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Global Drug Addiction

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Abstract: A growing number of new unregulated drugs ('legal highs') have emerged in recent years which are also marketed on the Internet and often used on the recreational and night clubbing circuit. The EU has set up a system to detect new substances on the market and a mechanism to assess their risks and ban across the EU those substances that pose risks. The Council Decision on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances establishes an early warning system, enabling a rapid exchange of information on a new psychoactive substances emerging in the EU. When a new substance gives rise to concern, the EMCDDA and Europol can draw up a Joint Report, based on information on the substance collected from across the EU. Based on this Joint Report, the Commission or the individual of EU countries can request a risk assessment of the substance. Since 1997, EU countries notified more than 400 new psychoactive substances through the Early Warning System on new drugs. Those substances that pose risks to health are subjected to risk assessment and if they are harmful, they are withdrawn of the market from the whole EU.

Keywords: risks; substances; effects; addiction; healing

Introduction

During this period, against the background of the growth of this phenomenon, the vast majority of us learned certain aspects about drugs from the mass media, movies, but in order to be able to approach, supervise, assist and advise a person who has an addictive behavior, we need more information about the types of drugs, the consequences of drug use, about the links that may exist between the use of a certain type of drug and personality disorders or the age of the user.

In this sense, I will first present some definitions of some terms that are characteristic of addictive behavior.

Thus, tobacco, coffee, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, cannabis, ecstasy, etc. are psychoactive substances. By psychoactive substances we mean those substances that, introduced into the body, stimulate the central nervous system, and intensify the activity of the brain and some nerve centers in the spinal cord. They can stimulate or calm the person, they can change his mood, perception and thinking.

Drugs are those chemical or natural substances - in solid, liquid, or gaseous state - which, after being introduced into the body, change the image of the person and the surrounding reality. The use of drugs can create physical and mental dependence or serious disorders of mental activity and behavior.

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Body of Paper

Physical addiction can be considered as the body's reaction to the prohibited substance. The chemicals in the drug enter the body, being toxic, and when the body opposes a new amount, entering an alert with violent effects, which are manifested by altered general condition, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, tachycardia, various pains, spasms, or tremors. Physical dependence is for now felt for a while even after abstinence and cessation of withdrawal symptoms, which can favor a return to consumption. However, physical dependence is not found in all types of drugs. Thus, in the case of marijuana consumption, physical dependence does not appear, on the other hand, in the case of heroin consumption, is established from the first dose.

Psychic addiction, which is also the most important, manifests itself through an irresistible need to use the drug, to influence, change or control the mood, feelings, or self-awareness. It is found in all types of drugs. (Abraham, 2005; Morris et comp, 2004; Beccaria, 2001; Belenko, 2000; Crawford, 2000).

The state of dependence is difficult to overcome in some cases. The addict can choose between starting a treatment (detoxification) or taking another dose. Unfortunately, the easiest way is to continue using drugs. This is a fatal choice.

Drug tolerance occurs when the body gets used to the presence of a certain substance and adapts to it. As such, to obtain a certain state, the drug addict must increase the doses. Thus, a drug addict ends up taking doses that would be fatal for normal people.

Withdrawal refers to the physical and mental symptoms that appear when an individual is deprived of the drug to which he had become addicted or when the doses decrease sharply.

Overdose means the introduction into the body of a quantity of substance greater than it can bear and as a result particularly dangerous body reactions may occur unconsciousness, heart failure, cardiovascular insufficiency, each of these effects can lead to coma or death. (Doopelt et comp, 1990; Zehr et comp., 2004; Hughes, 2007; Goldkamp, 1994).

Overdose occurs:

- when the consumer uses a dose that is too strong in relation to the usual one.
- when using an insufficiently diluted product or mixed with other substances.
- when the usual dose is continued in parallel with the medication from the detoxification cure.

Flash is the feeling of intense pleasure that occurs when the drug is injected.

The causes that determine the cost of drugs are multiple. Some people experience a feeling of boredom, emptiness, loneliness, are depressed and restless, suffer from certain behavioral disorders. Others cannot cope with problems at school, college, work, family. Relationships with others are too complicated, they are afraid of the future and do not know what they will do in life.

Summarizing the above, we can say that the factors that determine drug use are:

- personal problems, troubles, despair.
- loneliness, lack of friends.
- curiosity, the temptation of the forbidden fruit.
- the desire for strong sensations.
- boredom, lack of interesting concerns.
- rebellious (the need to stand out).

- behavioral or personality disorders, the drug being regarded as a medicine for the treatment of these disorders.
- professional or family failure.
- the entourage.
- unfavorable family climate.
- low educational and cultural level.
- lack of information or false information about drugs.
- imitating models from movies.

