

ECCAS: What is it?

The European Collaborating Centres in Addiction Studies was established in 1988/89, but only named so in 1992. Its origins and subsequent development can be traced back to discussions, held with officers of the European Commission in 1987/88, identifying the need for a collaborative study to investigate the treatment of opiate addiction, mainly using the substitute drug methadone.

The objectives of ECCAS include the following:

- (a) To advance current knowledge in the field of substance misuse through academic, research and educational activities.
- (b) To develop practical approaches and methods of preventing and dealing with the problems of substance misuse, sensitive to the needs of the individual, their families, culture and the national laws and international conventions.
- (c) To disseminate findings of research and good practice across Europe.
- (d) To evaluate the impact of interventions whether preventive, treatment or care of individual, families and communities
- (e) To influence agencies which have direct or indirect input to the problem of substance misuse.
- (f) To provide support both general and specific to members of the ECCAS group.
- (g) To develop professional relationships with similar groups/associations.
- (h) To have minimal annual targets within each of the work programme areas
- (i) To work towards achieving representation for all European countries.
- (j) To ensure that ECCAS is represented at relevant European conferences and policy meetings.
- (k) To respond actively to new developments and challenges in the substance misuse field
- (l) To exploit the dynamic between the different national policies and practices.

Countries members of ECCAS include Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain and the UK.

www.sghms.ac.uk/depts/addictive-behaviour/ECCAS/Eccas1.htm