown of Drug-Related Deaths in 2022 by Gender (Ministry of Justice, Institute of Forensic Medicine, 2023).

An overview of drug-related deaths shows that:

- 181 of the 314 deaths occurring in 2020 (57.6%) were due to use of multiple (i.e., mixed)¹⁷ substances.
- 155 of the 270 deaths occurring in 2021 (57.4%) were due to multiple substance use, and
- 153 of the 246 deaths in 2022 (62.2%) were due to multiple substance use.

¹⁶ Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Syria, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as five persons of unknown nationality.

¹⁷ Multiple substance use refers to the use of different narcotics/stimulants at the same time or the use of a narcotic in conjunction with alcohol.



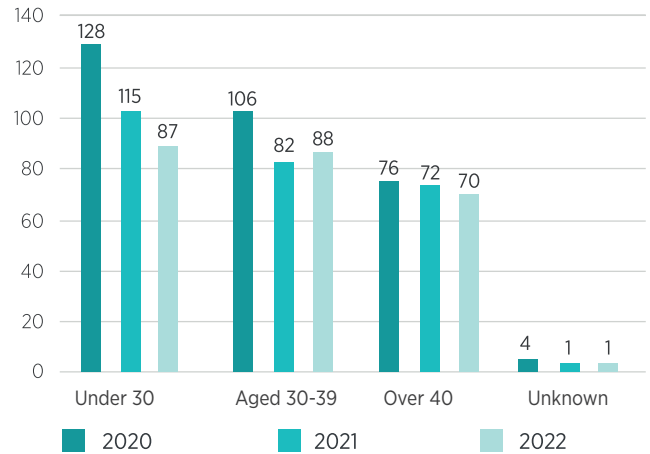
Graph 5.3 Breakdown of Drug-Related Deaths by Year and Multiple/Single Substance (Ministry of Justice, Institute of Forensic Medicine, 2023)

Of all the cases of drug-related deaths in 2022, 62.2% were caused by taking multiple substances. The use of multiple substances further increases the risk of death.

In 2022, the oldest drug-related death was observed to involve a 74-year-old individual. This death occurred due to heroin use. The average age for all the deaths was 34. The proportion of deaths below the age of 30 was 35.4%, compared to 42.6% in 2021. The proportion of deaths between the ages of 30 and 39 was 35.8% and the proportion of deaths above the age of 40 was 28.5%



Methamphetamine was found to be involved in 56.9% of the 246 drug-related deaths in 2022 (140 deaths). Heroin was involved in 27.2% (67 deaths) and Ecstasy in 18.7% (46 deaths).



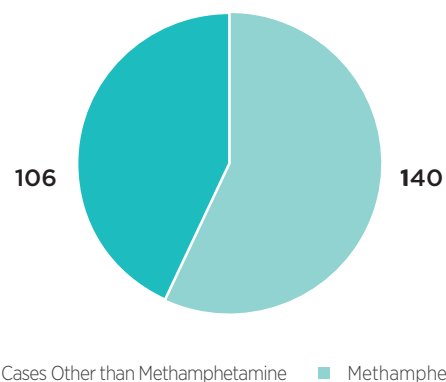
Graph 5.4 Breakdown of Drug-Related Deaths by Year and Age Group (Ministry of Justice, Institute of Forensic Medicine, 2023)

Two of the 246 drug-related deaths were outside the 15-64 age group. The number of drug-related deaths in Türkiye will therefore appear as 242 in the European Drug Report for 2024.

Drug-Related Deaths Stemming from Methamphetamine

It is worth setting aside a separate heading for deaths related to methamphetamine, which has come to pose a grave threat to our society in recent years. 140 of the 246 deaths directly related to drugs in 2022 were found to involve the use of methamphetamine.

In 2022, methamphetamine was found to be present in 52.3% of the 153 deaths due to multiple substance use, while 64.5% of the deaths due to the use of a single substance were caused by methamphetamine.



Graph 5.5 Proportion of Drug-Related Deaths in 2022 involving Methamphetamine (Ministry of Justice, Institute of Forensic Medicine, 2022)

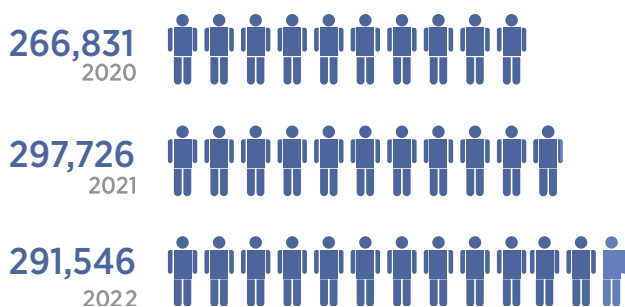
CHAPTER

6

PUNISHMENT, EXECUTION AND
PROBATION

6.1. PENAL INSTITUTIONS

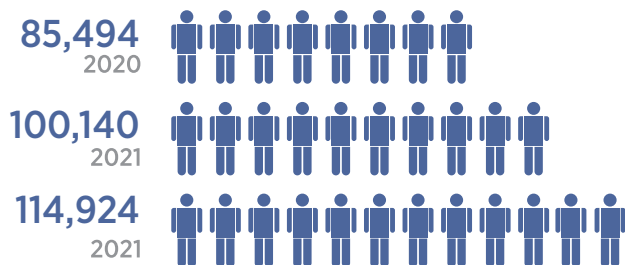
According to Ministry of Justice data, there were 400 penal institutions in Türkiye as of 2022. The total number of convicts and detainees in these institutions was 340,793.



Graph 6.1 Breakdown of the Number of Persons in Penal Institutions by Year (Ministry of Justice Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses, 2023)

The statistics reveal an increase in the number of convicts and detainees in penal institutions. The number of convicts and detainees in penal institutions increased by 14.5% by comparison with the previous year.

As of 2022, there were 114,924 convicts and detainees in penal institutions in connection with crimes related to narcotic substances.



Graph 6.2 Breakdown of the Number of Persons in Penal Institutions in Connection with Drug-Related Crimes by Year (Ministry of Justice Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses, 2023)

While the ratio of convicts and detainees in penal institutions in connection with crimes related to narcotic substances in Türkiye was 33.6% in 2021,

this ratio rose to 35.4% in 2022 (Ministry of Justice Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses, 2023).

6.1.1. Rehabilitation Work Conducted in Penal Institutions in the Fight against Drugs

Under the Individualized Rehabilitation System (BİSİS), a three-phase Research Evaluation Form (ARDEF) is maintained for every convict and detainee who enters a penal institution.

When the convict or detainee arrives at the institution, the admissions officer fills in an Institutional Admission Form – a short form that serves to identify urgent needs and risks. The second phase comes within three days at most when a Psychosocial Correctional Form is filled in by a prison officer employed in the psychosocial services unit. Finally, the Psychosocial Screening and Evaluation Form is completed by experts from the psychosocial services unit. In line with the individualized rehabilitation approach, all the necessary work related to the health, educational, mental, social, cultural, familial, economic and legal needs of the individual, as well as the arrangement of the room, then goes ahead in order of priorities and risks on the basis of a risks, needs and suitability report grounded in the ARDEF.

Convicts and detainees who are found as a result of the ARDEF form or the advice of the institution’s family doctor to have a history of substance abuse, or who personally submit a petition to the psychosocial service to this effect, are registered by the experts of the institution’s psychosocial service for either individual or group work as part of the Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction (SAMBA) programme. During the conduct of the programme, convicts or detainees who are observed by experts from the psycho-social assistance service to require further examination and treatment are referred to the institution’s doctor. In these cases, the patient may receive treatment from a health institution as an outpatient or may be placed in such an institution for treatment. Upon the patients’ return to the penal institution, the psycho-education they are to go on receiving and the contributions to be made by other services (occupational therapy, individual or group sports activities and other socio-cultural activities) are

planned in cooperation with the services in question and rehabilitation efforts are conducted accordingly.

Assessment of Addiction Risk

The probation system is a process that encompasses rehabilitation efforts to address the risks and needs identified for the children and adults concerned in addition to the implementation of the relevant judicial orders.

In the case of persons who have used narcotics or stimulants or purchased, received or possessed narcotics or stimulants for the purpose of using them, the factors that have caused them to use drugs or led to them to want to use drugs are assessed, their needs are identified and ARDEF191 is implemented according to these needs in order to support them in becoming individuals who are useful to themselves and to society. In 2022, ARDEF was implemented for 45,948 people.

Table 6.1 Breakdown of Rehabilitation Efforts for Convicts/Detainees and Personnel

REHABILITATION STATISTICS (2022)	
No. of Individual Interviews	704,028
No. of Family Interviews	35,713
No. of Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction (SAMBA) Programme Group Work Sessions	501
No. of Persons Participating in SAMBA Group Work	5,699
No. of Other Group Work Sessions	1,626
No. of Persons Participating in Other Group Work Sessions	28,933
No. of Seminars	2,580
No. of Persons Participating in Seminars	60,324
No. of Persons Participating in Seminars for Personnel	14,916
No. of Individual Interviews with Personnel	22,967

6.1.2. Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction Programme (SAMBA) and Seminars/Conferences

Aside from the programme of individual interventions, a group intervention programme on tobacco, alcohol and substance addiction is implemented for addicted convicts and detainees. The Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction (SAMBA) intervention programme is a group intervention programme that has been developed to inform convicts and detainees being held in penal institutions about tobacco, alcohol and substance addiction and provide them with life skills. In general, SAMBA has been developed with the aim of forming a structured programme of treatment in the field of addiction. In addition, a Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction Information Programme is implemented for children in the 12-18 age group who have a history or problem of substance use. In this programme, informational and awareness-raising activities are carried out with the children on topics like the harmful effects of substances and how to protect oneself against substance use.