In many from these situations, the drug appears as a saving solution that solves all their difficulties until the day, they realize that their problems, far from being solved, or aggravated, the relationships with family and others deteriorating, finally, realizing that they were caught in a trap.

Depending on the degree of addiction to the drug, consumers are divided into the following categories:

1. Occasional - consume moderate doses, on exceptional occasions, motivated as a recreational or experimental purpose. There is a risk of switching from intermittent to constant use. He is especially interested in the emotional states determined by the drug. (Gruski et comp., 2006).
2. “Weekend” - consume large doses, taken intermittently, at the end of the week, with the aim of “forgetting” the difficulties of existence or the failures of everyday life. The feeling of guilt and even self-hatred appears. It increases the risk of switching to regular use of higher doses. A cycle of emotional experiences is established: consumption - guilt - remorse - need for increased consumption.
3. Junk - regular consumption, of moderate doses, believing that they can be stopped at any time. Almost daily consumption indicates the existence of a chemical problem, which leads to addiction or the need for stronger drugs. Abstinence, even if it occurs, does not last.
4. Drug addicts - consume large, regular doses and different drugs. They suffer from drug addiction, by this we mean that voluntary chronic intoxication that leads to the loss of the freedom to abstain from drug use; the addiction is clear, progressively affecting social life, material condition, existence in general. (Makkai, 1998).

Drug addiction can be major in the case of heroin, cocaine, alcohol consumption, and minor in the case of smoking and caffeine addiction. And according to the number of drugs administered, we can talk about mono-drug addiction (the administration of a single drug) and poly-drug addiction (the use of several drugs).

Most of our clients probably belong to the last two categories, because they lose their freedom to choose and to be themselves. Their life no longer goes on normally, they lose their job, family, friends, they have problems with sleep and adaptation. In fact, their life is reduced to an endless search for the dose every day, and to find the money needed to buy the dose, they are willing to do anything: lie, deceive, steal, prostitute themselves, traffic in drugs or even murder. Moral or rational arguments, proof of destructive effects (physical or psychological) can no longer eliminate the need for drugs.

Drug addicts are followed by a permanent feeling of lack of trust and love, both “in themselves” and “around”. Their own image is devalued, and reporting to the other, perceived negatively: “I don't make two bucks, it is often heard, and neither does society.” (Malloch et comp., 2003).

The effect of substances and associated behaviors (escape, manipulation, lying) very frequently leads to a restructuring of the personality and a regression of the adaptation faculties, more so as the value system developed during childhood goes out of play, and the notions of respect and dignity are eclipsed.

Drug trafficking presents a series of general characteristics derived from the numerous investigations carried out by national and international bodies tasked with preventing and repressing this scourge of the contemporary world.

The commercial and organized character of illicit traffic is given by the law of supply and demand and by the fact that obtaining the highest possible profits in this way is the sole purpose of drug transport and sales networks.

The clandestine character is illustrated by the fact that those who direct this traffic are unknown to the great mass of ordinary traffickers, disguising their illegal activities in certain actions permitted by law. Intermediaries in this traffic are chosen according to the possibilities of movement offered by their profession or their quality, frequently using false identities.

The profits obtained from the drug business are generally placed in countries whose banks allow the practice of anonymous bank accounts and guarantee their secrecy.

Taking risk into account is another characteristic, which is why the itineraries and operating modes used vary depending on certain known or foreseen difficulties. Indirect and longer routes are preferred, if they present more security, intermediaries are changed, if they can be discovered, and sometimes even suppressed, if they “talk too much”. (Iancu et comp., 2010).

The link with criminal circles is another important characteristic of illicit drug trafficking. There are many cases in which drug traffickers have links with organized gangs specialized in the exploitation of prostitution and clandestine gambling e, as well as in forgery and placement of counterfeit currency. On the other hand, former hold-up specialists or pimps are reconverting into drug traffickers.

Individual trafficking is a last characteristic of international drug trafficking. Numerous individuals originating from drug-producing areas transport small amounts of drugs on their own, especially cannabis leaf and resin and psychotropic substances.

Throughout history, the phenomenon of drugs has had an upward evolution, from the simple use for medical and therapeutic purposes by healers, in the ancient period, to their cultivation, production and commercialization by criminal networks belonging to organized crime, in the contemporary period. (Collins et comp., 1983).

Internationally, in recent years, the idea of liberalizing narcotics control has appeared, in order to try more permissive forms of control, such as not criminalizing the possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use, the possibility of prescribing these substances to addicts, by doctors, or sale of drugs without restrictions. Such suggestions were promoted by doctrinal scholars in the legal field in the Netherlands and certain states in the USA.

