

## | Final Report

**Title of the project:** Protection, improvement and dissemination of the Portuguese Decriminalization Model.

**Total amount granted:** \$100,900.98 (Total amount - \$316,421.30)

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| INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This final report integrates information from two main activities developed by APDES during the implementation of the project concerning the Protection, improvement and dissemination of the Portuguese Decriminalization Model:

Activity 1: National scientific research and advocacy activities concerning the protection and improvement of the Portuguese Decriminalization Model;

Activity 2: Organization of the 1st International Conference of Drug Policies in Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (PALOP), in Cape Verde.

In order to promote a more accurate understanding of the project implementation each activity will be addressed separately. Nevertheless we would like to stress that much of the non explicit impacts came first from the intrinsic association between both activities. In this sense we recall that the main issue of the project was to strengthen Portugal Drug Policies and use its comprehensive framework and strong impacts in order to disseminate, reflect and promote the change of Portuguese-Speaking African Countries.

We are certain that this work and the efforts made by APDES during this process, made important contributions for the acknowledgment of humanistic drug policies and for a more comprehensive view of the challenges (being them geographic, ideological, economic, cultural) underlying it's implementation.

## | ACTIVITY 1: NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE DECRIMINALIZATION MODEL

This report gives notice of the research project initially entitled “The austerity measures and the Portuguese model of drug policy”, developed under the protocol established between APDES and Open Society Foundations. It covers the reporting period between January 2014 and March 2015.

The study described here results from the implementation of a single activity of a broader project through which we intend to contribute for protection/improvement of the Portuguese decriminalization model and its dissemination by sharing its best practices and positive impacts with other contexts, particularly the African scenario of Portuguese speaking countries (PALOP). In particular, this activity has been concentrated in monitoring and exploring what is happening in the field due to austerity measures applied in the country. In this framework, the Portuguese Drug Policy Model is not restrictedly seen as the product of a decriminalization law. It goes far beyond the decree law, by grounding itself in a very complex, integrated and comprehensive care system built along several years. The Portuguese Drug Policy Model offers an important framework for creating the conditions to prevent drug abuse and to care for all types of drug users, their families and their communities. The documented associated effects of this model also depend on that “backstage” structure.

The research idea emerged from the anticipation of the impact that austerity measures could have on the foundations of the model. In this sense, by anticipating that the economic and financial crisis could put in danger the integrity of the care network that supported the answer to drug use phenomena, the study aimed to monitor that process in order to allow us to understand possible changes in the results of Portuguese drug policy. Data gathered are meaningful and justify some of those worries.

The present report intends to describe the process of implementing the research project and is organized in the following sections: project general information, project activities; project outcomes; dissemination and media outreach; evaluation; sustainability; co-funding.

More technical contents of the research can be found in one of the main products of the proposal: Annex 1 – “Austerity and the Portuguese Drug Policy Model”.

The study was implemented with an extreme concern for the scientific exemption. Since APDES (and OSF) is compromised with a certain political position regarding Drug Policy and advocates for it, extra caution was putted in the rigorous outlining process of the research.

## | GENERAL INFORMATION

**Title of the Research Project:** The austerity measures and the Portuguese model of drug policy

**Main Research Objective:** To understand the impact of currently austerity measures in the lives of people who use drugs and in the services on which they depend, aiming to comprehend how this can affect decriminalization policy outcomes.

**Research coordinator and teams:**

**Project Coordinator:** Marta Pinto

**Research team:** José Queiroz, Pedro Machado, Helena Carvalho, Soraia Teles, Joana Vilares, Cristina Pires, Maria João Oliveira

**Responsible entity:** APDES – Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento

## | PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The research project included the following main activities:

- Detailed research design
- Literature review
- Design of data collection tools
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Writing the Scientific Report
- Dissemination activities
- Advocacy activities

- Research team meetings

Main activities were conducted between January 2014 and March 2015. Nevertheless, as it can be seen in the project timeline (see Annex 2) and during the description of each activities, the project implementation is not limited to this period. As it will be further developed, dissemination and advocacy activities, for example, are planned to be enhanced between September and December of the present year.

Next we will present a brief description of the research activities. We would like to stress that the study report (Annex 1) deepens each one of this activities in more detail.

### **Detailed research design**

After the proposal approval, it was necessary to discuss and define within the research team the full design of the study. Research questions were defined, the methodological process and its operationalization were scrutinized and improved and research tasks were distributed among the elements of the team. Some changes to the initial proposal were made and were addressed along the description of the study process.

The technical description of the methodological process was carefully described on chapter 1 of the study report (Annex 1). The detailed description of the methodological section was due to the political involvement of APDES and OSF in the search for alternative Drug policies, being necessary to be extra cautious in transparency about methodological issues in order to underline the scientific exemption of the study.

In order to achieve a more complete and holistic description of the study object, we have combined qualitative and quantitative methodologies. This is specially useful and adequate because of the research's explorative character and the innovative nature of the study. The combination of different sources of data allowed important insights and strengthened the validity of the results.

## **Literature review**

Among official documents, scientific publications and data analysis on available indicators were collected a total of 183 documents. Literature review and public data systematization were based on national and international published documents from the following sources: academic databases (e.g. Ebsco, Science Direct, Cochrane, EconLit, Medline, PsycArticles); grey databases (Google Scholar); scientific journals of interest (e. g. International Journal of Drug Policy); free access publications produced by national research groups (e.g. Observatório Português sobre Crises e Alternativas and Observatório Português dos Sistemas de Saúde); publications by international (WHO, UNODC, OECD, European Commission, World Bank, UNAIDS, ECDC, EMCDDA) and national coordination organisations (e.g. SICAD, Polícia Judiciária, DGS, INSA, Ministry of Health); as well as documents produced by national and international NGOs that work in drugs field (e.g. OSF, Harm Reduction Coalition, Harm Reduction International).

The keywords used in this task included (in Portuguese and in English): economy, economic/financial crisis, austerity measures/policies, econometric studies and recession, combined with: illicit drugs, drug use/consumption, vulnerable populations, health/health policies, Welfare State, social policies, drug policies, harm reduction, unemployment, social determinants of health and drug related crime.

## **Design of data collection tools**

Based on literature review and in the research questions, data collection tools were designed with the contributions of all the elements of the team. Three data collection methods were used: semi-structured interviews, focus-groups and questionnaires. Since APDES and OSF are activists in the drug policy field we wanted to prevent any attack to the study based on allegations related to a possible lack of exemption. That's why we were extremely cautious in designing the interview guide, the focus group guide and the questionnaire in a way that we could not be accused of inducing answers in order to obtain the adequate data to our advocacy agenda.

## **Data collection**

### Focus groups

It was decided to collect data through focus groups, organized and used during the first stage of the research with exploratory purposes. This was our starting point, which, combined with the pre-existing research questions and the literature review, led to construction of two additional data collection tools (i.e. interview guide and questionnaire).

In September 2013, we conducted two focus groups consisting exclusively of technical staff involved in harm reduction projects in northern Portugal. Their composition was as follows:

Focus group 1: The 1st focus group was organized with a technical team working in a central urban area in the north of Portugal. The team had five members, one of which was a peer educator. Two of the participants were men and three were women. The average age was 34 (range= 32-38). Three had studied Social Sciences and one had studied Healthcare Sciences. They had an average of nine years of professional experience in HR (range= 5-11). One of the participants was already working when the Portuguese decriminalization model on drugs entered into force, and all of them already worked in this area at the beginning of the 2008 economic crisis.

Focus group 2: The 2nd focus group involved a team that works in a more peripheral area in northern Portugal, and that was one of the main reasons why it was selected. Four professionals were involved, including one peer educator. The group was composed of three women and a man and the average age was 35 (range= 32-41). All of them studied Social Sciences, with an average of four years of professional experience in the HR field. None of the participants worked in this field when the Portuguese decriminalization model on drugs entered into force and only two of them were employed when the economic crisis began.

### **Semi-structured interviews**

For the primary data collection process, we used semi-structured interviews. As previously stated, we aimed to achieve complementarity data gathering information from the interview, as an intensive technique, and the questionnaire, an extensive technique.

In addition, since one of the main purposes of this research was to collect the participants' perception on the topic and as it comprehends delicate ideological themes that are associated

with illegality, discrimination, identity and professional quality, the interview was confirmed as the adequate tool, as it gave us access to all these dimensions.

During this process, the interviewer had to respect a set of key questions, but he/she was able to choose the order and the way in which the questions were presented, as well as to decide if he/she would present other questions that suited the purpose of the interview. The guide was developed in order to comprehend four key areas that are presented in a set of questions/topics:

1. The evolution of the Welfare State model in Portugal during the last years and the possible relation between that same evolution and the 2008 economic crisis;
2. The perception on the influence of the economic crisis and austerity measures over the services that work with drug users and over their life contexts;
3. The evolution of the Portuguese Model of Drug Policies and the possible relation of that same evolution with the economic crisis and austerity measures;
4. The perceptions on the priority political measures of evaluation, monitoring and intervention that should be adapted in the drugs field on a medium/long-term.

Between September 2013 and December 2014, 41 one interviews were conducted, with 4 different key actors: decision makers (n=8), people who use drugs (n=10), professionals (n=13) and experts (n=10). In addition, two Focus Groups took place with professionals and peers. As highlighted in our application, APDES is a Portuguese NGO that has a strong and privileged connection with the field work, with drug use and people who use drugs, with decision makers and with Harm Reduction professionals (being one of the headers and founders of R3 - Portuguese National Harm Reduction Network). As we were expecting, our strong “capital” in this field proved to be a very successful weapon to achieve the task. Main obstacles were faced while trying to interview decision makers mainly due their difficult political agendas.