During the conduct of the programme, convicts or detainees who are observed by experts from the psycho-social assistance service to require further examination and treatment are referred to the institution's doctor. In these cases, the patient may receive treatment from a health institution as an outpatient or may be placed in such an institution for treatment. Upon the patients' return to the penal institution, the psycho-education they are to go on receiving and the contributions to be made by other services (occupational therapy, individual or group sports activities and other socio-cultural activities) are planned in cooperation with the services in question and rehabilitation efforts are conducted accordingly.

In addition to the above, conferences and seminars on the harm done by substance addiction are organized periodically for adult and child convicts and detainees and for personnel by the Provincial Directorates of Health, the Directorates of Security, Green Crescent Centres and the psychosocial assistance services of the penal institutions.

The accompanying table contains statistics on the SAMBA programme implemented in penal institutions in the years 2021-2022.

Table 6.2 Numbers of Participants in the Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction (SAMBA) Programme Conducted in Penal Institutions

	2021	2022
No. of groups formed	228	501
No. of participants	3,774	5,699

6.2. PROBATION

When persons using narcotics or stimulants are ordered to receive treatment and placed on probation by public prosecutors, these persons are referred to the relevant health institutions for the required treatment to be carried out, and the treatment is provided by these institutions.

In 2022, the Probation Offices received 109,021 orders in the scope of Article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code.

6.2.1. Rehabilitation Activities Conducted by the Probation Offices in the Fight against Drugs

After their treatment, persons on probation are supervised and monitored by the probation offices responsible for them. As part of the activities conducted in the fight against drugs, counselling is provided to persons who have abused narcotics or stimulants or who have purchased, received or possessed them for the purpose of using them. The factors which have caused these persons to abuse drugs or led them to wish to take drugs are evaluated, their needs are identified and according to these needs, individual interviews, group work, seminars

and similar activities are conducted with a view to assisting them to control their needs for drugs, increase their standards of living and become members of society who are useful to themselves and others. In addition, besides the education and rehabilitation work carried out by professionals employed at the probation offices as psychologists, social workers, sociologists and teachers, and by experts brought in from external institutions, activities are also conducted concerning how the persons on probation organize their free time.

The rehabilitation activities carried out by the probation offices are as follows:

Individual Interviews

- Assessment Interviews,
- Individual Intervention Interviews (Extended Individual Interviews),
- Probation Services Anger Control Programme,
- Effective Communication Skills (for Children),
- Anger Management Skills (for Children),
- Conscious Awareness (for Children)
- Skills for Meetings and Relationship Development (for Children)

Group Work

For adults:

- Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction Awareness Programme - SAMBA
- Change for Life Programme - HAYDE
- Anger Management Intervention Programme
- Family Training in the Fight against Addiction (BAMAP)
- Exchange Hour Programme
- Values Education
- Spiritual Guidance Programme (in cooperation with the Presidency of Religious Affairs)

For Children and Young People:

- Basic Approach Intervention Programme for Children - ÇMP1

- Alcohol and Substance Intervention Programme for Children on Probation – ÇMP 2
- General Criminal Behaviour Intervention Programme for Children – ÇMP 3
- Aggression Prevention Intervention Programme for Children – ÇMP 4
- Step by Step Change Programme
- Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction Awareness Programme for Young People – Young SAMBA

In 2022, individual interviews, group work sessions, seminars and similar rehabilitation activities and intervention programmes were conducted for 109,021 persons on probation in the context of the work done under treatment and probation orders (including orders issued under Article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code) mandating rehabilitation work.

In addition to the above, by way of other rehabilitation activities, persons on probation may be oriented towards educational, social, cultural, artistic and sporting activities in line with their interests and needs in order to support them in reintegrating into society, acquiring positive social behaviour and developing their skills and interests. Activities like this which are related to the organization of free time may either take the form of referrals to the programmes of other institutions and civil society organizations or may be carried out within the probation office itself.

On January 6th 2021, the High Council for the Fight Against Addiction (BMYK) decided that a ‘Fight against Addiction Campaign’ should be launched in 2021 with the participation of all segments of society, and that a calendar should be set for the fight against addictions to drugs, cigarettes and water pipes, alcohol and digital addiction, thus transforming this fight into a campaign.

The activities carried out under the decision of the High Council were as follows:

- Seminars on “the harms done by narcotics and stimulants, the physiological changes that follow drug abuse, changes in mental

condition, negative changes in the body, and falsehoods about addiction that are believed to be true” were given to 9,012 staff and 22,534 persons on probation by experts such as academics and doctors.

- A total of 148,546 posters and brochures prepared by the Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) and the Green Crescent were distributed to persons on probation.
- Arrangements were made for a total of 7,415 persons on probation with histories of substance abuse and members of their families to receive training from the Narcotic Training Trucks.
- Arrangements were made for 8,975 children and young people on probation to visit youth centres in order to structure their free time and keep them away from crimes and bad habits, and 2,513 of them were able to benefit from the social, cultural, artistic and sporting activities at the centres.
- A total of 676 news items and other content were shared on the web sites and social media accounts of the Ministry and the General Directorate and in the national and local press in connection with the activities carried out as part of the campaign.

6.2.2. In-Service Training

The following in-service training programmes were delivered in 2022:

- Training of Trainers (ToT) training for 40 personnel and implementation training for 120 personnel in conjunction with the Young Persons’ Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction Programme (Young SAMBA),
- Training of Trainers (ToT) training for 20 personnel and implementation training for 60 personnel in conjunction with the Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction Readings Programme (SAMBA Reading – Individual),
- Implementation training for 60 personnel in conjunction with the Tobacco, Alcohol and

Substance Addiction Readings Programme (SAMBA Reading – Group),

- Implementation training for 240 personnel in conjunction with the Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Addiction Seminar Programme (SAMBA– Seminars), and
- Implementation training for 40 personnel in conjunction with the Family Training Programme on the Fight against Addiction as part of the probation service.

Moreover, in addition to the training listed above, the following in-service training programmes were delivered in 2022 in conjunction with the fight against drugs in the Personnel Training Centres of the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Centres:

- Anger Management Programme Implementation Training,
- Change for Life (HAYDE) Programme Implementation Training, and
- Step by Step Change Programme for 130 probation staff

6.2.3. New Model entailing Intermediate Controls by the Ministry of Justice throughout the Five-Year Period of Probation

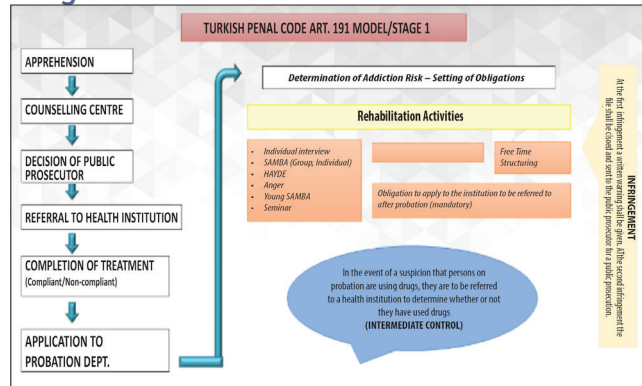
A model has been developed in accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of the High Council for the Fight Against Addiction (BMYK) held on July 3rd 2019 to the effect that, “a new model will be introduced in which intermediate controls will be carried out by the Ministry of Justice throughout the five-year period of probation.”

The model is made up of two phases:

The first phase covers the treatment-and-probation or simple probation orders issued in accordance with Article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237) from the moment when the individual is apprehended by law enforcement to

the sending of the file to the public prosecutor upon the completion of the probation process.

Image 6.1 Turkish Penal Code Article 191 Model 1



The second phase covers the period from the completion of the probation period to the completion of the period for which the opening of a public prosecution was suspended.

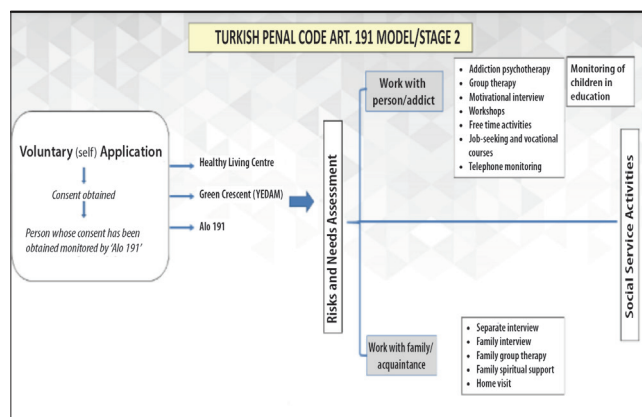


Image 6.2 Turkish Penal Code Article 191 Model 2

Among the decisions taken at the BMYK meeting held on December 30th 2019 was a decision to commence the pilot implementation of the new model. Accordingly, piloting commenced in the probation offices of the public prosecutors of Ankara and Ankara West.

Following the completion of the individual interviews and group work and the probation process in which seminars introducing the Green Crescent Counselling Centres (YEDAM) were given, the communication details of persons on probation who agreed to take part were shared with the 'Alo 191' unit of the Ministry of Health, and

11,077 persons were included in the pilot scheme which ran for a total of nine three-monthly periods. With the commencement of investigations, 7,970 suspects were referred by public prosecutors to the Healthy Life Centres of the Ministry of Health to increase their motivation for treatment.

A total of nine pilot implementation evaluation reports, each covering a three-month period, were drawn up and submitted to the Ministry of Health in its capacity as the secretariat of the BMYK.

Referrals for Intermediate Controls under Article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code

In accordance with the Probation Services Regulation that took effect on November 10th 2021, all persons who are subject to treatment-and-probation orders under Article 191 of the Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237) are referred without notice to a health institution at least once a year throughout their probation periods for an intermediate control to determine whether or not they have used narcotics or stimulants.