The proposals formulated aimed at decriminalizing the possession for personal use and the consumption of small amounts of drugs, while the sale would still be considered a crime. In practice, this would lead to the procurement of quantities of drugs from the street. The idea is being advanced that doctors should legally be able to prescribe narcotic substances to those known and registered as drug addicts. Also, legalization must represent the complete abolition of government control and allow free sales or the manifestation of this monopoly, as in the case of alcohol, by introducing increased taxes, age restrictions, etc.

The risks associated with moderate drug use have been greatly exaggerated. The research of the last decades has shown that all types of narcotics harm health, causing addiction and not being able to achieve moderate consumption, because the body still demands the drug, even if it is harmful.

It is wrong to punish the disease itself. The operations and use are criminalized in the legislation the addiction to drugs and not the addiction itself. A society has no right to prohibit its members from consuming drugs to influence their psyche. Through the United Nations International Convention on Drugs, it was shown that they can only be used for medical and scientific purposes. The use of drugs for personal use, for recreational, religious purposes or to cause hallucinations is not allowed since non-medical drugs also include major risks for both the individual and society.

The prohibition of drugs made them more interesting, as in the case of the forbidden fruit. The reason why drugs are considered exciting is that they cause pleasant effects, at least in the beginning, creating over time the addiction that pushes the consumer to obtain the source of pleasure at any cost. The fact that addiction is difficult to counteract is an important reason to control drugs. (Anglin et comp., 1998).

Drug control has created an opportunity for crime syndicates to get rich and generated serious crimes that would disappear if drugs were legalized. Profits are possible by generating addiction in drug addicts who are willing to pay enormous sums to acquire drugs and satisfy their needs. A free market would cause even more people to become addicted, creating even greater profits for producers. If society eliminates these needs through education, treatment and criminal sanctions, crime syndicates would be deprived of profit.

By legally prescribing drugs for addicts, under medical control, society removes them from the black-market circuit and frees them from the need to commit crimes to pay for their drugs. Some countries have tried to implement this system, by prescribing drugs to addicts, who are free to use them however they want, but the results have been catastrophic. Social isolation is the direct result of drug use, their procurement becoming a priority over any other need, diminishing interest in society. Free trade would mean that more and more people would be excluded from society.

Drug control played a decisive role. The spread of drugs and the increase in procurement possibilities led to an increase in the number of addicts, who could only be kept under control through strict operations. No one can estimate the level that consumption could reach if drugs were to be legalized. (Bartkowiak, 2005).

Regarding this distinction between licit drugs and illicit drugs, which we consider artificial from the start, about permitted (licit) drugs and those subject to certain restrictive regimes, there is a whole literature written, at the present time, all over the world. Knowledge of the legal regime enjoyed by a certain qualified drug, simultaneously, and the economic activities of which the material object is or can be the respective drug. From this assertion it follows that the separation of licit and illicit drugs is based, in the last instance, only on the economic criterion and, as shown by some specialists in the matter, the drug is, indeed, a commodity regulated by law.

Licit drugs are divided, according to some origins, into recreational drugs and utilitarian drugs. French experts include in the category of illicit drugs narcotic products (outside the medical prescription) as well as certain products not classified as narcotics and diverted from their normal use (solvents, solvents, hallucinogenic mushrooms, synthetic substances, disinhibiting drugs, etc.).

Among the former we find alcohol, tea, coffee, tobacco, cola, betel, etc., and among the latter - pharmaceutical and chemical products with multiple therapeutic uses. Recreational drugs are not, with rare exceptions, restricted in terms of manufacturing, storage, transport, possession and consumption. Those in the second category are the object of a well-established legal regime, seeking in this way to prevent their diversion from the legal circuit and the supply of underground consumption markets. This distinction forces us to return to the classification of drugs by international documents, when, as we have seen, the division between legal and illegal use was decided only by their therapeutic or scientific

use. Conditioned, therefore, by the artificial classification, the ambiguous distinction between licit and illicit drugs is very important for us from the legal point of view, the economic one. (Abraham et comp., 2004).

Among recreational drugs - licit - are alcohol, tea, tobacco, further briefly presenting their effects.

Alcohol, motivated (anniversaries, receptions, etc.) or not, represents a daily habit in the life of each of us, so that we pass with unforgivable ease, over the fact that this is one of the drugs with significant addictive properties.

Although insignificant at first glance, consistent of alcohol consumption are not to be neglected:

- alcohol affects the consumer's central nervous system, reduces his cognitive functions and makes him indifferent to everything that happens around him, eventually becoming a "great absentee".
- attacks the consumer's speech and prevents him from making himself understood - speech, being the second signaling system, represents the main way of expression and communication between people.
- decreases the consumer's visual acuity and exposes him to accidents.
- blurs logic. The specific logic of the human being in its evolution leads to progress and civilization, since without reason our future means only physical degradation and moral misery.