## **Questionnaires**

We chose to use self-administered questionnaire as the primary data collection method, since one of the goals was to observe a set of hypotheses as relations between the variables, especially in what concerns the HR area in Portugal. Since there weren't any validated instruments at national or international level that could reach the dimensions we intended to

study, we developed a questionnaire that could answer these research questions. Its design was done according to the available literature, as well as with the results from the exploratory focus groups. When the first version was available, there was a process of reflection with the professionals and peer educators from HR area, in order to upgrade it and achieve its final version. This latter tried to catch the connections between the following dimensions and the austerity measures implemented in Portugal:

- The lives of PWUD (e.g. drug use; incomes; general health condition; supporting network; social stigma);
- The work of social and healthcare services in drug related tasks (e.g. social services; HR responses);
- The evolution of the Portuguese model of drug policies since 2007.

The questionnaires were collected between September 2013 and December 2014. A total of 100 individuals who work in the HR area participated in this questionnaire. According to the most recent statistics, there's an estimate of around 200 professionals who work in the HR field in Portugal (APDES, 2013). In what concerns the geographic distribution of the participants, 48% are from the northern region; 16% from the central region; 19% from Lisbon and 2% from Alentejo. Also, we were not expecting a balanced distribution of the participants of the sample, since the distribution of the universe of HR professionals in Portugal is concentrated in the North and in Lisbon (IDT, 2011). The sample consisted of 60 women and 22 men (18 participants didn't answer this question). In terms of training background, 43% studied Social Sciences, 14% Healthcare Sciences, 2% studied Law and 2% studied other subjects (39% of the participants did not answer this question). The participants' years of professional experience ranged from eight months to thirty years (mean= 10.35; SD= 6.85); 67% worked as technicians, 7% as peer educators, 4% as volunteers and 5% as coordinators/directors. Finally, in terms of their context of funding, 42% worked in teams with regularized funding; 17% were waiting for the results of the application while normally performing their work; 15% worked in teams with delayed funding; 9% didn't have any prediction about receiving funding; and finally 1% was waiting for public tender procedures, without developing any type of activity.

## **Data analysis**

Data gathered through interviews and focus groups were submitted to a thematic content analysis which was validated by the different elements of the research team.

### **Secondary data analysis**

We collected a set of statistical indicators as a secondary set of data to be used during the discussion of the results. This additional data allowed us to compare the trends found among the population with the results of this study. Thus, we looked at the data from these sources with a selective view. This data was collected from national coordination organizations in healthcare, namely those associated with illegal substances, law and social care: SICAD, EMCDDA, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Security.

## **Content analysis**

When the focus groups and interview processes were completed, they were fully transcribed – except when the information could lead to the identification of the participants – and content analysis was made using NVivo 10 software. The content analysis allowed us to move from description to interpretation, by highlighting the most relevant data. The analysis followed a horizontal scheme, i.e., with an inter-interview comparison and the collected data was grouped in units of analysis (categories), which were based on the issues that emerged from a first reading of the interviews. The final scheme was built as the new features emerged from an exhaustive classification of the features. As we opted by semantic units for codification processes, the implementation of a statistical inter-rater reliability became more difficult. However, a less structured inter-rater agreement process was carried out in order to bring forth the categories and contents which were identified, in a clear, unambiguous and comparable way, by the two researchers who were doing the classification. This way, in an initial stage, the two classifiers in charge of the content analysis developed an independent classification system of those same contents. This was done with no communication between them, so that they could then check whether there was an agreement between their two systems. This process was useful to evaluate if the categories were adequate and to improve them if necessary. After the codification process, there was a second process, to ensure its accurateness: both researchers reviewed the codified excerpts and discussed the results of this stage. Whenever possible, we presented the more representative opinions, as well as the corresponding contradictions.

### **Statistical analysis**

To analyze quantitative data we used SPSS Statistics 20.0 software. According to the project objectives and characteristics of the sample, we selected descriptive statistics. Valid Percent was used to analyze trends and opinions. However, due to the high number of missing values sometimes observed in the analysis concerning the relation with austerity, we opted by use the Percent, in order to not overestimate results.

### **Writing the Scientific Report**

Given the complexity of data and the aim to implement a comprehensive framework of the phenomena under study, writing of the scientific report was extended besides March 2015. Study report aims to be the core document that will inspired the production of several documents that will sustain the dissemination and advocacy activities. This will include the production of additional scientific publications, political recommendations and documents for PWUD and communities (Cf., Dissemination and media outreach section).

### **Dissemination activities**

To be further developed (Cf., Project Outcomes and Dissemination and media outreach sections)

### **Advocacy activities**

To be further developed (Cf., Project Outcomes and Dissemination and media outreach sections)

### **Research team meetings**

Research teams were conducted during the implementation of the project. In strategic moments, these meetings included all the personnel involved in both activities of the project.

## |PROJECT OUTCOMES

The outcomes of the project could be organized in two main categories:

- Scientific domain
- Policies/advocacy domain

In what concerns the scientific domain, since the very beginning of the project APDES has been presenting the main results of the study in academic settings both directly related to drugs field and to non-drugs field such as health and social protection sector. These presentations include different formats such as workshops, conferences and seminars both national and international. A total number of 3 scientific presentations were conducted. Besides the presentations, 3 research documents were also produced, including the study report. A non-expected outcome in the scientific domain concerned the scientific orientation of 2 master thesis concerning the thematic under study.

In the policies/ advocacy domain two main presentations were conducted. The first presentation was conducted in the third national harm reduction conference that was held in Porto University. This conference gathered 150 participants from the research field, from harm reduction teams and decision makers. APDES was one of the entities responsible for organizing the conference. The second event in the advocacy domain was held in the Auditorium of the National Assembly in Lisbon and gathered decision makers, drug users and harm reduction teams ([program](#)). APDES was responsible for presenting two communications. Both of them focused on the challenges and threats to the Portuguese Model on Drugs and on the urgent need to improve harm reduction services in order to minimize the impact of austerity in problematic drug use. These conference was broadcasted on the national assembly channel. APDES was one of the entities of the organizing committee. These conference gathered a total number of 100 participants, being represented in the audience a great representation of members of the Portuguese Parliament. Besides the presentation, a political compromise was established in order to protect the Portuguese Model on Drugs. Moreover two advocacy newsletters were produced.

The outcomes of the study were also enhanced during the 1st International Conference of Drug Policies in Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (PALOP). The research project allowed a more deepen and comprehensive framework of the Portuguese Drug Police Model, being this

knowledge enhanced in the comprehension of the challenges underlying the dissemination of this policies to other countries, namely to PALOP. The knowledge produced in this study contributed for the organization and dynamization of the Conference sessions. We will not explore this topic in this session, since Activity 2 outcomes will be further developed.

Finally, when relevant the activities concerning the project were advertised on APDES [facebook](#) and [website](#).

All the Project outcomes that were planned for the application were successfully achieved.

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#### c) Master Thesis

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## **| DISSEMINATION AND MEDIA OUTREACH**

Outcomes concerning the project dissemination and advocacy activities were previously presented. Nevertheless APDES intends to implement a dissemination plan and advocacy strategy to occur between September and December of the present year that will include:

- i) Final report dissemination workshops with EC (Civil Society Forum on Drugs), Portuguese Parliament and MEP's.
- ii) Production of documents from the study report main results (e.g., Publications, Policy Recommendations and Documents for PWUD and communities.
- iii) Invitations for experts in the drug field for debating main results

For disseminating main results of the study and promote reflective debate around the theme APDES will use its National and International networks (Cf. OSF; Global Drug Policy Program APDES application form).

## **| Evaluation**

We believe that the goals that we proposed ourselves for in the application were successfully achieved. Given the complexity of the phenomena under analysis and the socio-economic context and time where the study has been conducted, we needed to extend the length of the project. The main difficulties of the study comprehend both the scientific domain as well as the advocacy activities. The scientific challenges were due to the changing nature of the reality we aim to understand, because of the difficulty in isolating economic restriction policies from other confounding variables and because of the difficulty in getting updated data about what was actually happening in the moment (see Introduction section of the study report). Considering also these difficulties, namely to compare drug use, criminal and social indicators we returned

the question to key actors from the drug field and from proximal contexts such as social, health and justice areas. Indeed, one of the most interesting feature of the study came in the first place from the people that participate in the study, both in the qualitative and the quantitative ones. It was not surprising that professionals showed enthusiastic about the theme under analysis, given the fact that they were the first to feel the changes in the ground. Moreover, decision makers and politicians proved to be very available to the interview and to reflect upon the phenomena under analysis. Moreover, the fact that the data collection was confidential and the guarantee from the researchers not to share the identity of the subjects under analysis, was crucial to assess sensible information, especially when we were talking with decision makers. These option allow us to assess privileged information that is not public and to comprehend the present changes synchronically, since the ground to the top of the decisions. The confidentiality of data was in this sense fundamental for comprehending the phenomena under analysis.

The project allowed us also strengthening the network of contacts concerning different key actors from the drug field, namely on the research area. Since the first presentation of results at least 5 research teams came in contact with APDES to share and discuss the results.

## **| Sustainability**

As stressed in the application form, this project has the potential to achieve considerable impact on national and international levels, namely from know on considering that the main results weren't published yet. The sustainability of the project is assured by three main feature of the study object, (i) the international interest in the Portuguese Drug Police Model; (ii) the relative lack of knowledge produced in the field, namely by a Portuguese entity; (iii) the recognition of APDES work in research, advocacy and services level and (iv) the progressive Humanization of drug policies worldwide. This project results and outcomes will inform also future and ongoing research and advocacy activities.

