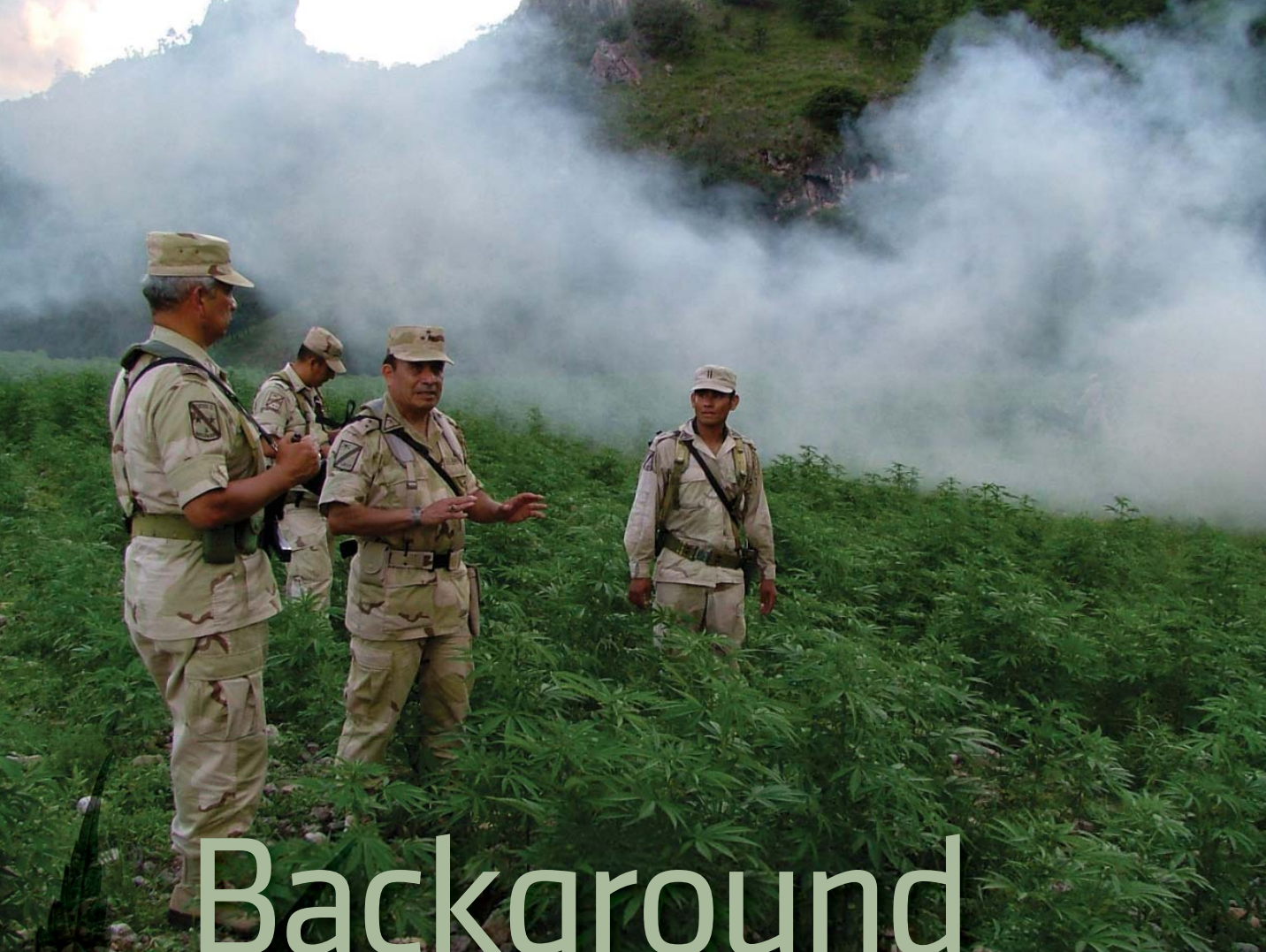


Anticipating Drug Legalisation

An SPP Course

13–15 May 2015 | Budapest, Hungary





Background

The momentum of change in national and regional level drug policy requires public officials, development agencies and corporate planners to anticipate an operating environment in which a range of narcotic drugs are legalised. Lessons learned from Uruguay and a number of U.S. states point to the importance of the business, security, health and education sectors preparing for major shifts in legal and regulatory frameworks. Legalisation and decriminalisation redefine the traditional risks associated with working in drug consumption, production and trafficking contexts, with implications for operating procedures, skill sets, budgets and strategic assumptions. At the same time, drug policy reform processes create new and unanticipated challenges, such as shifts in patterns of organised crime and conflict, and new public health issues that need to be identified and mitigated.