Tobacco contains nicotine (alkaloid) which is found in cigarettes, pipe tobacco, cigars, patches and reaches the body through smoking, chewing or skin absorption.

In addition to nicotine, cigarette smoke contains about 4,000 chemical substances, among which we list: tar, carbon monoxide, ammonia, cyanide, arsenic, creosol in, phenol, D.D.T., pyridine, nickel, etc.

Tobacco, beyond the allure of false virility it gives to those who use it, can cause:

- increase in blood pressure, irritation of the nasopharyngeal mucosa and the larynx, convulsions, muscle weakness, collapse, damage to the mucous membranes of the lips.
- cancer located in the mouth, respiratory tract, or lungs.

Caffeine (caffeine) is an alkaloid extracted from coffee beans, tea leaves, etc. Used in medicine as a tonic for the central nervous system, heart, etc. Coffee, along with tobacco and alcohol, are considered "pleasure toxics" and represent very accessible drugs, widely distributed, and used, being consumed most of the time together. Currently, they do not pose individual and social problems, but their abuse, excessive consumption, can cause unwanted effects and induce addiction.

Volatile substances are those organic chemicals that emit vapors with psychoactive properties, which, at first glance, could hardly be labeled drugs. The consequence of "aspiration" of chemical substances can be manifested by suffocation, fainting, convulsions, cardiac arrests, hepato-biliary diseases, brain injuries, lung diseases, of a temporary or permanent nature.

The single convention on narcotic drugs from 1961 shows that illicit drugs, as they are defined in the law, represent natural, synthetic, or semi-synthetic substances or products which, consumed unnecessarily and outside of medical prescriptions, in excess, lead to the sure dependence of the consumer on of them. All over the world these substances are subject to a strict regime precisely because of the negative effects that can be reached, being considered psychotropic substances and subject to international control. (Briggs et comp., 2006).

Humanity has become aware of the danger of illicit drug trafficking and consumption once it has increased and the harmful effects on the body have been discovered, which is why international organizations have adopted a series of conventions to restrict and even prohibit it.

Despite the appearance and competition of new forms of crime - or perhaps precisely because of that - and with all the human and financial efforts made in recent years by the world community, the phenomenon of drug consumption and trafficking still represents a permanent sadness of the beginning of the millennium and a defiance always present for law enforcement services.

As such, we can appreciate that the effects of drug use, regardless of the sphere from which it originates (licit or illicit), are felt not only on a social level but also from a legal point of view.

Thus, for drugs traditionally valued as licit, consumption is unrestricted, they can be sold on any market, even their promotion and advertising is encouraged, while as regards the legal regime of drugs considered illicit, it is totally different, in the sense that the production and sale are severely restricted, and the propaganda in their favor is considered to be apologia and as such is not allowed and criminally sanctioned.

As a result, the legal qualification in this case is different: “consumption becomes abuse, trading becomes trafficking, promotion becomes incitement”. (Camp et comp., 1999).

As another consequence, if for licit drugs the rules of the market economy are applied, with their valences, for those considered illicit, instead, a rigorous countermeasure program is instituted, at all levels, to eradicate them. On the other hand, we must highlight the fact that this arbitrary or even politically significant distinction has numerous connotations of a different nature, which fuel the movements born on an international level but also on a national level, which are increasingly numerous, which demand criminal decriminalization for consumption of illicit drugs.

Scientific rigor and the desire to avoid some inadvertences require us that, in the beginning, Fr this work, let's make a presentation of the main specialized terms with which we will operate and explain the notions used in connection with them, in the conditions that, with reference to heroin, cocaine, Ecstasy and other compounds with similar effects on the human body, the use terms such as drugs, narcotics, psychotropic substances and narcotic substances can generate confusion in certain situations.

The definitions of these terms, which in most situations are used as synonyms, have a general character, but not comprehensive for the class of chemical compounds that is the subject of this work, as will be seen from the following. (Carey et comp. 2004).

The first attempts at a unified approach at the international level to the field of drug trafficking and consumption - both in terms of terminology and politics towards these phenomena - date from the beginning of the 20th century. Thus, the Shanghai Conference, from 1909, which brought together thirteen delegations of countries actively involved in the opium trade (USA, China, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Portugal, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Japan, Siam, and Persia) and aimed at establishing some criteria regarding this activity. Later, in the Hague Conference of 1912, new rules were established regarding the trade in opium, morphine, cocaine and codeine, and the idea of the need to control the use of these substances for medical purposes was accredited and accepted.