In this context, from the date on which the Regulation took effect up to the end of 2022, 32,966 referrals were made to determine whether or not substances had been used within the probation period, and as a result of these referrals 5,503 persons on probation were found to have used substances.

Branch Directorate for the Fight Against Addiction

A ‘Branch Directorate for the Fight Against Addiction’ has been established within the Probation Department in order to keep track of the work done to combat drugs and of the implementation of probation orders and rehabilitation efforts for persons under probation with a history of substance abuse or who fall within the scope of the Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237), to report on the work carried out, and to play an effective role in cooperation with other institutions. At the same time ‘Fight Against Addiction’ units have been established in all the probation offices, to be staffed primarily by personnel who have received training in the field of addiction.

6.2.4. Implementation of the Integrated Model in Penal Institutions

Work has begun on the implementation of the decision taken at the BMYK meeting held on July 3rd 2019 to the effect that “The treatment and rehabilitation activities for adaptation to social life carried out in prison processes will be reviewed and the integrated model that Türkiye has started to adopt will start to be implemented in the prisons as well, in cooperation with the relevant institutions”.

Among the decisions taken at the BMYK meeting held on December 30th 2019 was a decision to commence the pilot implementation of the model. The model was put into effect on a pilot basis on September 1st 2020 in prisons in the campuses in Ankara, İstanbul and Izmir housing persons convicted and detained for drugs-related crimes.

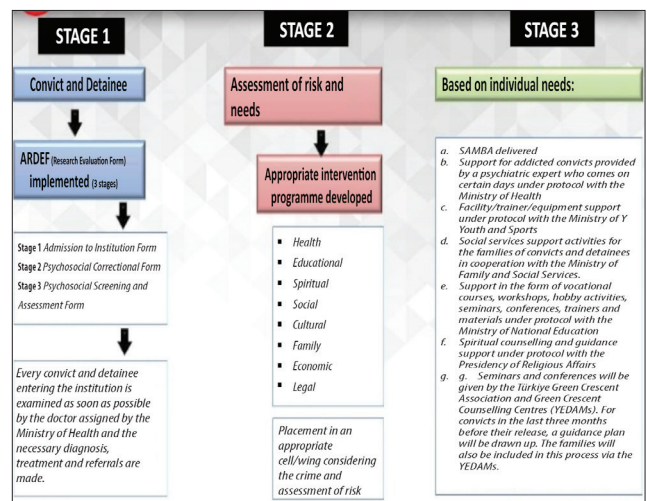


Image 6.3 Rehabilitation Model for Treatment and Adaptation to Social Life in Prison Processes

Data on the work done by the Psychosocial Assistance Service, the Education and Learning Service, the Spiritual Guidance Service and the Health Service were reported at three-month intervals. Finally, the data for the eighth period, encompassing the months of June, July and August 2022, were gathered, the pilot scheme was brought to an end, and efforts began to roll out the activities to all penal institutions. Since the pilot implementation, a total of 51,748 convicts and detainees have taken part in the work done on addiction.

Table 6.3 Rehabilitation Work for Convicts and Detainees with Substance Addictions

	1 st Period	2 nd Period	3 rd Period	4 th Period	5 th Period	6 th period	7 th period	8 th period	TOTAL
Total number of convicts/detainees who participated in addiction work	1,787	2,655	3,073	3,422	3,869	4,139	4,235	3,482	26,662
Number of individual interviews conducted by Psychosocial Assistance Service (based on Model)	1,572	1,747	1,943	1,848	1,911	2,520	2,643	1,760	15,944
Number of seminars carried out by Psychosocial Assistance Service (based on Model)	56	184	2	32	612	1,630	184	78	2,778
Number of family interviews conducted by Psychosocial Assistance Service (based on Model)	164	118	259	250	236	431	111	106	5,934
Number of individual interviews conducted by Spiritual Counselling Service (based on Model)	302	322	1,199	1,033	486	386	1,041	1,165	5,934
Number of conferences carried out by Spiritual Counselling Services (based on Model)	166	44	904	87	78	269	805	528	2,881
Number of convicts-detainees included in courses by Education-Learning Service (based on Model)	84	172	242	57	48	82	79	70	834
Number of convicts-detainees included in other socio-cultural activities by Education-Learning Service (based on Model)	114	203	269	398	553	815	834	450	3,636
Number of convicts-detainees referred to the Psychiatry Polyclinic of the Campus State Hospital (as part of Model)	398	522	256	182	129	171	106	57	1,821
Number of convicts-detainees receiving out-patient treatment (as part of Model)	392	431	280	181	131	161	103	58	1,737
Number of convicts-detainees referred to AMATEMs/ÇEMATEMs	97	165	142	158	107	1,483	1,939	1,655	5,746



CHAPTER

NARCO-**TERROR**

7.1. DRUG TRAFFICKING

IN THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

Trade in illegal substances is an important source of finance for any kind of criminal organization. As it is an activity conducted secretly in many regions and on many markets at a global level, the financial dimensions of this trade are difficult to estimate.

However, according to the Transnational Crimes and Developing World Report published in 2017, the global retail market for the main cannabis, cocaine, opiate and amphetamine type drugs in 2014 was estimated to be between USD 426 billion and USD 652 billion (GFI, 2017, p. 3).

According to this report:

- The share of cannabis in this market is between USD 183 billion and USD 287 billion,
- The share of cocaine is between USD 94 billion and USD 143 billion.
- The share of opiates is between USD 75 and USD 132 billion, and
- The share of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) is between USD 74 billion and USD 90 billion.

Likewise, the 2019 European Drug Markets Report estimates the minimum value of the European retail drug market at EUR 30 billion, based on data for 2017 (EMCDDA & EUROPOL, 2019, p. 28).

According to the report:

- cannabis accounts for 39% of this market,
- cocaine for 31%,
- heroin for 25%, and
- ATS (amphetamine, methamphetamine and Ecstasy) for 5%.

These estimates cover the period from 2014 and 2017 and do not include the market values of new

psychoactive substances (synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinone, etc.) that have become a global threat today.

Historic estimates that do not take new psychoactive substances into account cannot be used to reach a quantitative assessment of the current value of the market for drugs. Nevertheless, they provide a serious indication that today's figures could be very high indeed.

Such a large market naturally attracts great interest from organized crime syndicates. For instance, according to the 2017 EU Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment, there are 5,000 organized criminal syndicates in Europe, and one third of these are directly linked to the drug trade (EUROPOL, 2017, p. 14).

The situation remains just as serious today. According to the 2021 EU Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment, 38% of criminal networks are linked to drug trafficking (EUROPOL, 2021, p. 14).

The roles of organized crime syndicates in drug trafficking must be seen as part of a complex set of relationships. These groups may either take on different roles during each of the stages of drug trafficking – i.e., production, smuggling and sales – or they may be involved in all these stages. In other words, just as it is possible to come across criminal organizations that specialize only in production, there are also groups that specialize in more than one of the different stages. These criminal organizations may cooperate with one another in national and international contexts, but in some cases, they are also observed to compete and to clash.

The global volume of the drugs market makes it extremely attractive not only to organized crime syndicates but also to terrorist organizations.

Terrorist organizations are involved in drug trafficking in much the same way as criminal organizations. Besides their relations with one another, there are also cases where terrorist organizations establish strategic partnerships with criminal organizations. For example, an organized crime group that wants to ship drugs in an unstable region may receive support from a terrorist organization that has control in that region in exchange for providing weapons, ammunition, forged documents and so on.

As an international trend, the relationship between terrorism and drug trafficking has been set forth in:

- Intelligence reports,
- Investigation files and the statements of suspects, witnesses and plaintiffs and information on substances seized which these files contain,
- Drugs and documents seized in places like shelters and safe houses belonging to the terrorist organizations,
- Complementary documents obtained from various official bodies,
- Academic studies, and
- Open-source searches.

These sources reveal the activities of the terrorist organizations themselves in the production, shipment and distribution of drugs and the roles which they play as intermediaries, protectors or sponsors in the activities of other criminal organizations. However, hardly any studies have been conducted in the context of the fight against the proceeds from organized crime that set out the revenues which they obtain directly as a result of their activities in this field.

The process of identifying and confiscating the proceeds of crime may throw up sounder evidence. However, this is a rather complex and difficult enterprise.

Determining the revenue obtained from drugs, associating it with terrorist organizations and confiscating the proceeds requires experts in many fields to work together. International

cooperation is essential, over and above the national dimension.

The estimates made by EUROPOL may be cited as an example of just how arduous this task can be. According to EUROPOL, only about 1% of the revenues from all crimes, including drug trafficking, were confiscated by European Union agencies in 2017 (EMCDDA & EUROPOL, 2019, p. 50).

Like terrorist organizations the world over, there is no doubt that the terrorist organizations active in Türkiye, the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG, DHKP/C, TKP/ML and FETÖ/PDY are also closely involved in the trafficking of drugs.

Using an international approach, the present report will describe the relationship of the said organizations with all stages of drug trafficking based on intelligence reports, investigations by law enforcement, the drugs and documents seized in places like shelters and safe houses belonging to the terrorist organizations, academic studies and open-source searches.

Besides putting up an exemplary fight in the fight against drugs, Türkiye has achieved important advances in the fight against the proceeds of crime.

For this purpose, the Counter Crime Revenues Division was established within the Counter-Narcotics Department (CND) of the Turkish National Police in 2018. The division has been fully organized since 2019, with its directorate in Ankara and offices in all the provinces.

The staff of this unit continue to undergo training with a view to conducting an effective fight against the crime of laundering assets that arises from the use of various laundering techniques in a bid to disguise the sources of the proceeds from the trade in narcotics and stimulants (Turkish Penal Code Article 282). This training is supported by experts from the Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK).