## **| Co-funding**

To be further developed (Cf., Financial Report)

**1<sup>a</sup> CONFERÊNCIA INTERNACIONAL**  
**SOBRE POLITICAS DE DROGAS NOS PALOP**  
CABO VERDE - 15 e 16 JANEIRO 2014

1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Drug Policy in PALOP

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Commission of Coordination of Fight Against Drugs of Cape Verde, in particular to its Executive Secretary Fernanda Marques, who contributed significantly for the success of the event.

The Open Society Foundation that gently provided inputs and guidance along the period of planning and organisation of the conference.

The Institutional partners:

CRISA	SICAD
CPLP	UNODC
EMCDDA	West Africa Commission on Drugs
Global Commission on Drug Policy	WHO
ISPUP	Youth Rise
Kofi Annan Foundation	PUBLICO

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## **CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES

PREPARATORY ACTIVITY

PARTNERS

SPEAKERS

THE CONFERENCE

WELCOME CEREMONY

KEY NOTE

**PLENARY 1**

Geopolitics and Transnational Cooperation: From Trafficking Routes to Human Rights

**PLENARY 2**

Globalization and Drug Policies: Governments in Dialogue

KEY NOTE

**PLENARY 3**

Drug and Health policies in PALOP: Intergovernmental Dialogue on the Drug Problematic

**PLENARY 4**

Drug Policies: Notes for a Comprehensive Approach

**PLENARY 5**

Health and drug Policies: Learning Lessons from Africa

**PRAIA DECLARATION | JUDGES MEMORANDUM ON DRUG POLICIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

CLOSING CEREMONY

WORKSHOPS

DISSEMINATION AND MEDIA COVERAGE

OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

CONCLUSIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The 1st International Conference on Drug Policies in PALOP Countries, promoted by APDES in cooperation with the Government of Cape Verde, represents the first of a sequence of meetings organized with the objective of increasing and strengthening strategic cooperation between Governments, International and Civil Society Organisations, in the field of drug policy in PALOP countries.

Over recent decades the drug phenomena has become an issue with particular adverse impact on the lives of people and communities. Considering the numerous sectors in which it operates, it seems that there are few components of society that escape its influence. Firstly, there are the factors relating to the laws of supply and demand which strongly affect the economic dimension; in turn directly linking with the legal dimension, given the illicit nature of this market and the implicit criminal behaviour. To these two important areas one can add others of particular significance to the population. The education, health and social exclusion dimensions are an ever increasing worry for political decision makers and agents of intervention who, faced with the grave problems associated with problematic drug use (such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis, and the phenomenon of exclusion, criminality and poverty) see themselves compelled to find more effective solutions. Having identified the former components, this leaves the politic dimension to denote, the essence of the *symbolic universe* which determines the interpretation of the phenomenon and the subsequent creation of laws, regulations and interventions oriented towards people and communities.

The recent shifts in drug trafficking routes have brought new challenges to the PALOPs, increasingly bringing them into the sphere of global geopolitics and international cooperation. In this way, the investment made within these aspects of the drug problem, and their participation in global drug policies, becomes ever more urgent and necessary.

It is therefore important to create a forum to focus and reflect on the phenomenon of drugs. It is vital to look at the specificity of each particular territory, delineating diagnostics and intervention needs, whilst at the same time addressing the new reality of global drug policies - progressively more comprehensive and based on scientific evidence.

With this conference we intended to create a place for reflection, an analysis of the state of art of current drug policies, and the impact they have had in the fields of health, social justice and the economy.

The creation of a long term platform for dialogue between the PALOP countries was a key objective, enabling close coordination and thus ensuring: (i) a continued sharing of experiences; (ii) regular information updates; (iii) reflection and debate on the challenges faced in the implementation of intervention measures; (iv) a standardization of procedures identified as good practice; (v) the creation of a common recording and monitoring system with the objective of generating data on drug use and associated problems; (vi) the founding of a Committee of PALOP Judges to discuss drug policy, jurisprudence and its impact on communities.

The involvement of government actors, civil society organizations and international bodies in the study of drug policies in these countries, is clearly central to ensuring that we unite the necessary criteria for establishing new commitments. The organisation of this event strove to make this commitment possible.

Another aim of this project as a whole is to contribute for protection/improvement of the Portuguese Decriminalization Model and its dissemination through the sharing of its best practices and positive impacts with other contexts, particularly with PALOP countries. The central issue of the proposed work is, on one hand, to value the Portuguese Model of Decriminalization and Portugal Drug Policies as an alternative to the Prohibitionist Paradigm of the *War on Drugs* movement in order to protect, maintain and improve the Portuguese Drug Policy and its comprehensive framework, and, on the other hand, to use it to achieve more comprehensive drug policies at international context, promoting its linkage with the African Scenario and the PALOP.

To make this project a success, APDES relied on the extremely relevant cooperation of the Cape Verde Government (Host and Official/Formal Partner), SICAD – [Portuguese National] Intervention Service on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies – (Privileged Partner) and OSF (Funder and Strategic Partner).

## OBJECTIVES

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Drug Policies in Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (PALOP), in Cape Verde, aimed at reflect the state of art in PALOP region and promote the discussion of alternative and contemporary policy strategies as the Portuguese Model and their impacts on health, social justice and economy;

### **Specific Objectives:**

To create an articulation and action platform between nations for the development of more comprehensive drug policies in PALOP;

To promote the discussion on the PALOP region about drug policies and potentiate the sharing of experiences and local/regional challenges;

To create synergies between local, national and regional devices/structures and articulate them with European and international organisms, updating monitoring systems for data production regarding the drug use and social and health associated problems (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis...);

To involve Key Governmental Actors, local, national and regional Civil Society and Worldwide Organisations in the project of a policy change in their countries towards more human and comprehensive drug policies and to gather their commitment to an action plan related to it;

To influence the general African scenario concerning drug policies, through changes achieved on Portuguese-speaking countries.

## PREPARATORY ACTIVITY

The conference preparatory activities had its start in November 2012, lasting for 14 months. The organisation of the event included the guaranty of several distinct aspects, particularly in what concerned to: (i) the establishment of the acceptance and involvement of the PALOP Government representatives in the initiative, compromising them with the main goals and principles subjacent; (ii) plan and design of the conference structure, themes and priorities; (iii) set up the logistic structure supporting the event, organising travels, accommodations venues, translation, support material and others; (iv) establish and manage invitations, contacts and partnerships; (v) prepare, discuss and propose guidelines for the Terms of Reference and Protocol of Cooperation between the PALOP Governments, ensuring that the main fundamental principles and orientations for the advocacy on drug policy were taken into account and considered in protocols and agreements. The following chart synthesizes the calendar of preparatory activities carried out.

Date	Activity	Stakeholders
11.2012	Conference Acceptance Constitution of the Cape Verde Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Conference Organisation	Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
10.2012 to 3.2013	Discussion of Key Themes and Guidelines for the Conference Programme	APDES Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
1.2013	Definition of the Local Organization Committee	Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
1.2013 to 8.2013	Establishment of the Final Conference Programme	APDES Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
1.2013 to 9.2013	Contact with possible speakers, guests and sponsors	APDES Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
1.2013 to		

9.2013	Meetings/Contacts with Key Governmental Actors, International Organisations and Civil Society Organisations: set formal partnerships (SICAD, EMCDDA, IDPC, CPLP, Inter-Ministerial Anti-Drug Committee – Angola, Cape Verde NGO Platform, YouthRISE, Público, Kofi Annan Foundation, CRISA, UNODC, Global Commission On Drug Policy, WACD, ISPUP, WHO)	APDES
2.2013 to 9.2013	Logistical aspects: Conference Name, Design, Website, Panels, Guests, Speakers, Hotels, Transportation, etc.	APDES Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
6.2013	Preparatory Meetings to set formal partnerships Preparation of Conference Workshops	International Harm Reduction Network Meeting
6.2013	Main Sponsor visit to APDES Preparations monitoring	Open Society Foundations   Joanne Csete
9.2013	Website Launch	APDES Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
9.2013	Final Preparations; Conference postponement	Cape Verde Government Anti-Drug Coordination Commission
10.2013	Conference discussion and dissemination	APDES Visit to European Parliament
10.2013	Conference discussion and dissemination	APDES Visit to Portuguese Parliament

## SPEAKERS

The involvement of local government actors, civil society organizations and international bodies in the study of drug policies in these countries, is clearly central to ensuring that we unite the necessary criteria for establishing new commitments.

The organisation of this event strove to make this commitment possible. Therefore, we invited to our pannels highly recognized and respected figures in the fields of drug phenomena, human rights, health and politics, at local and international levels, who together can reflect on the path to follow regarding drug policies and laws and can help to perform real changes to benefit those who are most affected by it.





José Maria Neves | Prime-Minister of Cape Verde

José Maria Neves was granted with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration by the School of Administration of Businesses in São Paulo, Brazil. In Cape Verde, he worked as member of the public administration, as a teacher of Management and as a consultant of the World Bank, the PNUD and other organisations.

He was one of the founders of the *Juventude Africana de Amílcar Cabral* (JAAC-CV) and was eventually elected president of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde, in 2000. In that same year, he won the elections in his home town, Santa Catarina. He would then lead his party to a victory in 2001, being elected Prime-Minister. In the 2001 and 2011 elections, José Neves was again elected for the position of PM and he is currently on his 3<sup>rd</sup> mandate.