At the initiative of the League of Nations (predecessor of the United Nations), in 1925, the Geneva Conference takes place, within which new rules are established regarding the coming and use of opium and the previously mentioned substances (among which, for the first time, were included cannabis and heroin) and the foundations are laid for a “Permanent Central Committee” which was to deal with the supervision of the implementation of the new established rules. Subsequently, in the period 1931 - 1953,

six conferences were held at the international level that focused on drug trafficking and consumption, in which a unitary approach to the control and eradication of the phenomenon was attempted. (Forrester et comp., 2011).

The results of these efforts formed the basis of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, adopted on March 30, 1961, in New York and modified by the Protocol of 1972, which constitutes the basis of the system of control and prohibition of narcotic drugs. In this context, for the first time, a series of unanimously accepted terms related to the targeted field were defined. The United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances from Vienna in 1971 broadens the institutional framework regarding the field and imposes a series of administrative restrictions related to trade and illicit traffic with the substances in question. (Carrey et comp., 2004).

The Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances from 1988, developed under the auspices of the United Nations, comes to strengthen the institutional framework in the field, adapting it to the changes that have occurred. Regulation No. 3677 of the Council of the European Union from 1990, regarding the measures to be taken to prevent the diversion of certain substances (chemical precursors) for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. (Dignan, 2005).

In fact, these are only some of the most important moments of the developments recorded at the international level along the lines of establishing a common language, especially in legal terms, about the phenomenon of drug trafficking and consumption, the decisions thus adopted being transposed in the legislative and administratively by most countries, in accordance with the specifics and local and regional interests.

However, we cannot speak of an unanimously accepted terminology regarding substances subject to international control that are related to drug trafficking and consumption, which is why, in this paper, considering the notions that have slowed down in the Romanian language over time, we will operate with the following terms:

- drug - controlled substance internationally, synthesized or extracted through various processes from natural products, with the aim of being used, outside the medical framework, in order to determine, voluntarily and consciously, temporary states of pleasure that are based on mutations produced at the level of functions the human body; the term practically includes all narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances defined according to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, adopted in 1961 and amended by the Protocol of 1972 and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; (Hora, 1998).

- chemical precursors - chemical substances subject to international control, frequently used in various legal technological processes that are not related to drugs, but which can be used, being essential, in the synthesis and extraction of drugs; the term practically includes all the substances nominated in Regulation No. 3677 of the Council of the Union (European since 1990).

- the drug addict (drug user) - the person who systematically consumes drugs to consciously obtain a certain state of pleasure.

- addiction - the physical or mental state resulting from the body's interaction with a substance in the category. drugs, which involve the need to take the substance repeatedly, to restore the state of pleasure produced by it and to avoid suffering.

- withdrawal - psycho-physical condition that occurs when the drug addict is deprived of the systematically consumed drug that induced his addiction.

- tolerance - the degree of resistance of the human body to the action of a substance from the category of drugs; increasing tolerance implies increasing the dose of the drug or the frequency of its administration to obtain the state of pleasure that it determines.

- hallucinations - sensory perceptions from the sphere of sight, hearing, or smell, which have no counterpart in objective reality, determined by the consumption of some substances from the category of drugs.

Drug precursor control is the path to drug control, moreover the only path that can be checked instantly.

Drug Precursors are chemical substances having wide licit uses (e.g., in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, perfumes, cosmetics, fertilizers, oils, etc.). However, they can be extremely dangerous when diverted from the licit channels for the illicit manufacture of drugs (such as heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, etc.).

For example, 200g of piperonal (a substance commonly used in perfumery, in cherry and vanilla flavorings, in organic synthesis, and in the manufacture of mosquito repellents) are enough to produce 4,000 street doses of ecstasy. (Iancu et comp., 2010).

Due to their wide legitimate uses, trade in drug precursors cannot be prohibited. Therefore, drug precursors are controlled through monitoring their licit trade.

The EU legislation on drug precursors is based on the 1988 United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, part of an international framework.

In 2005 a set of Regulations was put in place aiming at monitoring trade in drug precursors both within the EU and between the EU and the rest of the world. The control mechanism, aiming at preventing diversion of drug precursors, is based on close industry, and reinforced through measures such as documentation and labelling, licensing and registration of operators, procedures and requirements governing exports. For example, preventing 1 liter of PMK (the main ecstasy precursor) from entering the EU and getting into the hands of criminals potentially prevents 1000 ecstasy pills from being sold on the black market. This clearly shows that what represents enormous risks for users means at the same time huge profits for the drugs 'business' (Hurdubaie et comp., 2008).

The EU drug precursor legislation requires systematic reporting from EU Member States on seizures and stopped shipments of drug precursors. This allows identifying the evolution of trends in drug precursor trafficking and diversion.

Co-operation with industry is a core element of international drug precursor control. Article 12 of the “1988 United Nations Convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances” highlights the essential role business must play in combating diversion of precursor chemicals from legal trade.