In addition, an Anti-Financial Crimes and Income from Crime Division was established within the Anti-Trafficking and Organized Crime (KOM) Department of the Gendarmerie General

Command in 2017. The division has been fully organized since 2017, with a central directorate and divisional directorates/section offices/ operations sergeants in all provinces.

On September 1st 2020, moreover, a Counter-Financing of Terrorism Division became fully operational within the Counter-Terrorism Department, with divisional directorates/section offices/ operations sergeants in all the provinces, in order to combat more effectively the revenues which the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization obtains from drugs

A determined fight has continued to cripple the financial resources which the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization obtains from every aspect of drugs.

Acting jointly, the above units have launched operations against the cultivation of cannabis in rural areas of Diyarbakır and against people providing the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization with finance in return for the so-called protection of these areas. During operations to put an end to these criminal activities, which have also been detected in the documents of the organization, the Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command established that a large number of suspects had supplied the terrorist organization with a total of TL5,391,000, and discovered the existence of an organic link between the suspects and the organization. As part of these efforts:

- Financing-of-terrorism operations conducted against a total of 230 suspects in 2021 led to the seizure of
 - ✓ 23,503 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 3,650 kg of herbal cannabis,
 - ✓ 1,453 kg of cannabis resin,
 - ✓ 1 Kalashnikov infantry rifle,
 - ✓ 4 unlicensed handguns,
 - ✓ 182 infantry rifle cartridges,
 - ✓ 56 9 mm handgun cartridges and
 - ✓ 2 sets of precision scalesduring searches of the suspects' homes and their annexes.

During the operations, a total of 129 suspects were detained for the crimes of financing the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization, producing and trading in drugs and membership of the organization. The suspects were imprisoned and restraining orders were placed on their assets.

The terrorist organizations conducting activities against Türkiye are clearly linked to drugs trafficking and these links are expected to be confirmed with similar operations to be conducted in future.

High priority is also attached to informing international stakeholders about these operations and about the drug trafficking activities of the terrorist organizations that threaten Türkiye.

To this end, Türkiye participates in the events and activities of the United Nations (UNODC, Commission on Narcotic Drugs - CND) and of other international organizations such as the European Union (EUROPOL, EMCDDA), the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), and the relationship between terrorist organizations and drug trafficking is emphasized through side-events at these platforms.

Similarly, Türkiye provides information on matters related to the issue through the questionnaires and forms which it completes in order to contribute to the periodic reports of international organizations.



7.2. A DETAILED LOOK AT THE DRUGS ACTIVITIES OF THE PKK/ KCK-PYD/ YPG TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

The PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization regards the production of drugs and the trade in these substances as an easy and profitable way of carrying out its operations and securing revenue. It is involved in an organized way in all aspects of the drugs trade. At first, the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization took commissions from organized drugs syndicates in return for turning a blind eye to their activities and providing them with so-called protection. Later, as it came to understand the amounts that could be generated by the drugs trade, it decided to engage in this business directly.

The work which Türkiye has conducted to prevent drug trafficking, and the interceptions which have been made, have demonstrated the close link between the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization and drugs. Likewise, significant drugs seizures have been observed during many of the operations conducted by counter-terrorism units against the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization. This shows just how closely involved the terrorist organization has become in the drugs trade.

A glance at the way the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization is structured shows that it has an external configuration that stretches from the Middle East all the way to Western Europe. This broad area encompasses a large part of the “Balkan route”, one of the world’s most important drugs trade routes. Since the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization is organized along this route, with its intensive flow of narcotic substances, it is easy for it to transport the drugs which it produces or procures from other sources.

As heroin arrives in the countries of Europe, its price increases many times over, while its purity declines significantly. Besides its role in the production and transportation of drugs, the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG

terrorist organization also organizes street selling in the European market in order to benefit from the price advantage which the retail sale of heroin offers. When it is considered that the price of a gram of heroin marketed on the street increases and yet its purity is reduced to as little as 10%, the profits to be made are clearly very high. This price differential is seen as a key factor that attracts the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization in its search for easy and plentiful profits, and fans its involvement in the drugs trade.

Strong indications that the drugs trade is one of the most important sources of revenue of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG are also to be found in international reference documents.

7.2.1. International Findings and Reports: the PKK

The December 1995 issue of *Der Spiegel* magazine reported that the separatist PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization was using children 8-12 years old to sell drugs on the streets of Germany and transferring the money to the organization.

A report entitled *The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Kurdistan Workers Party* published by the Paris Criminology Institute in 1996 stated that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization was organizing the transportation and trafficking of drugs throughout Europe, and that the so-called high-ranking leaders of the organization did not refrain from using violent intimidation tactics to alter the agenda of the European press with respect to the drug trafficking activities of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization.

Citing police reports from various countries, another report of the same institute, entitled

Terrorism and Political Violence, indicated that “The majority of the Turkish citizens arrested in Europe for drug-related crimes are militants of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG, or have an intimate connection with this organization.”

Reports published by the US Justice and State departments in 1995 and 1996 document the fact that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization was engaged in the production and trafficking of heroin in order to finance its terrorist activities.

A report published, once again, by the US State Department in 1998 emphasized that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG did not only take a cut of the drugs trade but played a direct role in transporting the drugs to Europe and marketing them there.

The final report of the Sub-Commission on the Illegal Drug Trade in the Middle and Near East and Related Problems held in Beirut in 1998 in the scope of United Nations International Drug Control Program, states that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG was cited as an example of a narco-terrorist organization, and that it had clear connections with other cross-border criminal organizations in the drugs trade.

According to Italian financial police reports of 1998, the PKK was directly engaged in the international drugs trade and generated illegal revenues from it.

A sub-chapter of the section on Europe contained in a dossier compiled by the US State Department for submission to a sub-commission of the Senate on March 13th 2002 states that the ethnic Kurdish PKK organization is involved in trafficking drugs and supports the heroin traffic via its cells.

In the report on *Links Between Terrorism and Other Forms of Crime* prepared by two terrorism experts, Yvon Dandurand and Vivienne Chin, and submitted to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2004, the cooperation among the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG and Kurdish groups is likened to the cooperation among Sicilian mafia families. The PKK is described as operating as a multi-layered organization engaged in every phase of drug trafficking from

production through to selling on the market. The first phase involves the production of drugs in laboratories from morphine base generally obtained from Pakistan, while the final phase is the marketing phase in which the drug is sold on the streets of Europe by dealers appointed by the organization.

According to the report of the NATO Reinforced Economic Committee meeting of 2007, the illegal narcotics industry is the most profitable criminal activity of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG, which is involved in every single stage of the drugs trade from initial production in Pakistan to distillation in Iraq, and from street marketing to the taxation of drugs in Europe.

US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Operational Unit Chief Michael Braun stated on July 20th 2008 that the illegal PKK organization was involved in drug trafficking as well as in other international crimes.

The Office of Foreign Assets Control of the US Treasury Department publishes the names of “specifically designated drug traffickers” within the framework of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. In this context, the Office declared Murat KARAYILAN, Ali Rıza ALTUN, and Zübeyir AYDAR specifically designated drug traffickers on October 14th 2009, Cemil BAYIK, Duran KALKAN, Remzi KARTAL, Sabri OK and Adem UZUN specifically designated drug traffickers on April 20th 2011 and Zeyneddin GELERİ, Ömer GELERİ, Çerkez AKBULUT (Cernit Murat) and Ömer BOZTEPE specifically designated drug traffickers on February 1st 2012.

Following the announcement made by the US Treasury Department in 2009, an article was penned by Benjamin Freedman and Matthew Levitt which dwelt on the short history of the PKK, its efforts to dissociate itself from its dark past by using different names, and its control over the Iranian PJAK. The article also contained some observations under the heading of the PKK/KONGRA-GEL and drug trafficking.

The article noted that the PKK brought unprocessed morphine from the triangle of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan and converted it to

heroin in laboratories on Turkish territory before selling it in Europe. It also reported that 10 kg of heroin, a long-barreled weapon and organizational documents had been discovered during a search of a suspicious vehicle identified along with the leader of the PKK in Southern Cyprus and two members of the organization. After this, the article said, the leader of the organization escaped to Greece with organizational documents and many other criminal items as well as USD225,000 of the organization's money.

The same article went on to stress that the connection of the PKK with drugs was not new and that according to INTERPOL reports 60-70% of the European drugs market was in the hands of the PKK between 1992 and 1994, while 80% of the drugs entering the European market in 2005 were under the control of the PKK.

The following information is from EUROPOL's EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report for 2011:

"Both the PKK/KONGRA-GEL and [Sri Lanka's] LTTE are actively involved in drugs and human trafficking...for the purpose of funding terrorist (support) operations... Member States with Kurdish diasporas are witnessing – and actively combating – fundraising activities of adherents of the PKK/KONGRA-GEL in their jurisdictions."

The same report includes the information that "The PKK/KONGRA-GEL and LTTE also collect money from their members, using labels like 'donations' and 'membership fees', but are in fact extortion and illegal taxation. In addition to organized extortion campaigns, there are indications that the PKK/KONGRA-GEL [is] actively involved in money laundering, illicit drugs and human trafficking, as well as illegal immigration inside and outside the EU. In March 2010, a simultaneous and joint operation against the PKK/KONGRA-GEL was carried out in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Türkiye. Investigations into the PKK/KONGRA-GEL were also conducted in Italy, Romania and Slovakia. These investigations into PKK/KONGRA-GEL activities were linked to recruitment, financing, logistical support, propaganda and training camps."

