



# Commission on Alcohol and Drug Education

The commission manages two alcohol and drug education programs, at the national and the regional levels. In 2001, the activities of the former were concentrated on drug abuse and on violence.

## **National program**

In an effort to integrate drug treatment professionals, we organized a meeting on the various approaches to drug addiction treatment. In attendance were therapists from an assortment of detoxification centers, representatives of the Narcotics Anonymous, and staff from the National Office for Drug Abuse. We also held our annual Summer School, inviting 80 drug abuse therapists, including 50 from the treatment facilities operated by MONAR. We also subsidized the publication of one issue of the *Prawo i Płeć* [Law and Gender] quarterly of the Women's Rights Center, devoted to questions of alcoholism and other addictions.

We continued the financing and supervision of the pilot program *Unlearning Violence*, implemented at the Radom Jail based on the American model whereunder inmates serving long sentences are subjected to therapy intended to help them shed aggressive behavior and to learn to counsel minor criminal offenders jailed for the first time. Consultations in the course of the program's execution are provided by Prof. James Gilligan, author of *The Violence*. The Radom program involves six prisoners with long term sentences who, having completed several months of psychoeducation and therapy (individual and in group) under the tutelage of specialists (including a psychiatrist from outside the prison), are now preparing for training which will enable them to become trainers in their own right. Thus prepared, they will work to help younger inmates, especially those jailed for the first time on brief sentences, to unlearn violent lifestyle.

Under our continued cooperation with the law enforcement authorities, we financed lectures on substance abuse for police officers. We also provided policemen with funds enabling them to participate in joint educational undertakings such as the Pruszków District Forum Against Violence; this event, co-organized by the county police command of Pruszków, brought together approximately 300 participants including representatives of local local government, psychotherapists, physicians, clergymen, teachers, and students of the local schools.

In October of 2001 on the invitation extended by our Commission Marek Prejzner of the Polish American Association in Chicago, a specialist in working with perpetrators of domestic violence, led several workshops (held in Warsaw, Kielce, Olsztyn, and Poznań) on effective methods of educating the perpetrators of domestic violence. The workshops were executed in close cooperation with the penitentiaries; each one involved between 15 and 20 people preparing to launch psychological education programs for perpetrators of violence (Addiction Prevention Center in Olsztyn has been operating such a program since November of 2001). The Commission began cooperating with Dr. Jacek Morawski, providing funds towards his ART (Aggression Replacement Training) program with adolescent inmates of the Suwałki Prison for Juvenile Law Offenders.



### Regional program

In 2001, we organized training for journalists from the region on the problems faced by women in the modern world (Warsaw, January 25-26), a Summer School for Addiction Therapists (Konstancin-Jeziorna, May 16-20), training for addiction therapists (Warsaw, August 27-29), and two training sessions about substance abuse treatment at penal institutions (at the prison in Barczewo on May 21-24 and at the Służewiec Prison in Warsaw, September 26-28). We also co-financed two conferences on substance abuse held during the month of October, *The Uniformed Forces and Substance Dependency Prevention and Treatment* (at the Hospital of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Otwock) and *Addiction Therapy in the Penitentiary Systems of Central and Eastern Europe* (Central Penitentiary Board, Popowo); in attendance at both these events were foreign guests from countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan.

We also held eleven foreign seminars – three in Bulgaria, two in Lithuania and Latvia, three in Slovakia, in Tajikistan, and in Ukraine. On the invitation of the Albert Schweitzer Institute we co-organized in Budapest an international seminar on *Alcohol Policy and Public Health*, attended by thirty participants from across Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia with whom we had been collaborating since 1996.

Our internships on addiction treatment drew 34 specialists from Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan to Poland. Four people from Poland and one from Lithuania, meanwhile, served as interns at the Stupeny Addiction Treatment Center in Odessa, Ukraine. We also provided funds for the visits to Poland of three police officers from Tajikistan who learned about the operations of MONAR's Drug Addict Treatment Centers.

We published two consecutive issues of the *Arka* bulletin in Russian as well as its first issue in Bulgarian.

The Regional program benefited from funding by the Open Society Institute in Budapest to the amount of 726 503,40 PLN; OSI-Budapest also disbursed 52 839 USD among our partner organizations across the region (to recipients in Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine).

Projects:	740 628,40 PLN
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1 017 310,31 PLN</b>