The Commission fully promotes a strong partnership culture with business. First, business, i.e., manufacturers, producers, traders, distributors, transporters, etc. are the first line of defense against diversion of drug precursors because they are best placed to know their customers and to identify possible unusual and suspicious transactions and orders. Secondly, business offers detailed knowledge and high expertise greatly important to building up effective monitoring systems that do not impair legitimate trade but can yield best possible results. (Lawrence et comp., 2002).

The EU legislation on drug precursors fully reflects the vital nature of the principle of co-operation with industry. However, in addition to legislative measures, voluntary co-operation with business must be

privileged whenever possible as voluntary co-operation has proven to be very effective, offering the necessary flexibility to quickly respond to changing trends and patterns of diversion of drug precursors.

Drug use, drug-related crime, and the social and health problems that go with them are a serious threat to our societies. In response, EU countries are working together to reduce the use of illicit drugs and the trafficking of drugs to the EU (Stancu, 2012).

Drugs policy is largely the responsibility of the EU national authorities, which are best placed to make those choices that suit the local culture and socio-economic conditions. But drugs are a transnational threat, and therefore EU countries cannot tackle it effectively on their own.

Tackling illicit drugs requires a long-term, integrated, and multidisciplinary approach, which joins together public health, social and education policies, law enforcement and external action in a coherent policy. (French et comp. 2002).

The EU's response is set out in the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020. (<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/documents-publications/publications/european-union-drugs-strategy-2021-2025>).

The European Commission plays an important coordination and support role. The main tasks are to:

- monitor and evaluate actions taken by EU countries to reduce drug use and prevent drugs-related crime and trafficking.
- propose EU-wide control measures for new drugs, when necessary, after carefully analyzing risk assessments.
- enforce the EU law to control and prevent the use of chemical substances for the manufacture of illicit drugs.
- foster European cooperation by providing financial assistance in the field of illicit drugs.
- ensure the overall coherence of the EU drugs policy framework and coordinate EU positions in international fora.
- support cross-border projects in the illicit drugs field.

A growing number of new unregulated drugs ('legal highs') have emerged in recent years which are also marketed on the Internet and often used on the recreational and night clubbing circuit. The EU has set up a system to detect new substances on the market and a mechanism to assess their risks and ban across the EU those substances that pose risks.

The Council Decision on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances establishes an early warning system, enabling a rapid exchange of information on a new psychoactive substance emerging in the EU.

When a new substance gives rise to concern, the EMCDDA and Europol can draw up a Joint Report, based on information on the substance collected from across the EU. Based on this Joint Report, the Commission or the individual of EU countries can request a risk assessment of the substance. (Stancu, 2014)

Since 1997, EU countries notified more than 400 new psychoactive substances through the Early Warning System on new drugs. Those substances that seem to pose risks to health are subjected to risk assessment and if they are harmful, they are withdrawn from the market from the whole EU.

The risk assessment is conducted by the Scientific Committee of the EMCDDA, which is composed of independent scientists, the European Commission, Europol and the European Medicines Agency. The risk assessment is based on a specific set of criteria and guidelines. Ten risk assessment reports have been carried out since 2005: on BZP, Mephedrone, 4-MA, 5-IT, Methoxetamine, AH-7921, 25I-NBOMe, MDPV, 4,4'-DMAR and MT-45.

The Commission must decide whether the evidence provided by the risk assessment report justifies banning the substance (submitting it to EU-wide control measures). The Commission can:

- either report to the Council that no further action is needed, or
- submit a proposal for a Council Decision to control the substance EU-wide.

Since 2005, eight substances have been submitted to control measures across the EU: BZP, Mephedrone, 4-MA, 5-IT, Methoxetamine, AH-7921, 25I-NBOMe and MDPV (Hurdubaie et comp., 2008).

The Commission has assessed the Council Decision to see if it is still able to tackle effectively the rapidly changing market for new psychoactive substances. The assessment presented in July 2011, concluded that the EU instrument is a useful instrument for tackling the new challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, but that it has several major shortcomings, and notably:

- It is slow and reactive, therefore not able to effectively address the increase in the number of new substances.
- Insufficient evidence is available to take appropriate and sustainable decisions.
- It lacks options for restriction measures.

Many newly emerged substances are variations within a specific group of chemicals and are like substances controlled at national level. Some substances contain herbal and synthetic compounds that emerge in various mixtures in different EU countries. One example is Spice, a mixture containing herbs and synthetic components that mimic the effects of cannabis.

Their diversity and the speed with which new substances are developed to replace those that are controlled make them difficult to regulate.

Users could believe that these new uncontrolled drugs are safe. However, the effects of these drugs are often unclear as there is little information on their potential health and social harms.

The main source of information on the potential effects and risks are often messages posted on the internet by drug users' communities.