According to the World Drug Report for 2012, the places where organized crimes are committed and those where terrorist activities are taking place overlap in some parts of the Balkan Route. As an example of this, it states shipments of drugs arriving in Türkiye from Iran and – according to some rumours – Iraq are taxed by the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG. In addition, it states that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG imposes levies on Kurdish heroin traffickers in Europe. It also cites NATO intelligence analysts to the effect that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG obtains revenues of between USD 50 billion and USD 100 billion from trafficking in heroin alone. It adds that the involvement of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG in this trade became more apparent with the arrest of some of its members for heroin trafficking in Europe in 2008.

EUROPOL's Terrorism Situation and Trend Report for 2013 states that Turkish investigation reports indicate that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG is involved in drug trafficking in order to finance terrorist activities. The PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG gathers money from drugs traffickers crossing the Turkish border in the form of taxes. The PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG also takes a share of the profits from the transportation of drugs across Türkiye, from their shipment to the EU and from every stage of their distribution and sale within the EU. In return, the traffickers are generally offered the PKK's protection and its intermediation in the event of disagreements. The same report published by EUROPOL in 2023 states that "Illegal sources for PKK's funding include drug trafficking and fraud carried out in the EU" (EUROPOL European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend report 2023, p. 68).

The book "The PKK", which was written by two famous American terrorism experts and incorporates the views of American and Turkish experts on terrorism, underlines that the annual revenue obtained by the PKK from narcotics varies between EUR 500 million and EUR 2.5 billion. Based on the statement of a former chief prosecutor from Germany, the same book mentions that 80% of the drugs seized in Europe are connected to the PKK, and that most of the money is used to buy weapons.

“

The book “The PKK” underlines that the annual revenue obtained by the PKK from narcotics varies between EUR 500 million and EUR 2.5 billion.

”

A report published by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering in October 2015 states (page 18) that the PKK obtains revenues from the illegal trade in drugs and imposes taxes on the transport of drugs to the European market via Türkiye.

The 2016 edition of the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) reports that many Kurds and Iranians have been arrested in connection with the trade in drugs from Afghanistan to Türkiye, that these were supporters of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG, and that operations were carried out against members of these drug trafficking organizations in numerous Turkish cities and in Europe in 2015.

Texts published on the website of the US State Department indicate that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG directs the traffic in heroin from Afghanistan to Türkiye, that those involved are generally Kurds and Iranians, and that their supporters have been included in the scope of the laws in Moldova and Romania in connection with drugs trafficking.

According to a US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) intelligence report, the means by which the PKK obtains revenue from drugs are the production of heroin, the taxation of the products of drugs dealers crossing international boundaries, and the control of a large part of the heroin market in Europe.

Asa Hutchinson, who was the administrator of the DEA from 2001 to 2003, has noted that the PKK is involved in the taxation of drugs shipments in the Southeast of Türkiye, and in the protection of drug traffickers.

DEA reports state that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization makes use of the production and trafficking of heroin in order to support its acts of terrorism against the Government of Türkiye.

A chief prosecutor in Germany has claimed that 80% of the drugs seized in Europe are connected with the PKK.

INTERPOL, which has been monitoring the drugs trade among various Kurdish groups in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain in recent years, believes that these groups are related to the PKK. The PKK is known as the group which operates the drugs laboratories in Türkiye and the North of Iraq. Besides the drug production and trade activities carried out by its own cells, the PKK also taxes Kurdish drugs traders in Western Europe in order to support its activities.

In 2017, the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), based in The Hague, published a report entitled *Examining the Nexus between Organized Crime and Terrorism and its implications for EU Programming* (ICCT, 2017, p. 3). This report states that “A group such as the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) has been known to toe the line between terrorism and organized crime” and that “the group has been known to partake in illegal economic operations such as drug, cigarettes and human smuggling, and other forms of organized crime, including extortion and money laundering, among its profit generating activities”. The report states that “Although designated as a terrorist organization, the PKK’s operations seem to fall further in line with those of criminal factions” and that “Over the span of three decades, the PKK has funded its operations through various means including state sponsorship, criminal activities and legal business enterprises”. The strategic geographic location of Türkiye, with a vast coastline and positioned between Asia, Europe and Africa,” the report adds, “has enhanced the group’s abilities to partake in illicit flows.” The report goes on to emphasize that “One of the largest sources of funding for the PKK stems from drug trafficking, particularly in heroin, of which the group is known to capitalize on during all stages of the drug trade, from cultivation to retail distribution, collecting commission or “taxes” along the way... Once drugs and smuggled migrants arrive in Europe from Asia, the PKK recruits immigrants as collaborators in its European Diaspora networks of smugglers to distribute the “products” across the continent and launder the profits, mirroring the activities of traditional criminal syndicates.”

The annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2018 (INCB, 2018, p. 86) states that “There are indications that Iraq is also gaining importance for illicit drug cultivation and production, including heroin manufacture and opium poppy and cannabis plant cultivation... Many countries in the Middle East also continued to observe trafficking and abuse of the prescription drug tramadol, a

synthetic opioid not under international control, and there are indications that terrorist groups may also be involved in its trafficking in that subregion.”

According to a report published by Germany’s Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), in 2019, the PKK/KCK terrorist organization collected EUR 14 million in donations in 2017 and more than EUR 15 million in 2018. The amount of donations collected by the PKK/KCK terrorist organization is estimated to have tripled in the last ten years. In Europe as a whole, the amount of donations collected is put at EUR 25 million. (Germany, 2019)

[<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/sicherheit/vsb-2018-gesamt.html>]

The 2019 report of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization (ICSR) entitled *Drugs and Terrorism: The Overlaps in Europe* (EMCDDA & ICSR, 2019, p. 46) notes that “An intelligence report by the UK’s Metropolitan Police... highlighted how the Tottenham Boys, a Kurdish gang based in London, were ‘involved in protection rackets/extortion, where they target local Kurdish businesses and use extreme violence to raise money for the Kurdish terrorist organization the PKK’. The report states that the gang employed men from other gangs to sell Class A and B drugs on the street and that they have ‘committed a number of fatal and non-fatal shootings throughout north London’. In turn, these proceeds were laundered as part of an organized crime operation.

The EU Drug Markets Report for 2019 describes the PKK as a paramilitary group based in the Middle East – primarily in south-eastern Türkiye, northern Syria and northern Iraq. It stresses that there are reports of PKK involvement in organized crime and in some drug trading activities in the EU. (EMCDDA & EUROPOL, 2019, p. 36).

In contrast to the EU Drug Markets Report for 2019, the previous EU Drug Markets Report published in 2016 did not include any findings regarding the PKK.

In some other international reports, a phrase such as “According to information provided by Turkish investigators” is generally added to sentences referring to the PKK. It is therefore significant that the EU Drug Markets Report for 2019, for the first time, altered this emphasis and cited EUROPOL and international sources instead.

The European Union Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) for 2021 mentions that “The trafficking and trade in heroin in the EU involves criminal networks composed of nationals of various Member States as well as non-EU citizens. Differentiating the involved criminal networks in the heroin trade by nationality is difficult. For instance, suspects involved in the trafficking of heroin to the EU often have a Kurdish ethnic background, but may variably hold Turkish, Iraqi or Iranian nationality” (EUROPOL, 2021, p. 51).

7.2.2. The role of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG in Drug Trafficking

The findings from the operations carried out by Türkiye’s counter-narcotics units corroborate the above analyses. It has been established that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG not only obtains revenue from individuals engaged in the drugs trade, but also plays a part in all stages of the trade in these substances. The PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization has been found:

- To coordinate the drugs trade directly,
- To subject all individuals and organizations that transport drugs across Türkiye’s borders or try to enter the country illegally to extortion on the pretence of collecting taxes,
- To be influential in the distribution of drugs in Europe,
- To confiscate drugs belonging to individuals or organized groups that engage in the drugs trade without informing it,
- To provide organizations that manufacture drugs with protection and places to carry out this activity,
- To play an active role in the illegal cultivation of cannabis in East and Southeast Türkiye, and
- To conduct its operations related to the drugs trade through special cells within the organization, and not to provide the other terrorists with any information about this matter.

The PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization is professionally involved in the production and trade in drugs, and plays an active role in the phases of:

- Drug cultivation,
- Manufacturing and transporting drugs,
- The distribution of drugs and their sale on the streets, and

- Levying commissions on drug producers and traffickers.

All these stages are organized and managed directly by the members of the organization.

Between 1980 and 2022, units of the Turkish National Police conducted 470 narco-terror operations against the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization and detained 1,694 suspects. During these operations, they seized 96,289.5 kg of cannabis, 5,452 kg of heroin, 4,315 kg of morphine base, 80 kg of synthetic cannabinoids, 71.2 kg of opium, 9.4 kg of cocaine, 4.3 kg of methamphetamine, 140,698 Ecstasy tablets, 1,962 Captagon tablets, 210 synthetic pharmaceuticals, 28,348 litres of acetic anhydride and 121,524,624 cannabis plants.

Between 2016 and 2022, the Gendarmerie General Command conducted 284 narco-terror operations against the obtention of revenues by the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization from the illegal cultivation of drugs. During these operations, 1,070 suspects were detained, 171,729 kg of cannabis resin, 108,274 kg of herbal cannabis, 3,081 kg of skunk, 362,423,343 cannabis plants and 12,054,713 skunk plants were seized.

