

August 2019

Welcome to the INCB Learning Newsletter.

In March 2019, the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs \(CND\)](#) adopted [resolution 62/5](#), entitled “Enhancing the capacity of Member States to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes”.

This resolution encourages the secretariat of the [International Narcotics Control Board \(INCB\)](#) to continue implementing capacity-building and training activities for competent national authorities through the INCB Learning project.

Launched in 2016, [INCB Learning](#) is one of the Board’s initiatives to assist Member States in implementing the international drug control conventions. INCB Learning addresses the barriers to adequate availability of indispensable narcotic and psychotropic substances required for medical treatments, particularly by **raising awareness** and providing **training**.



With the INCB Learning initiative, the Board contributes to efforts to achieve [Sustainable Development Goal 3](#), to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

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In particular, INCB Learning raises **awareness** and provides **training** on adequately estimating and assessing the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. These efforts contribute to assisting Member States to achieve “**access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines**” under target 3.8 of SDG 3.

In implementing CND resolution 62/5, INCB is seeking further donor support to expand and continue implementing INCB Learning.



Regional training in Quito for Latin America and the Caribbean

Activities implemented

Up to July 2019, INCB Learning trained **237** officials from **88** countries and territories.

The project implemented a total of **8** regional training seminars, **3** national awareness-raising workshops and developed **3** e-learning modules.

Training in Quito

From 3 to 6 June 2019, INCB Learning conducted a **training** seminar to strengthen the monitoring and reporting capacities of **countries in Latin America and the Caribbean**. Held in Quito, Ecuador, it brought together **43** drug control officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Peru.

Over four days, specialized training was provided on treaty requirements regarding the regulatory control and monitoring of licit trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

The seminar was opened by Dr. Verónica Espinosa Serrano, **Minister of Public Health of Ecuador**, Ambassador Mireya Muñoz, **Under-Secretary of Multilateral Affairs** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, and Arnaud Peral, the **Resident Coordinator** of the United Nations System in Ecuador.

[Luis Alberto Otárola Peñaranda](#), **member of the Board**, addressed participants in a video message. Representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**) and the Pan American Health Organization (**PAHO**) also joined the opening session of the training.



Opening of the regional training seminar in Quito

Availability workshop in Quito

A [national awareness-raising workshop](#) on the **availability** of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes was organized on 7 June 2019 in Quito, Ecuador.

The event was co-organized with and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador and brought together about **60 participants** from several national authorities, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to discuss the importance of ensuring access to medicines containing substances under international control.

Inputs to the discussion were provided by representatives from the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility** and of the **Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador, PAHO, UNODC**, the **INCB Secretariat** as well as **Board member** Luis Alberto Otárola Peñaranda by video-conference.

Training in Vienna

From 15 to 18 January 2019, INCB Learning implemented a [training](#) seminar in Vienna for nine officials from the competent national authorities of **El Salvador, Guatemala** and **Honduras**.



Availability workshop for Ecuador

The training followed up on a seminar held in Guatemala City in December 2017 with the participation of Guatemala and Honduras. The seminar provided training on the responsibilities of Governments under the international drug control **conventions** and raised awareness on the importance of **timely and adequate estimation** of needs of controlled substances and of the **reporting obligations** under the treaties.

Training sessions were also held by the Container Control Programme and the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC, including a visit to the UNODC laboratory.

During a session dedicated to the importance of ensuring adequate **availability** of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, experts from **UNODC** and **WHO** staff contributed to the discussions through video-conference.



Training in Vienna for El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras



Bilateral consultations during the training in Vienna

Previous activities

Project implementation started in April 2016. Click on the links below to learn more about the activities conducted so far.

Training seminars

- **East Africa:** [Nairobi, 25-29 April 2016;](#)
- **South and East Asia and the Pacific:** [Bangkok, 12-15 July 2016;](#)
- **Europe:** [Vienna, 4-6 July 2017;](#)
- **Oceania:** [Sydney, 28-30 November 2017;](#)
- **Guatemala and Honduras:** [Guatemala City, 11-13 December 2017;](#)
- **French-speaking countries in Africa:** [Dakar, 10-12 September 2018;](#)
- **Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador:** [Vienna, 15-18 January 2019;](#)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** [Quito, 3-6 June 2019.](#)

Availability workshops

- **Kenya** [on 29 April 2016 in Nairobi;](#)
- **Thailand** [on 15 July 2016 in Bangkok;](#)
- **Ecuador** [on 7 June 2019 in Quito.](#)

INCB Learning in numbers

April 2016 - August 2019

237 officials trained

88 countries and territories

8 regional training seminars

3 national awareness-raising workshops



INCB Learning  I2ES

The [International Import and Export Authorization System \(I2ES\)](#), a web-based electronic system developed by the Board together with UNODC, with financial and technical support from Member States, was designed to promote paperless trade in internationally controlled substances by facilitating the online exchange of import and export authorizations.

Available to all Governments free of charge, I2ES serves as a secure platform for generating and exchanging import and export authorizations between trading countries while ensuring full compliance with all provisions of the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention.

I2ES offers relevant functionalities that allows Governments to save valuable resources, such as operative costs and personnel working time, while improving productivity by reducing the time needed to process import and export authorizations.



I2ES trainer at the WTO workshop

What has happened since the I2ES user-group meeting in March 2019?

- A webinar training delivered to the competent national authorities of **Estonia** 29 & 30 May 2019
- An in-person regional training in Ecuador for 8 countries from **Latin America and the Caribbean** region attending the INCB Learning seminar 3 - 6 June 2019
- A presentation on the trade of internationally-controlled substances during the **regional workshop** held in Vienna by the World Trade Organization (WTO) for 15 countries from **Eastern and South-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia** 4 July 2019. The workshop also presented an occasion to exchange complementary expertise and know-how among the WTO and INCB secretariat in the area of international trade, and to explore possibilities for future collaboration.

Testimony from those who have received training

Estonia: "They [the trainings] definitely help in "converting" people to like and support I2ES more."

Ecuador training: "For me the most important part is the implementation of I2ES..."

Regional workshop of WTO: "The value added for participants and also to me and my WTO colleagues is substantial, we did not know how complicated trade controls in respect to these substances are."

If you want to send a training request, inform us of any changes and/or share suggestions, we look forward to hearing from you by e-mail at incb.i2es@un.org. You can find more information on all activities related to I2ES on our [website](#).

INCB publications

[Annual Report 2018](#) and its [Special 2018 report on Access and Availability](#)



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[Precursors Annual Report 2018](#)



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Technical publications

[Narcotic Drugs 2018](#)



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[Psychotropic Substances 2018](#)



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Contributors

The Governments of **Australia**, **Belgium**, **France**, the **Russian Federation** and the **United States** have contributed to INCB Learning.

Further support from Member States is required to sustain and expand project activities.

INCB Learning Project

Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria
+43 1 26060 83131
incb.learning@un.org
www.incub.org/incb/en/learning.html