The Commission launched a study in 2011 to provide a thorough analysis of the emerging challenges linked to new psychoactive substances and to assess the possible actions that could be taken to strengthen the EU ability to respond to them. This study, concluded one year later, informed the report that accompanied the Commission's legislative proposals on new psychoactive substances. It explains the reasons why it is necessary to take fresh EU-level action on new psychoactive substances.

On 17 September 2013, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal to enable the EU to act swifter and more effectively to address new psychoactive substances.

As can be seen from the adopted definition, drugs represent a heterogeneous class of substances whose classification according to a rigorous, scientific system is impossible, the general criteria for classifying substances not being eloquent in this case.

Regarding the state of aggregation, this aspect is not essential in the characterization of a drug and, certainly, neither are the substances from which it starts or the method of obtaining them. The classification into groups of compounds according to the chemical structure of drugs is perhaps too rigorous and, from a social point of view, irrelevant, the criterion regarding the effects produced on the human body by the consumption of drugs, however, can be much more useful in their evaluation. Although, in most cases, the classifications of drugs according to various criteria are incomplete or irrelevant for the common man, we will continue to make a series of assessments on these substances, placing them in various groups and classes, to ensure a better knowledge of them.

The previous process, which had the objective of harmonizing national legislation with that of the European Union and adapting the structures and mechanisms of the national public administration in accordance with the European ones, has continued in recent years especially regarding the consolidation of the legal framework, currently having national regulations in accordance with European and international standards.

Relevant are the amendments made to the Council's Framework Decision 2004/757/JAI of October 25, 2004 establishing the minimum provisions on the constitutive elements of the crimes and applicable sanctions in the field of illicit drug trafficking and subsequent European legislative measures, implemented or in the process of being implemented by Romania through amendments to national legislation, imposed by the adoption of Directive (EU) 2017/2103 of the European Parliament and of the Council of November 15, 2017 amending Framework Decision 2004/757/JAI of the Council to include new psychoactive substances in the definition of the term “ drug” and repealing Council Decision 2005/387/JAI; (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32002F0584>)

Among the factors favoring delinquent behaviors, a special place belongs to the imposed environment. By imposed environment we mean the places specially designed and managed by the state, where people who commit crimes of a certain gravity are held to serve their sentence (penitentiaries, re-education centers, etc.). Most specialized studies mention that the punishment with deprivation of liberty does not always achieve the purpose in which it is applied, that the penitentiary is, as a rule, a criminogenic environment. What was said refers especially to the cases when a long-term punishment is applied, its effect being precisely described by Michel Foucault, who mentioned that:

- prisons do not reduce the crime rate; no matter how much we try to expand, multiply or improve prisons, the number of crimes and criminals remains constant or, even worse, increases.
- detention causes recidivism, because after delinquents leave prison, they have more chances to return to it again. (Studies carried out in Romania in this field demonstrate that about 40% of minors who have served their sentence in prisons relapse.).
- the prison manufactures delinquents through the way of existence it imposes on the inmates.
- prison favors the growth of an environment of delinquents, in solidarity with each other, hierarchical, ready for all kinds of future complicity.
- the conditions that await released prisoners upon release from prison fatally condemn them to recidivism. (Minors resort to recidivism because society does not accept them, marginalizes them.

From the above we can conclude that the criminal personality, like the non-criminal one, is formed in the same spheres of social life: family, school, professional environment, entourage, etc. However, due to interpersonal relationships, certain particularities will determine the evolution of personality in different ways. Researched from the perspective of the individual approach, as insisted on in psychological theories, juvenile delinquency appears to us as the result of the young person's inability

to adapt to the living conditions offered by society and to the normative requirements, an inability determined by psychological peculiarities, by disorders of a psychopathological nature, cause by several factors, but the family has the most important role.

Another way of approaching the etiology of juvenile delinquency was proposed by sociological conceptions, which make the tendency towards delinquency dependent not so much on the psychological characteristics of the individual, but, above all, on the specifics of the social and cultural environment. In the context of these opinions, juvenile delinquency is not just an individual act. It can also be seen as a social phenomenon, obeying the laws of development of the social formation that generated it. From this perspective, the individual causes of juvenile delinquency give way to the causality of the system.

With the fall of the totalitarian regimes, multiple transformations occurred in the structure of juvenile delinquency in the former socialist countries. Thus, if previously in these countries certain types of juvenile delinquency were almost unknown: drug-related crimes, juvenile prostitution, human trafficking, the phenomenon of street children, etc., then the transition period generated a whole series of mutations in the structure of crime. In this period, “criminality represents the phenomenon where the strength of the old regime is manifested most prominently with the weaknesses of the transition period, thus producing a dangerous convergence between the traditional risk factors and the new factors that favor crime”.