Table 71. Detentions and Seizures in Incidents connected with Drugs Trafficking by the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG Terrorist Organization

PKK/KCK/PYD (1980-2022)	
No. of Incidents/Operations	754
No. Of Suspects	2,764
Cannabis/kg	379,374
Heroin/kg	5,452
Morphine base/kg	4,315
Synthetic Cannabinoids/kg	80
Opium/kg	71.2
Cocaine/kg	9.4
Methamphetamine/kg	4.3
Ecstasy/ no.	140,698
Captagon/no.	1,962
Synthetic Pharmaceuticals/no	210
Acetic Anhydride/litres	28,348
Cannabis plants	496,002,680



Image 7.1 Narco-terror Operation against Cannabis Cultivation

The organization regards the illegal cultivation of cannabis as the most lucrative means of benefitting from the drugs business. It derives substantial revenues from the trade in cannabis, particularly that obtained from cannabis plants grown in the Eastern and Southeast Anatolia. Besides directly organizing the cultivation process, it obliges or encourages the villagers and people of the region to grow cannabis and charges a commission on the cannabis that is produced.



Image 7.2 Narco-terror Operations in Diyarbakir

“
The PKK regards the illegal cultivation of cannabis as the most lucrative means. It is thought to obtain USD 500 million in revenues from this field of activity.
 ”

Some of the most important operations conducted up to the end of 2022 were as follows:

- In an operation carried out in the Lice district of Diyarbakır in 2014, in an area where cannabis was being cultivated and produced by the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization, 4,700 kg of cannabis resin and one long-barreled weapon were seized. One member of the security forces was injured during the operation in a clash with terrorists trying to protect the drugs. Following the operation, the terrorists fled, taking advantage of the difficult terrain and poor meteorological conditions.
- In the Lake Van operations conducted by the security forces in 2016 under the coordination of the Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command in order to put an end to the drugs activities of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization in rural areas in the districts of Lice, Hani, Hazro and Kocaköy, 9 terrorists were captured including 8 taken dead. Five members of the organization were arrested for aiding and abetting the organization. Three soldiers were killed in this operation. During this operation:
 - ✓ 72 million cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 60 tons of cannabis,
 - ✓ 19 long-barreled weapons,
 - ✓ 6 handguns,
 - ✓ 22 vehicles, including 3 belonging to the state, which had been stolen for use in bombings, and
 - ✓ 43 improvised explosive devices were seized.
- On September 4th 2016, an individual was apprehended in the province of Diyarbakır for conducting activities of the PKK/KCK terrorist organization. When the individual was searched,
 - ✓ 3 rifles,
 - ✓ 1 handgun and
 - ✓ 30 kg of cannabis were seized (Turkish National Police, Counter-Terrorism Department, 2022).
- In 2017, the Salt Lake operation was carried out under the coordination of the Diyarbakır

Provincial Gendarmerie Command in order to put an end to the drugs and illegal planting activities which the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization was conducting in provincial areas of the districts of Lice, Hani, Hazro and Kocaköy in Diyarbakır. During this operation, members of the terrorist organization opened fire on the security forces, leading to an armed clash in which **32 PKK members were neutralized, of whom 31 terrorists were taken dead and 1 was taken alive**. Searches conducted in the operation zones resulted in the seizure of:

- ✓ 88 tons of cannabis,
 - ✓ 6.7 million cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 6 hideouts,
 - ✓ 6 hand grenades,
 - ✓ 29 infantry rifles,
 - ✓ 5 handguns,
 - ✓ 2,273 cartridges of various calibers and
 - ✓ a large quantity of organizational documents and provisions.
- The following items were seized during an operation conducted in the province of Mersin on August 28th 2017 against persons who had been found to have been spreading propaganda for the PKK/KCK terrorist organization:
 - ✓ 1 handgun, and
 - ✓ 25 kg of cannabis (Turkish National Police Counter-Terrorism Department, 2022).
 - Narco-terror operations were conducted by units of the Gendarmerie General Command in 2018 in order to put an end to the drugs and illegal planting activities being carried out by the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization in rural areas of the districts of Lice, Hazro, Hani and Kocaköy in Diyarbakır. During these operations, members of the terrorist organization opened fire on the security forces. In the ensuing gunbattle, **2 members of the PKK terrorist organization** were neutralized. Searches in the area where the operation took place led to the seizure of:
 - ✓ 25 tons of cannabis,
 - ✓ 2 million cannabis plants,

- ✓ 2 hideouts,
 - ✓ 1 hand grenade,
 - ✓ 3 infantry rifles,
 - ✓ 813 cartridges of various calibers and
 - ✓ a large quantity of organizational documents and living supplies.
- Narco-terror operations were carried out by units of the Gendarmerie General Command in 2019 after it had been discovered that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization were illegally cultivating cannabis plants and manufacturing cannabis. During these operations, members of the terrorist organization opened fire on the security forces. In the ensuing clash, **8 members of the PKK terrorist organization** were neutralized. The following were seized as a result of searches of the surrounding area:
 - ✓ 31 tons of cannabis,
 - ✓ 43 kg of skunk,
 - ✓ 33.3 million cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 10 hand grenades,
 - ✓ 12 infantry rifles,
 - ✓ 1 handgun,
 - ✓ 39 hideouts,
 - ✓ 2,691 cartridges of various calibers,
 - ✓ 6 improvised explosive devices, and
 - ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions.



Image 7.3 Items Seized during a Narco-terror Operation

- On September 6th 2020, a search was conducted by the Adana Provincial Directorate of Security Counter-Narcotics Branch in the home of an individual who was being investigated for illegal drug dealing. During this search:
 - ✓ 374 Ecstasy tablets,
 - ✓ 72 Captagon tablets,
 - ✓ 1 set of precision scales, and
 - ✓ 2 mechanisms considered to be improvised explosive devices wrapped in a black band together with a detonation cord, and 1 detonation cord, were seized.
- Narco-terror operations were carried out by units of the Gendarmerie General Command in the course of 2020 in areas of the provinces of Diyarbakır and Bingöl where the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization was engaged in the illegal cultivation of cannabis and the manufacture of drugs for the purpose of preventing the terrorist organization from obtaining finance. During these operations:
 - ✓ 41 tons of cannabis,
 - ✓ 108,444,695 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 897 g of skunk,
 - ✓ 450,000 skunk plants,
 - ✓ 20 hideouts,
 - ✓ 9 hand grenades,
 - ✓ 11 infantry rifles,
 - ✓ 8 handguns,
 - ✓ 1,386 cartridges and
 - ✓ 15 improvised explosive devices were seized.

During these operations, armed clashes occurred between the security forces and members of the terrorist organization, and **2 members of the PKK terrorist organization** were neutralized.
- In an operation conducted by the Konya Provincial Directorate of Security against 15 suspects on March 12th 2021:
 - ✓ 1.5 g of heroin,
 - ✓ 9.8 g of methamphetamine,

- ✓ 21.5 g of cannabis,
- ✓ 31.8 g of synthetic cannabinoids,
- ✓ 49 synthetic pharmaceuticals,
- ✓ 1 improvised explosive device and a gas bomb of the type known as a “smoke” were seized.

- The following items were all seized in operations conducted simultaneously in eight provinces by the Ankara Provincial Directorate of Security against a total of 132 suspects on April 6th 2021:

- ✓ 30 kg of synthetic cannabinoids (bonzai)
- ✓ 2.5 kg of cannabis resin,
- ✓ 532 g of cannabis,
- ✓ 62.8 g of heroin,
- ✓ 13.2 g of cocaine,
- ✓ 4 g of methamphetamine,
- ✓ 6 cannabis plants,
- ✓ 48 synthetic pharmaceuticals,
- ✓ 10 drums of acetone,
- ✓ 7 drums of additives used in the manufacture of bonzai,
- ✓ 9 sets of precision scales,
- ✓ 8 handguns,
- ✓ 1 rifle, 3 starting pistols and 5 magazines,
- ✓ 5 diaries and 19 letters,
- ✓ A headdress (puşi) of the type used by sympathizers of the PKK terrorist organization,
- ✓ 1 forged identity card,
- ✓ TRY 121,860, USD 325 and EUR 35 in cash, and
- ✓ 28 mobile phones.

During the course of arrests made as part of the same investigation prior to these operations:

- ✓ 50 kg of bonzai,
- ✓ 30 kg of cannabis and skunk,
- ✓ 4.3 kg of methamphetamine,
- ✓ 2 kg of heroin,
- ✓ 33.4 g of cocaine,
- ✓ 2,847 Ecstasy tablets,
- ✓ 1,890 Captagon tablets,

- ✓ 36 synthetic pharmaceuticals,
- ✓ 5 sets of precision scales,
- ✓ TRY 35,860, USD 1,200 and EUR 300 in cash, and
- ✓ 11 mobile phones were seized.



Image 7.4 Narco-terror Operations in Ankara

- A joint operation was conducted by the Counter Narcotics Crimes and Counter-Terrorism branches in a rural area of the Başkale district of the province of Van on June 6th 2021. During this operation, the following items were discovered in two plastic barrels which had been buried under the earth by members of the PKK/KCK terrorist organization:

- ✓ 3 infantry rifles,
- ✓ 52.4 kg of cannabis resin
- ✓ 5 magazines,
- ✓ 1 pair of night-sight binoculars, and
- ✓ 191 7.62 mm cartridges.



Image 7.5 Narco-terror Operations in Van



Image 7.6 Narco-terror Operations in Diyarbakır

- The following items were seized in an operation conducted by the Mardin Provincial Directorate of Security on 7th December 2021:
 - ✓ 1 cartridge (0.69 g) of cannabis
 - ✓ 1 unlicensed ‘Astra’ 7x65mm handgun,
 - ✓ 2 magazines,
 - ✓ 12 handgun cartridges, and
 - ✓ 4 rags representing the terrorist organization.