In 2003, two years after being elected Prime-Minister, José M. Neves established an agenda in Cape Verde that demonstrated his vision of transforming the country in a modern, competitive and environmentally sustainable nation, with opportunities for everybody. During his mandate, Cape Verde benefited from a strong political and social stability and the country has been carrying out an important role in terms of security and the fight against drug trafficking.



Fernando Henrique Cardoso | President, Global Commission on Drug Policy

Fernando Henrique Cardoso was the President of Brazil for two consecutive terms (1995-2002). With a doctorate in Sociology and a title of Emeritus Professor of São Paulo University, Cardoso is a world-renowned public intellectual in the fields of sociology, political

science, international relations and economics.

Exiled for his opposition to the military dictatorship in Brazil, Cardoso was a Professor at the Universities of Stanford, Berkeley, Cambridge, Paris-Nanterre, Collège de France and Santiago of Chile.

President of the International Association of Sociology, he is author and co-author of 23 books and 116 academic articles. His most important book, *Dependency and Development in Latin America* (1969), is a landmark in the study on the development theory, anticipating the phenomenon that would later be defined as “globalization”.

In the 70’s, Cardoso had a prominent role in the democratic resistance to the dictatorship in Brazil. His trajectory as a politician was consistent, marked by his traits of humanist and social scientist. Senator, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Treasury, Cardoso took on the presidency of a country with a lot of inequalities and a fragile economy, transforming it into an open and fairer nation.

After leaving the presidency, Cardoso dedicated himself to causes of public interest connected with the promotion of peace, democracy and justice on a global scale. At the moment, he heads the Global Commission on Drug Policy, which aim is the promotion of more humane and effective policies to deal with a problem that affects several societies.

#### Jorge Sampaio | Member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

Jorge Sampaio was born in Lisbon on September 18th 1939. Graduated in Law (Law Faculty, Lisbon University), he held directive functions in the Order of Lawyers, having a crucial role in the political action against the dictatorship and defending of political prisoners in the Plenary Court of Lisbon. In 1989 was elected President of Lisbon Municipality and re-elected for the same position in 1993; he was also elected and re-elected President of the republic in 1996 and 2001. In May 2006 he was nominee, by the General Secretary of the United Nations, Special Envoy for the Fight Against Tuberculosis and on, and in April 2007 appointed UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations by the Secretary-General of United Nations Ban Ki-moon. During the years, he continued a constant political and cultural intervention through his writings in newspapers and magazines and through the publication of books. He is Grand Collar of the Order of the Tower and Sword, of Value, Loyalty and Merit and of the Order of Liberty and Grand Officer of the Order of Infante D. Henrique.





**Pedro Pires | West African Commission on Drugs**

Pedro Pires studied at the University of Lisbon together with other later leaders of liberation movements for the independence of the Portuguese colonies. With the start of fighting in Angola in 1961, he left Portugal to join Amilcar Cabral in Guinea-Bissau. Until the Carnation Revolution, he fought for independence and was then spokesman of the negotiations with Portugal.

Pedro Pires served as the first Prime Minister after the independence of Cape Verde from 1975 – 1991 and as President from 2001 – 2011.

During three successive mandates as Prime Minister his government achieved substantial gains in health, education, training and literacy, which translate into a significant improvement in the conditions of life of the population and in the protection of the environment. Cape Verde now ranks at seventh place for Sub-Sahara African countries on the Human Development Index. At the international level, the Cape Verdean government led by Mr. Pires played an important role in the negotiation processes that led to the independence of Namibia and to the withdrawal of Cuban and South-African military forces from Angola. In 2011 he was awarded with the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership. Currently, Mr. Pires is the President of Amilcar Cabral Foundation.

**José Carlos Correia | Minister of Justice of Cape Verde**

José Carlos Correia was born in São Lourenço dos Orgãos, in the Santa Cruz Municipality (Santiago Island, Cape Verde) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, 1968.

He graduated in Theology at the *Católica* University and in Law at the Faculty of Law - University of Coimbra, Portugal.



He was granted with a Master's Degree in Sociology (Crime and Violence specialisation) by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences – *Universidade Nova*, Lisbon.

He has held the following positions:

National Director of the Criminal Police

Assistant General Attorney of the Republic of Cape Verde

Public Attorney at the Office of First Class - County of S. Vicente and Second Class of Sal

Dean and head of training at S. José Seminary (Praia – Cape Verde)

Parochial vicar in the parishes of Nossa Senhora da Graça, Praia and Santa Catarina (Santiago Island)

Teacher of History, Psychology, Philosophy, Latin and Personal and Social Training at several teaching and training institutions



**David Soares | District Attorney, Albany County – New York, United States of America**

P. David Soares is currently serving his third term as Albany County District Attorney. Having handled thousands of cases in Albany County City Courts as an Assistant District Attorney, David witnessed the failings of the criminal justices system first hand. In 2004, David sought office to ensure Justice for Albany County residents and on January, 1 2005, David realized his goal of becoming Albany County District Attorney. Since taking office, David has continued to devote his energy to bringing "One Standard of Justice" to Albany County. He remains committed to leading an office that is Tough on Crime and Smart on Prevention by reducing street violence through creative, non-traditional means; building hope for the people of Albany County by restoring communities; dealing with the crisis of re-entry; and emphasizing prevention over prosecution. In partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, David has been successful in both fighting crime and building hope in Albany County. David is a proud father and remains active in his community as a mentor by teaching "Legal Lives" in the Albany Public Schools and as a board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany.

**João Goulão | Director, SICAD Portugal**

He is currently the Director of the Portuguese Intervention Services for Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD), established after the Institute of Drugs and Drug Addiction (IDT), of which he was President between 2005 and 2012. He is the National Coordinator for Drug Problems, Drug Addiction and Alcohol Abuse.



A Doctor by profession (career in General and Family Medicine), he has more than two decades of experience in drug addiction prevention and treatment. He initiated his activity in this area in the *Algarve*, where he was responsible for establishing the first Government unit for assisting drug users. Since then, he was called to head several national bodies in this domain. He was also

a member of the Portuguese commission that proposed the first national strategy in the fight against drugs.

A member of the Board of Administration of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) since 2005, he was elected its president in 2010, having previously held a position in the Scientific Committee of the Agency (1997-2002). He has a vast international experience of national representation in these domains, both at the European Union level and in the United Nations' Bodies.

He was a councilman for the Municipality of Faro from 1993 to 1997. In 2011, he was awarded with a silver merit medal of the Municipality of Faro. In 2006 he received the award of *Comendador* of the "Ordem do Infante D. Henrique" from the President Jorge Sampaio.



**Idrissa Ba | West African Commission on Drugs, Senegal**

Idrissa Ba works as the Assistant Clinical Manager at the Faculty of Medicine, at the Pharmacy and Dental Association at Cheikh Anta Diop (University of Dakar) and as a Chief of Thiaroye National Child Psychiatric Hospital. As a psychiatrist, Ba specialises in addiction. He is a member of the Senegalese Association for the Reduction of Infective Risks for Drug Users and the Focal Point for Injectable Drugs Users, at the Senegalese National Council for the Fight against HIV/AIDS (CNLS). He was the main coordinator on a survey to assess the rate and prevalence of HIV and hepatitis, as well as the risk practices among injecting drug users in Dakar.

**Rúbens Casara | Judge of the 43ª Criminal Court of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

He was granted with a Bachelor's Degree in Law by the University Cândido Mendes (1995), as well as with a Master's Degree in Penal Sciences by the University Cândido Meneses (2003). He has a PhD and the titles of Doctor in Law by the UNESA/Rio de Janeiro (2011). He has a vast experience in Law, namely in Criminal Procedure Law, working



mostly in the following subjects: criminal procedure, hermeneutics, judicial power and Brazilian society. He also is a district judge of the Court of Justice of the State of Rio de Janeiro, founder of the Judiciary *Fluminense* Movement for Democracy (MMFD), member of the Association of Judges for Democracy (AJD) and of the Freudian Body.



Henrique de Barros - Institute of Public Health, University of Porto, Portugal

Henrique Barros was born in Porto, in 1957. He graduated in Medicine in 1981 and teaches at the Faculty of Medicine of Porto (FMUP) since 1979. In 1991, he became an assistant at the hospital of Gastroenterology and completed his PhD with a research in viral hepatitis. He is a Professor of Epidemiology since 1999. He is the Coordinator of the Master's Degree of Public Health and Sociology and Health, as well as the doctoral program in Public Health at the University of Porto. He has developed several researches in national and international projects, in areas such as clinical and perinatal epidemiology, as well as cardiovascular, infectious and cancer diseases, which resulted in (co) authorship of more than 200 scientific publications in international journals. He is editor of the journal *Arquivos de Medicina*, Associate Editor of the European Journal of Epidemiology; Editorial Board Member of the BMC Public Health and Editorial Board Member of *Cadernos de Saúde Pública*.

He is a member of the Scientific Council for Health Sciences and the Foundation for Science and Technology. He was the National Coordinator for Infection HIV/AIDS (2005-11) and is currently the President of the Institute of Public Health (University of Porto).

Recently, he was nominated member of the Medical Sciences (MED) Scientific Committee of Science Europe.

Adeolu Ogunrombi | West Africa Commission on Drugs, YouthRISE Nigeria

Adeolu Ogunrombi is currently the Project Coordinator of YouthRISE Nigeria and in West African Countries, an initiative which focuses on advocacy, capacity building and research on drug policy reform with a special focus on young people. He has an extensive background in public health and human rights practices. He has been at the forefront of the debate on drug policy reform in Africa. He has authored and presented papers in many international conferences on issues bordering on HIV/AIDS, drug policy, harm reduction



and young people. He was nominated among the 100 global Youth Leaders by Women Deliver in 2010 and currently serves as a commissioner on the West African Commission on Drugs.