There are also frequent cases when certain characteristics of the political situation in some countries are at the origin of some forms of crime, including juvenile ones, related to this situation. For example, multiple terrorist activities, executions, torture, hostage-taking, airplane hijackings, etc., in which many minors participate, can be justified by certain political options. The use of minors in the illegal transportation of weapons in conflict zones, in solving inter-ethnic conflicts, etc., is also a reality. Currently, juvenile delinquency shows significant quantitative increases from the perspective of multiplying its serious forms.

Although poverty, as such, cannot be considered a direct cause of the increase in juvenile crime and delinquency trends, it is largely responsible for the way families raise their children and the risks that exist in terms of the use of illegitimate means in solving problems. Poverty feeds, for the most part, the phenomenon of “street children”, and this, in turn, largely determines the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency. (Miller et comp., 1996).

Unemployment, intrinsically linked to the level of economic development, has serious influences on juvenile delinquency. Unemployment has criminogenic effects both at the individual level and at the social level. At the individual level, unemployment can determine an increased risk for crime, especially if it affects both parents. In these families, the possibility of minor children to commit criminal acts is much greater.

Unemployment can also have criminogenic effects at the social, collective level, especially in localities where massive redundancies have taken place, because of economic restructuring (Poland, Romania, Russia, etc., after the fall of totalitarian regimes).

Juvenile crime can be encouraged not only by the lack, but also by the abundance of consumer goods both quantitatively and qualitatively, the subjects of criminal acts not necessarily being children from disadvantaged families. Thus, the possibilities offered by the development of technology, in general, and computing technology create additional temptations even for some very intellectually gifted minors who come from organized families. In recent years, the cases where minors are counterfeiters of money with the help of color copiers, illegal users of credit cards, creators of sites through which goods are “sold” with advance payment and other aspects related to “cyber-criminality”.

Urbanization and industrialization also lead to a decline in the traditional mechanisms of social control over the behavior of young people. In urban industrial regimes, the relationships or social contacts between individuals are more superficial. Under these conditions, unofficial sanctions lose their effectiveness. Thus, in a “nuclear” family living in a big city, the parents are often too busy to supervise or properly care for their children, who can often be exposed to external, criminogenic influences.

On the other hand, city dwellers do not have close ties even with their neighbors, so that urban communities become more and more disorganized. The urban environment is also characterized by a greater freedom of conduct, unlike the rural one, where the family and neighbors have a power of censorship that imposes rigorous behavior on young people.

One of the most famous theories of the culturalist current is the theory of differential associations, proposed by the American criminologist E.A. Sutherland, which represents an application of the theory of “social learning”. According to this theory, criminal behavior is not hereditary, but learned during informal communication between individuals. The learning of criminal behavior depends on the ratio that exists within the group between interpretations favorable to respect for the criminal law and interpretations unfavorable to it. Hence the name differential association theory. Sutherland points out that the earlier the association with criminal patterns, the learning occurs faster. However, this theory finds partial validity in the field of juvenile delinquency, since during gradual socialization, even if young people assimilate and internalize the social demands and prohibitions transmitted by family and school, they can learn certain behaviors deviants within the street or group of friends.

Another important culturalist theory is that of “culture conflicts”, developed by Thorsten Sellin, which regards crime and crime as consequences of existing cultural conflicts between different categories and social groups. He reveals that the phenomenon of delinquency is much more frequent in communities of immigrants, especially among minors from the second generation of immigrants. Crime is the result of the conflict that occurs in the same society between different norms of conduct. T. Sellin states that the number of conflicts between the values of a group and the legal norms is directly proportional to the delinquency rate. Of course, culture conflict alone is not sufficient to explain variations in crime rates. It must be placed in the broader context of social and economic factors in society. (Sims, 2020).

From what has been reported, we can say with certainty that the phenomenon of deviance, including that of delinquency, is much more frequent in contemporary societies than in traditional ones. There are multiple explanations for this situation. More consistent, however, seem to be the opinions that attribute the main role in amplifying the deviant tendencies to the processes of change and modernization.

Conclusions

From a criminological perspective, drug use and trafficking are deviant social behaviors, often associated with other types of crime, emerging from the specific way society is organized and functioning, multifactorial determined by a series of threats, risks and vulnerabilities located at the level of the global external environment or with the origin in structural or functional deficiencies of the social body. Seen this way, the drug phenomenon can be addressed with specific tools to control organized crime or risk management tactics available to specialized national and international law enforcement structures. Approached from the perspective of public health, illicit drug use, especially addiction, is defined as a pathology that significantly affects the health of individuals, communities, regions, or society, with subsequent repercussions on the fields of education, the labor market, etc. This approach allows for the use of rigorously scientifically based monitoring, evaluation, and intervention tools.

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