Image 7.7 Narco-terror Operations in Mardin

The following items were all seized during a planned simultaneous operation against a number of persons trading in drugs conducted on December 28th 2021 by the Batman Provincial Directorate of Security:

- ✓ 72 methamphetamine capsules (known as “cartridges”) ready for sale,
- ✓ 9 synthetic cannabinoids,
- ✓ 3 pieces of cannabis,
- ✓ 77 narcotic tablets,
- ✓ 4 sets of precision scales used to weigh narcotic substances,

- ✓ 3 hand-made bombs,
- ✓ A large quantity of electronic circuits and parts used in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices,
- ✓ A total of 847 kg of various chemicals and fertilizers used in the manufacture of hand-made bombs together with 25 fuses,
- ✓ 13 unlicensed handguns and 129 bullets, and
- ✓ 2 axes, 2 machetes, 1 lancet blade and a stick with a nail in it.



Image 7.8 Narco-terror Operations in Batman

- Operations were conducted by units of the Gendarmerie General Command in the provinces of Diyarbakır and Bingöl in the course of 2021 in areas of illegal cultivation and drug production by the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization in order to prevent the terrorist organization from using these activities as a source of finance. During these operations:

- ✓ 9 tons of cannabis,
- ✓ 55,635,675 cannabis plants,
- ✓ 557 kg of skunk,
- ✓ 4,547,750 skunk plants,
- ✓ 11 hideouts,
- ✓ 13 hand grenades,
- ✓ 6 infantry rifles,
- ✓ 6 handguns,
- ✓ 1,500 cartridges,
- ✓ 4 improvised explosive devices and
- ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.



Image 7.9 Items Seized during Narco-terror Operations

Various narco-terror operations were conducted by units of the Gendarmerie General Command in 2022 in the areas in which the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization is concentrated for the purpose of preventing the organization from obtaining revenue from trading in drugs. Some of the most important of these narco-terror operations were as follows:

- A Narco-terror operation was launched by the Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command on June 7th 2002 after it was discovered that cannabis was being cultivated illegally and drugs were being manufactured by members of the PKK.KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization in a rural area of the District of Lice in Diyarbakır. Within the scope of this operation:
 - ✓ 62 kg of herbal cannabis,
 - ✓ 898 kg of cannabis,
 - ✓ 2,144,570 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 1 hideout,
 - ✓ 3 infantry rifles and
 - ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.
- A Narco-terror operation was launched in rural areas of the Lice district of Diyarbakır on July 30th 2022 by the Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command after it had been discovered that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorism organization were illegally cultivating cannabis and manufacturing drugs. During this operation:
 - ✓ 123 kg of herbal cannabis,
 - ✓ 30 kg of cannabis resin,
 - ✓ 3,057,760 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 110,000 skunk plants and

- ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.
- A Narco-terror operation was launched in rural areas of the Lice district of Diyarbakır on August 12th 2022 by the Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command after it had been discovered that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorism organization were illegally cultivating cannabis and manufacturing drugs. During this operation:
 - ✓ 404 kg of herbal cannabis,
 - ✓ 372 kg of cannabis resin,
 - ✓ 8,849,300 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 648,200 skunk plants and
 - ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.
- During a Narco-terror operation launched by the Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command in rural areas of the district of Lice in Diyarbakır on August 26th 2022 after it had been discovered that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization were illegally cultivating and manufacturing cannabis,
 - ✓ 43 kg of herbal cannabis,
 - ✓ 493 kg of cannabis resin,
 - ✓ 16,153,290 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 301,200 skunk plants and
 - ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.
- A Narco-terror operation was launched by the Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command in rural areas of the Lice district of Diyarbakır on September 14th 2022 after it had been discovered that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization were illegally cultivating and manufacturing cannabis. During this operation:
 - ✓ 854 kg of herbal cannabis,
 - ✓ 1,204 kg of cannabis resin,
 - ✓ 10,496,570 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 1,185,000 skunk plants and
 - ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.

- During a Narco-terror operation launched by the Bingöl Provincial Gendarmerie Command in rural areas of the district of Lice in Diyarbakir on October 11th 2022 after it had been discovered that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization were illegally cultivating and manufacturing cannabis,
 - ✓ 406 kg of herbal cannabis,
 - ✓ 18 kg of cannabis resin,
 - ✓ 3,185,445 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 645,313 skunk plants and
 - ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.
- A Narco-terror operation was launched in rural areas of the Lice district of Diyarbakir on November 5th 2022 by the Diyarbakir Provincial Gendarmerie Command after it had been discovered that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorism organization were illegally cultivating cannabis and manufacturing drugs. During this operation:
 - ✓ 745 kg of cannabis resin,
 - ✓ 1,256 kg of skunk,
 - ✓ 221,700 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 47,000 skunk plants and
 - ✓ A large quantity of organizational documents and provisions were seized.
- During the various operations were carried out by the Diyarbakir and Bingöl Provincial Gendarmerie Commands in the course of 2022 in places, mainly in rural areas, where the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization was engaged in cultivating and manufacturing drugs, with the aim of preventing the terrorist organization from obtaining financing in this way:
 - ✓ 27 tons of cannabis,
 - ✓ 88,046,458 cannabis plants,
 - ✓ 1,584 kg of skunk,
 - ✓ 7,056,963 skunk plants,
 - ✓ 4 hideouts,
 - ✓ 2 hand grenades,
 - ✓ 3 infantry rifles,
 - ✓ 1 handgun and
 - ✓ 213 cartridges were seized and the PKK/KCK-YPG/PYD terrorist organization was prevented from obtaining TRY 217 billion in illegal revenue.

In addition, large quantities of organizational documents and provisions were seized in the operations.

- On November 5th 2022, 25 kg of cannabis drugs were seized in the home of Nirvana (K) S.T., a grey-listed member of the PKK/KCK terrorist organization detained in the Diyarbakir Closed Women's Detention Centre. This came after a further statement was taken from the suspect in question as part of the activities of the Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate of Security concerning the terrorist organization.
- On November 26th 2022, the Diyarbakir General Directorate of Security carried out an operation as part of its activities concerning the PKK/KCK terrorist organization against 50 suspects who were found to have been active in the organization's youth wing, the Revolutionary Youth Movement (DGH), to have taken part in actions and activities in the past and to have carried out militia/collaborator activities in the name of the organization. This operation led to the seizure of 1 handgun, 1 hunting rifle, 74 cartridges, 1.5 kg of cannabis and banned books and digital materials.
- In addition, on November 24th 2022, in a statement taken at the Ağrı Counter-Terrorism Branch, a member of the organization named I.B. revealed that "...one of the sources of revenue of the organization was to ensure the safe passage of diesel fuel, cannabis, drugs, cigarettes and living supplies from Iran to Türkiye and from Türkiye to Iran in return for money. The money would be collected up by the officials and given to the headquarters."

7.2.3. The Role of the Terrorist Organization in Drug Manufacturing and Trade

At one time, the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization used to grow cannabis and poppies around its camps (Baelbek and Hermen) in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon and manufacture drugs in its laboratories there. Nowadays, it is known to manufacture drugs in its camps in northern Iraq and in villages close to the Turkish border, and to sell these in the final markets. It attaches particular importance to supplying the European market with the heroin which it obtains by processing opium from Afghanistan.

Many captured members and militants of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization, headed by Şemdin SAKIK, have stated that the organization originally manufactured drugs in the Bekaa Valley before continuing to do so in northern Iraq, and that it markets these drugs in Europe. In one part of his statement, SAKIK admits that ÖCALAN told him, in brief, that it was not easy to maintain the organization and that it would not be possible to feed so many people without the revenue from drugs.

Since 1980, six different drug factories belonging to the organization have been captured by the Turkish security forces, and large quantities of manufacturing materials and drugs have been seized.

- In 2002, a home used for the manufacture of drugs in the hamlet of Saritaş in the Yüksekova district of Hakkari was searched and 52.36 kg of heroin were seized together with a large quantity of materials used for its manufacture. The accused were found to have been acting for the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization.
- In 2015, an operation was carried out on a vehicle transporting drugs obtained for sale on the street in Diyarbakır. In this operation, 1.7 kg of heroin and two handguns were seized. During the operation, a clash occurred in which one member of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization was taken dead and five were captured alive, of whom two were injured. One member of the security forces was seriously injured.
- In response to the barricade-building and ditch-digging activities that started in 2015 and continued in 2016, the security forces conducted joint operations in order to remove the barricades set up by members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization, defuse the improvised explosive devices that had been used to booby-trap roads, and ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property. In Diyarbakır, 34 different members of the terrorist organization involved in these events were also found to have been engaged in the drugs trade. During the course of these operations, 50 kg of cannabis, 3 g of heroin, 2 g of cocaine and 5,784 Ecstasy tablets were seized.
- In 2018, 32 kg of cannabis was seized as a result of operations conducted against street sellers

in Diyarbakır. Pieces of cloth symbolizing the terrorist organization were also seized along with the drugs.

Image 7.10 Items Seized during a Narco-terror



Operation

- Operations conducted against street dealers in Adana in 2018 led to the seizure of 1.56 g of cannabis. During fingerprint checks, the fingerprints of one of the drugs dealers captured in this operation also turned out to have been found on an improvised explosive device that had been seized on an earlier occasion.
- An operation conducted against street dealers in Batman in 2018 resulted in the seizure of 125 g of cannabis and 51 Ecstasy tablets. The drug dealer captured during this operation had previously been subject to legal action on charges of membership of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization.