Hussein Khalid | Executive-Director Muslims for Human Rights, Kenya

Hussein Khalid is currently the Director of the African Human Rights Centre (which incorporates the School of Human Rights and Governance Studies) in Mombasa, Kenya. As a human rights lawyer, Khalid has been at the advocating for the rights of drug users in Kenya and the general East African region. While working with *Muslims for Human Rights* (MUHURI), he established the first legal aid clinic for drug users in the coastal region of Kenya, where drug users could get legal assistance (including representation in court). Khalid has also facilitated/organised several drug users' rights seminars and conferences across the globe, including Kenya, South Africa, USA and Hungary. Besides his other efforts to promote human rights, Khalid is currently working with the Open Society Foundations on a research to map the legal and policy context of Naloxone (medication for overdose) distribution and use for overdose prevention in Kenya and Tanzania.

## THE CONFERENCE

Over recent decades, the drug phenomenon has become an issue with wide impact on the lives of people and communities, with repercussions in areas such as the economy, law, politics, education, health, and social exclusion. Recent shifts in drug trafficking routes have brought new challenges to the PALOPs, increasingly bringing them into the sphere of global geopolitics and international cooperation. It became vital to look at the special conditions operating in each individual territory, delineating diagnostics and intervention needs, while addressing the new reality of global drug policies - progressively more comprehensive and based on scientific evidence, respecting Human Rights.



By taking these issues into consideration, the initiative has promoted and expanded the strategic cooperation between Governments, International Bodies and Civil Society Organisations in the sphere of drug policy, reflecting upon the current state of those policies and the impact they've been causing.

The participation of prominent speakers, such as Jorge Sampaio - former President of Portugal

and Commissioner of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, Pedro Pires - former President of Cape Verde and Commissioner of the West African Commission on Drugs, José Maria Neves – Prime Minister of Cape Verde, and representatives of international organizations, like the UN's UNDOC, WHO and EMCDDA - was vital for the establishment of a common dialogue aimed at the promotion of health, prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs.

The interventions of David Soares, Albany County District Attorney (NY, USA), and Joanne Csete, Senior Program Officer with the Open Society Foundation's Global Drug Policy Program were also important highpoint moments of the event. Experiences related to the fight against drugs in participating countries were shared through the speeches of several Ministers: José Carlos

Correia - Minister of Justice of Cape Verde; Alberto Nkutumula – Vice Minister of Justice of Mozambique; Edite Ten Jua - Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Parliament Affairs of São Tomé and Príncipe; Fernando Leal da Costa - Secretary of State and Assistant to the Minister of Health of Portugal. The communications by those in charge of the entities focused on drugs and drug prevention in the PALOP were also crucial: Fernanda Marques - Executive Secretary of the Coordination Commission for the Fight against Drug of Cape Verde; Ana Graça – Director of the Interministerial Committee for Fighting against Drugs of Angola; Ivete Lima – Director of the Institute of Drug and Drug Addiction of São Tomé and Príncipe; and Alfredo Dimande – Director of the Central Cabinet for the Prevention and Fight against Drugs of Mozambique.



Another point worth mentioning was the great emphasis given to the participation of civil society. In this context, among the highlights were the speeches from José Queiroz - CEO of APDES - that underlined issues such as healthcare, social cohesion, the need for a humanistic approach to the drug problem, and geopolitical and transnational cooperation. In the day following the conference, the position of Civil Society as a central stakeholder was also reinforced through the collaboration between APDES and the NGO Platform of Cape Verde that resulted in workshops open to the entire community, with particular attention to NGOs, professionals and beneficiaries of these organisations.

Among the several topics discussed, some subjects were emphasised due to their great influence in the drug issue in the PALOP: narcotraffic, the change in international trafficking

routes, and the need for a strong political commitment to fight the drug lords; the notion of drug-related issues as questions that should be dealt with according to a healthcare perspective instead of a legal and judicial point of view; and the urgent need to adopt more comprehensive drug policies that embrace a preventive social policy, involving education, employment, family support, healthcare, and humanistic values.

Other fundamental conclusions of this event were the willingness of the PALOP Governments to establish common policies on drugs based on shared responsibility, cooperation and concerted intervention and the need for empowerment of Civil Society Organisations, so they can develop improved outreach and advocacy work. In addition to the actions developed by these two entities, the intervention of the International Bodies is also vital for the creation of an effective platform of conjoint action.

The conference focused, as well, on the legal issues in the ambit of drug policies and meetings between judges of the PALOP, members of the International Union of the Portuguese Language Judges, were held during the conference. This event led to the formulation of the “Declaração da Praia”, a memorandum on Drug Policies and Human Rights, which main goal is to highlight the healthcare dimension when analysing the drug phenomenon.

## WELCOME CEREMONY

**José Queiroz** | CEO, Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (APDES)

**Ulrika Richardson-Golinski** | Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Cape Verde

**José Maria Neves** | Prime-Minister, Cape Verde

APDES' CEO **José Queiroz** emphasised the need to shift from a notion of war to a notion of peace, thus challenging the governments to create alternative models and meaningful networks between international bodies, always under the aegis of this notion of peace.

The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Cape Verde **Ulrika Richardson Golinski** mentioned that the war on drugs is not actually a war and emphasised the active participation of all countries in terms of international conventions of drugs. She also pointed out the need to fight against poverty and concentrate on the drug users themselves, by investing in prevention, treatment and the countries' welfare state.



She also mentioned the vulnerability of Western Africa as both a drug trafficking route and a final destination, by stating that the United Nations System will end the vicious cycle of drug

trafficking in that region. She believed that the nations should promote integrated and comprehensive policies in terms of public health, development and human rights.

She also guaranteed that the UN's goal is to minimise the damage done by drug trafficking, by supporting the improvement of prevention actions. She quoted Ban Ki-moon, by saying that countries need to work together for the Western African and ECOWAS populations' well-being.

The Cape Verdean Prime-Minister **José Maria Neves** emphasised the need for unity between the different states (namely the PALOP), so they could be prepared to fight against drug trafficking in a more concerted way.

The PM also mentioned that the global planning of strategies against drugs should take into account the countries that need more preventive actions, trough effective support and more resources and tools. He pointed out the challenge of facing the impact of drug trafficking; the conference as a space of reflection that ought to be preserved and supported by all; the importance of the Declaration of Praia and the new practices against poverty and drugs.

He assumed that Cape Verde would be a useful partner in the war on drugs and that the country's security policy has been developed to efficiently fight against terrorism and transnational crime. The PM also discussed the new paradigm of security and the need to face the drug issue in a more humanistic way.

## KEY NOTE

Fernando Henrique Cardoso | President, Global Commission on Drug Policy  
(Videoconference)

The Global Commission on Drug Policy, formed by several world leaders and headed by the former President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, advocates for and promotes the informed and science-based international debate on the effective and humanistic ways of reducing the drug-related harms on people and society. This presentation introduced the general framework and demonstrated the relevance of this event in the geographic, socio-sanitary and economic context of the PALOP countries, from the perspective of the Global Commission.

The President of the Global Commission on Drug Policy **Fernando Henrique Cardoso** praised the Cape Verdean Government's initiative to promote this conference. He mentioned that the drug issue affects all countries' ability to face it, as well as democracy, people's health and human rights.

Fernando Cardoso stated that eradicating drugs through repression only makes the matter worse and that it is necessary to change the way the countries deal with this issue. He mentioned some successful cases, such as the Portugal's political initiative to decriminalise drug users and the Brazilian Government's project to turn the police forces into a pacifying tool against drug trafficking in the *favelas*. In addition, he stated the global character of this issue and that it should not be a taboo topic. As a conclusion, he advised that silence is not the best way to deal with it.



## PLENARY 1

### Geopolitics and Transnational Cooperation: From Trafficking Routes to Human Rights

Facilitator: **João Goulão** | SICAD Portugal

**José Queiroz** | CEO, APDES

**Pedro Pires** | West African Commission on Drugs

**Jorge Sampaio** | Member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

**Joanne Csete** | Global Drug Policy Program, Open Society Foundations

The era of globalisation brings the need to reflect on the impact of the war on drugs approach on the world scene. The emergence of a new paradigm has been gaining expression in the public debates. Experts are trying to reach new solutions for a balance of forces resulting from the dichotomy that we repeatedly observe: on the one hand, the fight against drug trafficking and on the other hand, guaranteeing the protection of human rights. The drugs issue as a world phenomenon was one of the themes of this session, which served to emphasise the importance of transnational cooperation in this domain, as well as the need to produce recommendations for concerted measures.

APDES's CEO **José Queiroz** focused his intervention on the gap between the politicians and the citizens, due to the lack of coherence caused by political, social and ideological opposing views. He stated that discussing drug trafficking according to a human rights perspective is useful to understand the power associated to an industry and the markets. He stated that the war on drugs has been a political failure, by highlighting the need for a more humanistic approach.

The West African Commission on Drugs member **Pedro Pires** focused on the need to implement a transverse approach and the constant dedication of the Cape Verdean authorities to provide adequate laws and human and operational resources. However, he also pointed out the need for several improvements in this matter.

He emphasised the human, sociological and physical characteristics of Cape Verde, which are responsible for the increasingly high costs of the war on drugs. He also demonstrated how the Cape Verdean authorities preferred the cooperation at regional and international levels.

