

A Comparison of Drug Use Prevention Systems in Belgium and the Czech Republic



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SUMMARY: *The article focuses on the prevention of drug abuse in the Czech Republic and Belgium. It is a result of co-operation established between the author and her Belgian supervisor during her PhD fellowship at Ghent University as part of the Erasmus programme. The paper seeks to compare Belgium (especially the Flemish part of Belgium), as a West European country with a long tradition of drug prevention, and the Czech Republic, a country from the former Eastern European bloc with a shorter tradition of modern drug policy whose development was hampered by the iso-*

lation of the country under the Communist regime. The respective systems of the prevention of drug abuse in Belgium and in the Czech Republic are presented and compared and the individual types of prevention, including specific examples of prevention activities pursued in these countries, are described. Drug abuse has been a topical social issue across Europe. We believe, therefore, that it is useful to exchange experience which could be made use of in both countries.

KEY WORDS: DRUG POLICY – PREVENTION PROGRAMMES – BELGIUM – CZECH REPUBLIC – COMPARISON

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