Image 7.11 Items Seized during a Narco-terror



Operation

- Searches were launched on 7th August 2018 in a highland area close to the border with Iran containing hamlets attached to the Yüksekova district of Hakkari. This followed the receipt of

information to the effect that members of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization were organizing the manufacture of illegal drugs in the area. During the searches, a hideout was identified which it was thought might be used by the terrorist organization. An armed clash broke out when members of the terrorist organization concealed in this shelter opened fire on the security forces, and two members of the terrorist organization were taken dead. The following items were seized during searches of the hideout and the surrounding area:

- ✓ 1 rocket launcher,
- ✓ 1 infantry rifle,
- ✓ 2 handguns,
- ✓ A large quantity of ammunition for these weapons,
- ✓ 2 wireless sets and provisions,
- ✓ 51 plastic barrels buried underground containing 1,180 litres of acetic anhydride,
- ✓ a press, a sieve, a tray, stove equipment and a gas cannister (for use in manufacturing drugs), and organizational documents.

7.2.4. The Levying of Commissions and Tribute by the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG Terrorist Organization on Drug Producers and Traffickers

In terms of extortion, the main activities of the organization are the levying of tribute or protection money by way of a so-called tax, charged at a certain rate per kilogram, on the drugs brought in by drug traders via Türkiye's Eastern border, and the extraction of money from individuals engaged in the drugs trade by means of threats, blackmail and kidnappings.

Numerous intelligence reports and operations carried out by the security forces have shown that the organization imposes commissions above all on drugs crossing the border from northern Iraq and on drugs activities in Europe.

EUROPOL's EU Terrorism Situation and Trends

Report for 2013 states "Turkish investigation reports suggest that the PKK is involved in drug trafficking to finance its terrorist activities. The PKK is believed to collect money, via 'taxes', from drug traffickers crossing the Turkish border. Moreover, the group takes a share of profits at each phase, including the shipment of drugs to and from Türkiye, their transportation to the EU, and their distribution and sale within the EU. In return, the traffickers are offered protection from the PKK and arbitration in disputes."

7.2.5. The Worldwide Narco-terror Activities of the PKK Terrorist Organization

While the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization first became involved in drugs by imposing commissions on traders and producers, it has recently reached the point at which it has started to control the European street market. The PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG directly organizes and manages the distribution of drugs in Europe. The high profit margins on drugs prices are the main reason why the organization has moved into street dealing. This situation has been noted in many international reports.

The PKK started to organize in Europe and Türkiye in the 1970s. Although the organization took the opportunity to organize throughout Europe and Türkiye, it carried out its acts of terrorism in Türkiye's Eastern and Southeastern regions. Besides its campaign of terror, the spread of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG over a wide geographical area also provides it with an advantage when it comes to other criminal activities. The existence of a hierarchical structure among the members of the organization, the efficient operation of its communications network and courier system, and the reticence of drugs organizations to compete with it out of fear and apprehension, have all created a favourable atmosphere for the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG's involvement in the distribution of drugs.

The PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization has no difficulty in implementing the drug distribution methods used by the drugs cartels of South America in the distribution of drugs in Europe. Instead of the front companies and paid distribution staff used by the South American cartels, however, the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist

organization makes use of political associations and militants that have not been exposed.

Following operations in Hamburg and Hannover involving more than 700 police officers on September 7th 1999, Hannover's police chief Hans Dieter KLOSA made a statement to FOCUS, one of Germany's most best-selling serious magazines, in which he said that while the PKK had long been suspected of having links with organized crime networks, the situation had come to light for the first time with the smashing of the drugs ring the previous week. He said that they had discovered that the PKK was aware of the activities of the network and had been taking a significant amount of the money. The network which was organized in Hannover and Hamburg and distributed heroin all over Germany, had been transferring DM 1 million per week to the PKK over the past nine months. The gang was made up entirely of citizens born in Bingöl. It had made DM 250 million a year from the trafficking of drugs, and was understood to have laundered this money through a large number of workplaces which it owned. It also emerged that the network had used part of the money it obtained from the heroin trade to buy land and residential property in the Hinden district of Hannover.

The "24 Hours" programme broadcast on Germany's SAT-1 television channel on January 6th 1993 included an interview with a person of Kurdish origin involved in the drugs trade who had been a sympathizer of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization. According to this interview, a German addicted to heroin and a dealer of Kurdish origin had been detained during routine investigations by the police, and the dealer was found to be in possession of the keys of a guest house where **Kurdish refugees** lived. According to the interviewee, drugs had been found in this guest house before, but during the searches made this time the rooms were observed to be full of posters of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization and Abdullah ÖCALAN. The interviewee stated that the PKK was using the heroin trade to finance its fight, and that it did not hesitate to employ very young children in the drugs trade, since there are no criminal penalties for children up to the age of fourteen.

Numerous cases confirm that the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization is actively involved in the drugs trade in many countries around the world and especially in Europe. As international reports demonstrate, the name of the PKK/KCK-

PYD/YPG can safely be associated with drugs. Operations targeting the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG terrorist organization which took place in Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Venezuela and the former Yugoslavia between 1987 and 2008 – a total of 38 incidents – resulted in the detention of 109 individuals belonging to the organization and in the seizure of:

- ✓ 871 kg of heroin,
- ✓ 3.5 kg of cocaine and
- ✓ 10,000 amphetamine tablets.

On September 2nd, 2017, the Belgian news agency Belga reported in an article entitled "The PKK ships its drugs from Belgium" that one of the PKK's drugs networks had been smashed as a result of operations conducted in Austria and Belgium. The article stated that the network had had its headquarters in the town of Hasselt in the Flemish Region, that it had smuggled the drugs into Europe via the ports of Antwerp in Belgium and Rotterdam in the Netherlands, that the members of the network had divided the drugs coming through the ports into packages of 5 kg each in a house in Hasselt and that they had then concealed them in secret partitions in motor vehicles for transportation to half of Europe including Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland. During a raid on the house in Hasselt conducted as part of the investigation, the date of which was not stated:

- ✓ 30 kg of cocaine,
- ✓ 12 kg of heroin,
- ✓ A large quantity of synthetic drug capsules, weapons and
- ✓ EUR 800,000 in cash had been seized.

The report added that four people had been sentenced to a total of 21.5 years in prison in Austria, while an arrest warrant had been issued for a fifth person who had escaped. In Belgium, 10 people had been detained including the network's leader, whose name had not been disclosed.

According to a story in the Flemish newspaper *Het Belang van Limburg*, the network had been making millions of euros a year from heroin alone, and was thought to have been transferring this to the PKK.

7.2.6. The Drugs Activities of the PKK/KCK-PYD/YPG Terrorist Organization in Syria

Personnel of the Syria Duty Force are continuing their efforts to wipe out drugs in the regions that have been purged of terrorism.

On July 17th 2018, personnel of the duty force in Azaz (Syria), acting in the scope of their advisory duties, conducted a planned operation against a vehicle which had been discovered to be carrying drugs towards the Azaz area from the direction of Menbij. When the vehicle was searched, 41.54 kg of Captagon tablets were found hidden in it.

7.3. OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Other terrorist organizations that conduct activities against Türkiye like the DHKP/C, TKP/ML and FETÖ/PDY organizations are also understood to engage in drugs smuggling. The evidence for this comes both from international reports and from the red-handed operations conducted in Türkiye, the statements of persons captured during drugs operations, the criminal records of persons with links to terrorist organizations, and the drugs seized and the records of drugs dealing contained in the documents seized in safe houses.

Table 7.2. Detentions and Seizures in Connection with the DHKP/C, TIKKO etc.

DHKP/C, TIKKO VB. (1980-2020)	
No. of Incidents/Operations	8
No. of Suspects	33
Cannabis/ Kg	38.5
Heroin/ Kg	38.6
Cocaine/ Kg	690

Table 7.3. Detentions and Seizures in Incidents related to Drugs Trafficking involving the FETÖ/PDY Terrorist Organization

FETÖ/PDY (1980-2020)	
No. of Incidents/Operations	19
No. of Suspects	32
Cocaine/ Kg	252
Captagon/ Tablets	800,000
Ecstasy/ Tablets	33
Methamphetamine/ Kg	0.05
Heroin/ Kg	0.26
Synthetic Cannabinoids / Kg	641.2
Cannabis/ Kg	0.64
Cannabis Plants	252
Lyrica/ capsules	96
Synthetic Pharmaceuticals/ No.	21
Skunk/ Kg	3

The clearest and most concrete indication that the FETÖ/PDY terrorist organization also obtained revenue from the drugs trade is the Bataklık (Swamp) investigation. One of the suspects in this investigation had been convicted for membership of the FETÖ/PDY and was discovered to have provided the terrorist organization with financial support. The suspect is currently being tried on charges of laundering the proceeds of crime.

7.4. CONCLUSION

With its vast global volume of business, the drugs market is a focus of attraction not only for organized crime syndicates but also for terrorist organizations.

There are many examples of cooperation among organized crime syndicates in this field. Such cooperation can also be observed among terrorist organizations and even between organized crime syndicates and terrorist organizations.

Organizations of these kinds may operate through partnerships which they establish in areas like the procurement of arms, the financing of terrorist activities through the shipment and distribution of drugs, and the infiltration of the financial markets.

Today, terrorist organizations are observed to be closely involved in the drugs trade both individually and in cooperation with organized crime syndicates and other terrorist organizations.

With globalization, the link between terrorism and the illegal traffic in drugs has taken on alarming proportions.

Each individual is as precious as the world, and the disappearance of even one person into the quicksand of drug addiction constitutes a great loss. In these circumstances, no opportunities should be afforded to organizations like these, which exploit the weaknesses of social life. The fight against drugs, which threaten the whole of humanity, is of vital importance both for the continuity of public health and peace, and for the safety of future generations.

Terrorism poses a great threat to the countries of the world and is making itself felt more and more acutely as technological means develop.

The fight against the phenomenon of terrorism depends at the same time on drying up the financial resources that make these actions possible. While many types of crime are used to generate revenue for acts of terrorism, the crimes of producing and trading in drugs occupy a prominent position among these sources of income.

The fight against narco-terrorism is also a fight against terrorist organizations.

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