Pedro Pires also pointed out the need for a global effort to fight against drugs, not only by the States and the institutions, but also by civil society. He emphasised the importance of reflecting on the policies in what concerns the drug users and question their criminalisation, as well as the need to “break taboos” and rethink the repressive strategies.

In addition, he mentioned the situation in some Western African countries (platform for drug trafficking destined to Europe), emphasising the need for a deeper analysis of this issue and presenting a series of facilitating factors. He stated that the OADC is a promoter of dialogue and researches and mentioned the UN meeting on drugs that occurred briefly after.

Jorge Sampaio, Member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, highlighted the need for a multidisciplinary approach, based on consensus and permanently assessed; for local actions and strategies involving the intervention of several services; for the cooperation between cities in terms of prevention, treatment and safety; for more political commitment; for a new preventive social policy; for the promotion of a debate in society and the control of the supply/demand and for a more intense international cooperation in terms of exchange and sharing of information and experience, in order to achieve a new global UN strategy.



He mentioned that the following General Assembly of the UN (September 2014) and the Special Session of the General Assembly of the UN on drugs (2016) should be seen as opportunities for further debates, without taboo topics. He appealed to the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries for the promotion of concerted work between the member states and a proactive attitude that could lead to a broader debate and changes at an international level.

Global Drug Policy Program (Open Society Foundations) Senior Office **Joanne Csete** revealed the existence of a new war on drugs context in Africa, by highlighting the role of leading figures and the experiences of some countries like Senegal, Tanzania and Nigeria.

She also pointed out the lack of success of the war on drugs policies based on repression and the disrespect towards human rights; the need to perceive this issue more objectively and the importance of design new strategies. In addition, Joanne Csete emphasised the Global Commission's reports, the debate on Latin America and the role of Holland as a pioneer in terms of protecting people against more harmful drugs.

She also stated that, in order to shift the debate's direction, the healthcare sector should work according to the safety policies and that drug users' rights should not be withdrawn. Joanne Csete also believed that the Portuguese-speaking countries should be the leaders in the discussion of drug policies based on the human rights.

In this debate, the participants highlighted the need for an improved vision of public and decentralised healthcare; for the empowerment of society; for a wider political accountability and for a model of humanistic policies that involve civil society.

## PLENARY 2

### Globalization and Drug Policies: Governments in Dialogue

Facilitator: **Amílcar Correia** | Journalist, from Público

**Ana Graça** | Director of the Inter-ministerial Committee of the Fight Against Drugs, Angola

**Alberto Nkutumula** | Vice Minister of Justice of Mozambique

**Edite Ten Jua** | Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Parliament Affairs, São Tome and Principe

**José Carlos Correia** | Minister of Justice of Cape Verde

**Fernando Leal da Costa** | Assistant Secretary of State's Health Minister, Portugal

The main goal of this session was to reflect on the importance of coordinating policies in PALOP countries. The participants presented the political situation in their countries in terms of drugs, as well as in terms of the connection between the different aspects that constitute this phenomenon (social, legal and health-related). This way, each country was able to bring their experiences to the table. A discussion on the effects of national policies on the PALOP global scene was also an important theme of this round table.

Vice Minister of Justice of Mozambique **Alberto Nkutumula** discussed the prevention and war on drugs policies of his country, emphasising the bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation as an undisputed aspect of the country's efforts.

The Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Parliament Affairs of São Tome and Principe **Edite Ten Jua** pointed out the government's effort to grant the country with adequate legislation and also the fact that prevention and education are vital pillars against the drug-related issues. She also mentioned the proliferation of drug trafficking/use, as well as its impact in people's lives, as well as the adoption of concerted strategies and responses through the cooperation between States.

**José Carlos Correia**, Minister of Justice of Cape Verde, emphasised the situation of the country in terms of drug policies and the political actors will to fight against drugs, namely in the creation of laws, the commitment to comply with international conventions and the creation of an inter-ministerial commission – The Coordinating Commission on the Fight against Drugs. He also

mentioned the transverse character of the policies dedicated to tackle drug-related issues, as defined by the National Integrated Program on the Fight against Drugs and Crime. José Correia highlighted the importance of Justice, namely in the promotion of the integrity of the legal actors.

The Director of the Inter-ministerial Committee of the Fight against Drugs (Angola) **Ana Graça** presented the war on drugs state of affairs in Angola, highlighting the National Strategic Plan on the Fight against Drugs of that country. She also pointed out the creation of an inter-ministerial committee, with its own duties, values, vision and mission. She also defended that prevention should be the main element of humanistic strategies/approaches against drug-related issues.

The Assistant Secretary of State's Health Minister (Portugal) **Fernando Leal da Costa** highlighted some aspects: healthcare as the main pillar in the fight against drugs in Portugal; the decriminalisation of drug use in that country, according to a sanitary perspective; the political will and citizenship as main factors to the feasibility of the process; the involvement of civil society in the fight against drugs and effective inter-ministerial and inter-sectorial responses.

The Diplomatic Councilman and Representative of the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries **António Lopes** discussed the complexity of the drug phenomenon; drug trafficking as organised crime (that should not be handled isolatedly) and the obstacles to be addressed; the need for an effective strategic program based on international multidisciplinary and cooperation, with exchange of information and synergies between countries.

In this round table, the speakers were asked about the lack of implementation of international treaties by the PALOP, the international cooperation among countries, the main concerns of the Angola government in terms of drugs, the existence of a corresponding decision between these countries in the design and implementation of models to fight against drugs and the mandatory character of the treatment of drug users in Portugal.

## KEY NOTE

David Soares | District Attorney, Albany County – New York, United States of America



This conference was presented by the District Attorney from Albany County – (New York, USA) **David Soares**, who shared some of his country's and district's experiences against drugs. He stated that history was being made with the organisation of this conference.

He mentioned that the United States' (criminalisation) policies to tackle the drug issue in the 60's and 70's ruined several lives and had a major impact among the Hispanic and Afro-American populations; more specifically, there was an increase in the number of families without parental figures and the inmate population. These would eventually cause an increase in the costs associated with prisons. He highlighted that the criminality rate wasn't showing any signs of decreasing, thus proving how this type of policies have failed.

He also stated that this was a collective failure and a lesson to be learned. He recommended that there should be a balance between strictness and intelligence, in order to guarantee public safety. David Soares also talked about Albany's experience with a more direct, struggling approach, which results clearly showed a reduction of drug use and improved safety.

He highlighted, as well, the need for more sensible drug policies and ended his presentation by saying that if the countries have faith and hope, they will achieve sensible policies and justice.



## PLENARY 3

Drug and Health policies in PALOP: Intergovernmental Dialogue on the Drug Problematic

Facilitator: **Manuel Cardoso** | General-Subdirector, SICAD, Portugal

**Ana Graça** | Director, Interministerial Committee of Fight Against Drugs, Angola

**Alfredo Dimande** | Director, Central Office of Prevention and Fight Against Drugs, Mozambique

**Ivete Correia** | Director, Institute of Drug and Drug Addiction, Sao Tome and Principe

**Fernanda Marques** | Executive Secretary, Commission of Coordination of Fight Against Drugs, Cape Verde

Rapporteur: **Elza Pais** | Workgroup of Alcohol and Dependencies, Parliamentary Health Commission, Portugal

The representatives of the governmental bodies that supervise the drug policies in the different PALOP countries presented and discussed their social, healthcare and justice models, describing their mechanism of intervention in the drug phenomena. The goal of this session was to reflect upon the existing local needs and challenges, as well as sharing experiences regarding the measures of intervention of the different countries (best practices, particular examples that may generate innovation and improve current policies, etc.). The speakers took into account the dimensions of offer and supply, for each of these components. The possibility of mutual cooperation was also explored, in order to create synergies of concerted action, mainly in terms of mechanisms of data registration and monitoring, research and training.



The Director of the Inter-ministerial Committee of the Fight against Drugs (Angola) **Ana Graça** shared her country's experience, highlighting the creation of an institute comprehending multiple sectors and mentioning all the involved ministries and their actions at the social and healthcare services level. The will of the political actors was also emphasised in her presentation.

The Director of the Central Office of Prevention and Fight against Drugs (Mozambique) **Alfredo Dimande** shared his country's experience and highlighted the establishment of the office he presided and other provincial offices. He also spoke of the work carried out in partnership with civil society, namely NGOs and religious institutions.

He also mentioned that the Mozambican policies favour the primary type of prevention and some actions developed in the ambit of secondary and tertiary prevention against drug trafficking. In this presentation, Alfredo Dimande also identified the country's main needs in this matter – training programs, reinforcement of the institutional skills and broader cooperation.



**Ivete** Lima, the Director of the Institute of Drug and Drug Addiction (São Tome and Principe) shared her country's experience and focused her presentation on the creation of legal tools, on the reinforcement of work in the ambit of prevention (with awareness raising campaigns in several schools), on the lack of rehabilitation and treatment facilities, on the need for better healthcare centres and on the lack of sophisticated equipment to prevent drug trafficking in seaports and airports.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission of Coordination of the Fight against Drugs [CCCD] (Cape Verde) **Fernanda Marques** presented the Cape Verde's experience in this matter, by highlighting the creation of the aforementioned commission and how important its decentralisation was, after the establishment of the Counties' Offices of Prevention. She also

mentioned the new National Integrated Program of the Fight against Drugs (in partnership with the UNODC), its axis of intervention and the strategies based on research.



In line with the plenary communications, during the period of discussion with the public audience, the Minister of Health of Cape Verde **Cristina Fontes** asked for the floor in order to reveal a last minute decision from the governmental structure to the other participants. Her statement made public the need of making the CCD part of the Ministry of Health, bringing the drug's domain for the health tutelage. The Minister stated the political actors' will to fight against drugs and point out the need for more institutional participation, as well as the importance of improving international cooperation. Cristina Fontes made reference to the concept of strategic safety and the country's maritime safety, and the importance of healthcare centres provide primary prevention services. The revelation was massively applauded and congratulated by the audience, being considered as a highpoint of the conference.

## PLENARY 4

### Drug Policies: Notes for a Comprehensive Approach

Facilitator: **Danilo Ballotta** | European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

**Cristina Andrade** | UNODC Representative, Cape Verde

**Ambrósio Disadidi** | Delegate of The World Health Organization, Cape Verde

**João Goulão** | Director, SICAD Portugal

Rapporteur: **Ricardo Baptista Leite** | Parliament Deputy, Portugal

This session was dedicated to present a wide range of considerations on the drug phenomena, being the common factor the focus on its comprehensive approaches (according to international guidelines). The experiences from the representatives of different countries were the key-basis of the discussion. This plenary session, with its accurate examples of different realities, provided further contributions to the discussion on the present and future of drug policy, through the sharing of intervention models identified as best practices, as well as through the discussion on intervention priorities and strategies, thus building a bridge between the PALOP territories.

The UNODC Representative in Cape Verde **Cristina Andrade** focused on: the conventions on drugs; the essentially humanistic vision, promoter of healthcare and treatment of drug users; the strategies and future challenges, like the non-violation of human rights; the non-marginalisation and discrimination of drug users; the need for an approach based on healthcare and treatment practices that reflect the healthcare services' high quality standards.



**Ambrósio Disadidi**, Delegate of the World Health Organization, highlighted prevention as a key-element to any program against drug use. He also mentioned that the goals of prevention should be based on the elements of opportunity, visibility and the nature of the issue. In his presentation, he talked about the levels of prevention, the reduction of the incidence and prevalence rates and also treatment and rehabilitation aspects. He believed that drugs are a multifactor and multidimensional issue that requires a step-by-step and structured approach.

**João Goulão**, the Director of SICAD (Portugal), emphasised the process of decriminalisation of drug use in Portugal and presented the differences between this model and those supported by decriminalisation. He mentioned the inter-ministerial coordination and the consensual definition of strategies among ministries, as well as the complementarity between the public and private sectors. João Goulão also pointed out the need for a better strategy in terms of supply and demand reduction, with broader operationalization of mechanisms and policies adequate to each region's specificities.

## PLENARY 5

Health and drug Policies: Learning Lessons from Africa

Facilitator: **Carlos Simões** | Piaget University, Cape Verde

**Frank Masao** | Head of Methadone Clinic, AIDS Prevention Program, Tanzania

**Hussein Khalid** | Muslims for Human Rights, Kenya

**Idrissa Ba** | West African Commission on Drugs, Senegal

**Mário Moniz** | Representative, NGOs Platforms of Cape Verde

**José Moreira** | Director, Granja S. Filipe Therapeutic Community, Cape Verde

**Carlos Reis** | National Director Judicial Police, Cape Verde

Rapporteur: **Henrique de Barros** | Institute of Public Health, University of Porto, Portugal

The goal of this session was the sharing of experiences from other countries of the African continent, by exploring their similarities and differences and the presentation of diverse intervention practices, in order to stimulate the dialogue in the present and future context of drug policies. The participants brought evidence and reports of innovative practices implemented in their countries, which emphasised their success and the good results achieved in terms of healthcare and drug policies.

**Frank Masao** (Head of Methadone Clinic and the AIDS Prevention Program - Tanzania), **Hussein Khalid** (Muslims for Human Rights – Kenya) and **Idrissa Ba** (West African Commission on Drugs – Senegal) shared their experiences in their respective areas of intervention

**Mário Moniz**, the Representative of the NGOs Platform of Cape Verde, discussed the role of NGOs, namely in terms of parallel activities to tackle the drug issue. He mentioned the need for multi-sector interventions to prevent social issues, in addition to the reinforcement of the citizenship education process, perceived as one of the main challenges.

The Director of the *Granja S. Filipe* Therapeutic Community (Cape Verde) **José Moreira** made a presentation of the institution and highlighted the treatment of drug users as the main focus of that community, supported by national and international partners.

**Carlos Reis**, the National Director of the Criminal Police (Cape Verde) recalled the historical framework of the penal legislation on drug trafficking/use and associated crimes; he mentioned as well the legal approach against drug trafficking and drug use. He advocated for the decriminalisation under the aegis of social responsibility and presented the Criminal Investigation Police’s strategies of intervention. Carlos Reis also talked about the importance of prevention and an approach based on healthcare, rather than a more repressive approach.



## PRAIA DECLARATION | JUDGES MEMORANDUM ON DRUG POLICIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Rapporteur: **Nuno Coelho** | International Union of Portuguese Language Judges

International Union of Portuguese Language Judges, representation of:

Portugal | Nuno Coelho

Brazil | Ronaldo Sansone Guerra

Cape Verde | Antero Tavares

Angola | Manuel Pereira da Silva

Mozambique | José Alfredo Macaringue

São Tome e Príncipe | Eurídice Pina Dias de Carvalho

Guinea-Bissau | Noémia Gomes

Observer: **Rúbens Casara** | Judge of the 43<sup>a</sup> Criminal Court of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In this session, the focus of the analysis was the judicial dimension of the drug phenomenon. Following the preparatory meetings debating the State of Art of legislation for drug policies and the challenges faced by the judicial bodies in this domain, a public presentation was carried out and the Praia Declaration: The Judges Memorandum on Drug Policies and Human Rights was designed. It was produced by representatives of the various countries; this document established a set of recommendations for public policies on drugs and human rights.

**Nuno Coelho**, President of the International Union of the Portuguese Language Judges, presented the Declaration of Praia, a document that was a direct result of the memorandum by the Portuguese language judges who are part of the aforementioned Union. In this conference, they presented a set of considerations and recommendations, while assuming their commitment to act according to the principles based on the adequate prevention/treatment to tackle the drug issue. They also showed their desire to proceed according to the goals of this Declaration. After the discussion, the members of the judges' associations of each country signed the document.



## CLOSING CEREMONY

Facilitator: **José Queiroz** | CEO, Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (APDES)

**José Carlos Correia** | Minister of Justice, Cape Verde

**Basílio Mosso Ramos** | President of the National Assembly, Cape Verde

**José Queiroz**, APDES's CEO, thanked the Cape Verdean government for organising the conference, which main goal was to reunite the representatives of the legal, executive and judicial authorities. He mentioned that designing drug policies based on scientific evidences and knowledge is a big challenge and that discussing those same policies leads to a discussion about power.

He challenged the Cape Verdean government to “give a more humanistic voice” to other African countries and stated that the obstacles should not be more important than dignity and human rights. At the end of his speech, he showed his desire to meet all the participants again, that time in another country.



The Minister of Justice of Cape Verde **José Correia** reinforced the Government's will to cooperate with APDES, by highlighting their goals. He stated that the legal framework of the PALOP respects the human rights and that the drug-related issues affect those same rights, thus making it impossible to ignore this question. As a conclusion, he said that the political actors should do everything to preserve the individuals' well-being.

He also said that unity is the best solution against drugs and that all the work developed during the conference will influence each country's practices, by making them value human rights and

work without any kind of taboos. The public interventions should be based on the individuals' dignity and the countries should address the problem with pragmatic, realistic and scientifically supported actions, as well as with concerted and resourceful actions in terms of prevention. José Correia also advocated for a more open relation between the governments and civil society.

He expressed the intention of signing a protocol between the PALOP that should work as the backbone of a concerted intervention and a deep feeling of gratitude. He thanked all those who participated in the event and the team in charge of the organisation and planning of the conference.

To conclude, he also acknowledged the presence of members of other PALOP's governments (except Guinea-Bissau), of all the representatives of the countries who shared their experiences and the presence/participation of key actors, like Jorge Sampaio, Pedro Pires, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Joanne Csete and David Soares.



The closing ceremony was carried out by **Basílio Ramos**, President of the National Assembly of Cape Verde, who saluted all those who participated and thanked the Minister of Justice and APDES for the organisation of the event and for inviting him to hold the final ceremony.

He emphasised the importance and prestige of the conference, with important figures like Jorge Sampaio and Fernando Henrique Cardoso (who participated via videoconference).

Basílio Ramos talked about the need for a concerted strategy to address the drug trafficking question and acknowledged the countries' effort in identifying the best practices. In addition, he discussed the drug trafficking hazards and other crimes, as well as their impact in health, economy and social values. He pointed out Cape Verde's vulnerability, due to its geographic

location and the characteristics of the territory and acknowledged the country's effort to fight against drug trafficking and the political actors' will to deal with this question. He also highlighted the spirit of cooperation in terms of drug policies, namely Cape Verde's commitment towards international conventions. The specialisation of legal authorities and the reinforcement of the operational skills were also some of the themes discussed, as well as the criminalising legislation that led to a stricter intervention of legal authorities. Basílio Ramos pointed out the importance of the consensus and participation of all sectors, especially civil society, as well as the reinforcement of the educational and preventive dimensions and the implementation of multi-sector and transnational strategies.

Finally, he asked for the design of recommendations, as well as for the quick implementation of the Declaration of Praia, signed by the judges associations of all PALOP.

## WORKSHOPS

### W1 | Participatory Methods in Community Intervention: The Community Engagement

Jakob Huber, Contact Netz

The community plays an important role in implementing strategies on the drug phenomena. Public policies when designed at national level do not always take into account their impact at local level. The way local community's actors perceive, integrate and implement the main policy lines, constrains the effectiveness of the legal system itself. To what extent there is a consistency between the proposal and the operationalization of the legislation of a particular policy measure? Switzerland has proved that it's a country putting particular emphasis on local adaptation strategies defined at the federal level. This was not unrelated to the territorial conception of this country, where the local community has a particular emphasis on priority definition and resource management. In this way, this workshop presented and reflected on a number of innovative actions that Contact Netz (a Berne NGO) developed over the past 25 years in his city.



Jacob Huber made use of group dynamics techniques to challenge participants critical thinking, in order to demonstrate that it is possible to make citizens into actors of social transformation. What are the real challenges faced by these populations (local community members)? As a question of public health: how to minimize the potentially negative impacts on public health of the community that certain consumption practices can produce? How to reduce the personal health damage of drug users themselves? This social protection and health care question, is

associated with another problematic, e.g., safety in public space. Thus, the life routes of drug users in the margins of the city raise paradoxes in the performance of health professionals in law enforcement agencies and the residents of a particular street or site. Reconcile apparently conflicting agendas (the discipline of police forces and practices to promote the welfare of health workers or social action) was the challenge brought by this workshop. Challenge that is based on practical demonstration of a success story: the Swiss case. The Switzerland of the four pillars policy that interweaves a single set of policy strategies: health and safety.

## W2 | Outreach Intervention and Drug Policy

John-Peter Kools (HRI) and Eberhard Schatz (Rainbow Foundation)

Drug use and the problems associated with them transcend borders and have an adverse social impact in different countries, cultures and civilisations. The use of drugs pushes citizens around the world to social exclusion routes, isolation and distant from the existing formal health structures and from the possibility of treatment responses. The exclusion, stigma, social isolation, can frequently lead to incarceration, mental illness and death. Over the past few years specific responses based on a humanistic and pragmatic logic have been developed, that seek to help the drug users to reverse the exclusion process.



These responses include community intervention devices, namely outreach intervention, involving by this way a paradigm shift in the provision of services in this population. The intervention is based on a comprehensive approach and on the development of relationships of trust with consumers and the community. The relationship with the technical and target groups are horizontal and aims to be individualised and not imposed or moralising. The answers are not restricted to the problem of drug use, but also to other health domains (diseases prevention, treatment and referral) and other fields of social reintegration (as housing access, employment and citizenship). In this workshop John-Peter Kools (HRI) and Eberhard Schatz (Rainbow Foundation), recognised personalities in the field of research and outreach interventions in Europe, proposed the problematisation and reflection of the characteristics and main results achieved through a comprehensive approach to drug use.

### W3 | Youth and Drug Policy

#### Adeolu Ogunrombi, West Africa Commission on Drugs and YouthRISE Nigeria

The “young person” is undeniably a main “target” of drug speeches and policies. The particularities of the youth experiencing, the identity development process itself and the “natural” vulnerability of this social group, transversal to many cultures, make the young people particularly “exposed” to the drug phenomena. Usually, this is the experimenting phase, which may have lifelong reflexes, and where the excessive or more problematic consumptions may have higher impact.



At the same time, it is common to observe a basic error in the design of drug policies, the non-inclusion of young people’s perception, experience, culture and speech in the conception of policies concerning them. We witness regularly to a condescending, paternalist – if not even imposing – attitude by policy makers, when dealing with the subject related to the Drug” phenomena. This often results in diffuse and inefficient messages, from professionals with a technical and formatted speech that can’t reach their target-group. This communication noise will not certainly be unconnected with the generational gap.

Thus, and in order to optimize interventional results, proposals must arise to involve young people in decision making regarding drug policies. The field strategies in so diverse contexts like School, Street or Family should consider a work of greater proximity between professionals and youngsters. To change this attitude from conceiving young people as passive receivers, to see them as active agents, will result in drug policies that support effective interventions, contributing as well to increase young people’s civic participation.

#### W4 | Organisational Capacity Building

José Queiroz, APDES

A qualified organisation it's an organization opened to the outside and incorporates in its governance structure, as well as in its development, the different community dimensions. Thereby, the organisation must be able to integrate itself in the political, social and cultural context, and to include in its own structure the contextual dynamics, using the surrounding various resources optimally and involving the actors from the community where it belongs.



A coherent and sustained organisational development must be based on principles of horizontality and transparency with the environment. The growth of an organisation cannot be imposed from outside, but rather have an endogenous nature. It must be born internally in the organisation, from its mission and system of values and skills, guided through a strategy that is based on the respect of the communities, their practices and local resources. This workshop highlighted and reflected about the intervention practical examples from APDES – Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento – with different local communities in Portugal, giving particular relevancy to the work being developed in Angola, Viana – Capalanca Neighborhood. It was demonstrated how the different steps of the production of a specific device (Elementary School), from the architectonic conception, to the local public space integration and the pedagogical model development, it is given attention to the participative methodologies. Thus, looking-for that members from Capalanca community can participate on the assessment, implementation and evaluation of the activities collectively defined.

## DISSEMINATION AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Regarding the dissemination and media coverage, APDES and the Cape Verde Government cooperated in order to define its strategy. Different activities were implemented:



The Communication Departments of the Cape Verde Government and APDES established a continuous articulation, constituting a Publicizing Committee aiming at collaborate with PALOP Governmental Representatives and contact African Media, guaranteeing the dissemination of the event at local, national and regional level (Cape Verde, PALOP Countries and African Continent);

APDES invited the journal PUBLICO, a strategic Portuguese journal for accompany the conference and do press releases about its activities and results in Portugal. The accredited newspaper covered the conference organisation and participated actively at the event, highlighting the thematic of the drug policy in PALOP at national level.

The event was widely covered by the media, and 73 news were produced at the international press, in 14 countries around the world (Annex 5).

The contact and partnership with Drug Reporter (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union) to do the international coverage of the Conference has revealed very fruitful for its international dissemination, recording the totally of speeches and intervenient and spreading the event in the social media.

It was created a conference website and other online platforms contributed to the dissemination and report of the event, such as Facebook and Twitter.

The contact with relevant stakeholders and international organisations/networks, and the establishment of institutional partnerships was also crucial to the publicity of the conference and its prestige and influence.

## OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

### 1. A Global Participation and Involvement

The conference counted with the presence of 200 participants from 14 different nationalities and 3 continents (African, European and American). During the 3 days long event, congress members had the opportunity to assist to the presentation of 41 qualified Speakers and to the participation of high level personalities acting in the scope of drug policy and intervention. The most relevant international organisations acting in this field – UNODC, WHO, GCDP, WACD, OSF, HRI and IDPC - joined the initiative and gave important contributes for the discussion. Moreover, the PALOP Governments revealed a amply adherence to the discussion on the wide sphere of drug policy dimensions.

### 2. Relevant Deliverables

The conference organisation and the preliminary work developed in cooperation with the major stakeholders involved – the PALOP Government representatives and the International Association of Portuguese Speaking Judges, made possible the launch of two important documents, representing two significant deliverables of the event:

- (i) The Declaration of Praia: Memorandum by the Portuguese Language Judges on Drug Policies and Human Rights (Annex 3).
- (ii) The Draft of Protocol of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Cape Verde and the governments of the countries members of the Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOP) to Reduce Demand and Drug Offer (Annex 4).

### 3. Appointments for the Future

In the end of the conference it was firm the commitment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Drug Policy in PALOP, anticipating the possibility of occurring in Luanda. Latest contacts propone the event for 2016, posteriorly to the UNGASS, in order to proceed with further developments on the reinforcement of cooperation between PALOP countries and international community.

## CONCLUSIONS

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Drug Policies in PALOP, in Cape Verde, was intended to inaugurate a solid strategic cooperation between countries in what concerns drug policies. We believe that the main goals set were fulfilled. The Conference was an insightful moment for the adoption of new, science-based and more comprehensive drug policies and allowed the establishment of commitments for the future, based on close interaction and solidarity between states, civil society and international organisms, bearing in mind the impacts in the community.

The Portuguese Decriminalization Model was discussed and reflected in the light of PALOPs reality. This event made possible not only the dissemination of this model, but also, through the sharing of its best practices and positive impacts, the presentation of an alternative to current drug policies in PALOP countries.

Planning this event was a positive task to APDES. It allowed the contact with new stakeholders and the strengthening of existing partnerships that we believe will contribute to develop APDES work of disseminating best practices of intervention and advocating for more humanistic drug policies.

As has been already said, the conference it's not an end in itself, since the development and monitoring of drug policies requires not occasional, but systematic and consistent responses. Therefore the sustainability of the project depends both on APDES ability to reinforce and support PALOP Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations in developing a comprehensive approach toward drug use based on the best practices sustained by the Portuguese model of drug decriminalization, but also on PALOP Government and Civil Society Organisations motivation to work on drug use phenomena and policies. It's APDES most profound interest to continue the work initiated on the conference and support new PALOP events for policy dialogue and change (e.g., drug policy meetings and conferences). To continue with the work initiated with this project we will count with the support of Piaget Institute (Portuguese Private University), UniPiaget Cape Verde (University), ASPI (The International Piaget Association) and AIPA (The International Piaget Angola Association) and other private sponsors (Pharmaceutical, Banks, e.g.). We also expect the support of other organisations related to the Portuguese cooperation with Portuguese Speaking Countries and Africa (CPLP, Portuguese Cooperation for Development, Camões Institute, Portugal – Africa Foundation, etc.).

At last, we will seek for the support of relevant organizations, namely to the African Scenario, as Kofi Annan Foundation.