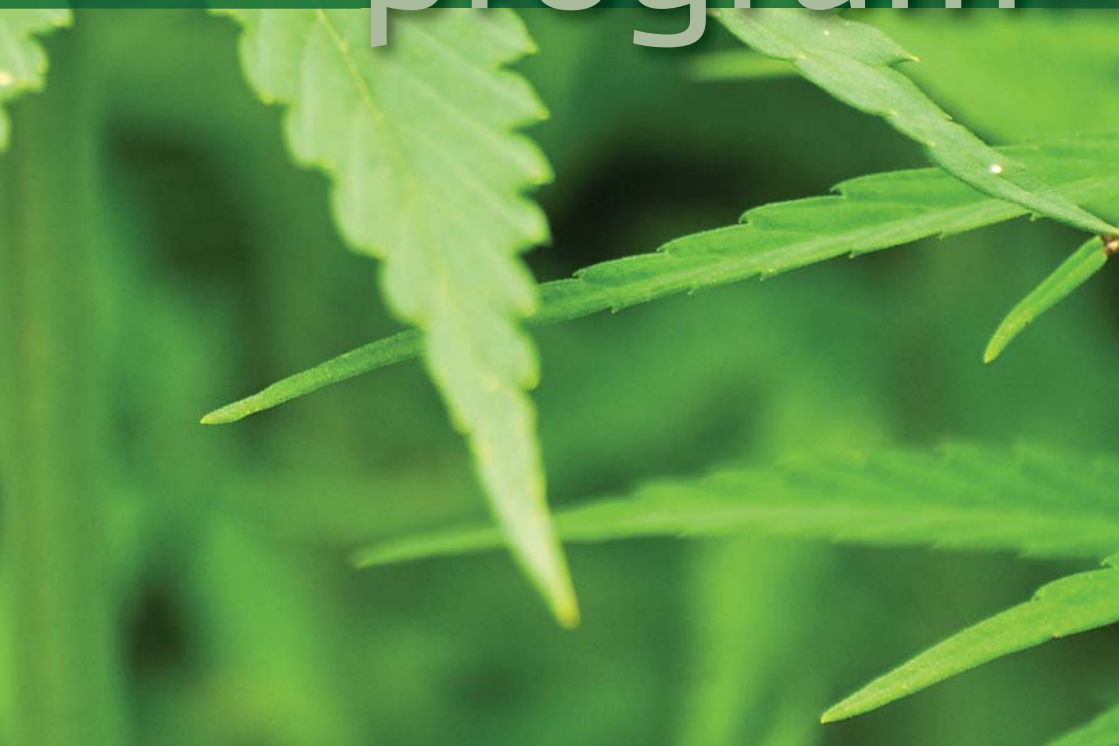
This ground-breaking three-day professional development course provides managers and strategic planners with the intellectual and analytical tools to enable predictive assessment of drug legalisation on sector-specific programmes and investments in a range of country contexts. The aim of the course is to provide a diversity of stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to identify and determine the impact of drug legalisation on their activities.



The course is intended for a diverse range of stakeholders whose work and interests are either directly or indirectly impacted by drug policy and/or operations in drug trade contexts (consumption, production and trafficking environments). This includes public officials and private consultants engaged in development, security and public health related work; corporations engaged in – for example – extractive, financial, security and infrastructure-related activities and advocacy groups.

Participants profile

Course program



14 May 2015

Understanding Drug Policy

Session 1: The International Drug Control System

An introductory session to ground context and current policy through discussion of the history, guiding principles, strategic objectives and institutions of international drug control, and consideration of national and regional level policy responses. The session will highlight key information sources for drug policy analysis.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE: participants to consider the legal and historical context in their chosen case study areas.



The first section of the course will be delivered by drug policy experts from the CEU School of Public Policy and the OSF's Global Drug Policy Program. It will contextualise the drivers of drug policy change, assess key actors and institutions in drug policy debates and consider the processes through which drug policy reform are realised.

Session 2: Evaluating the Drug Control Record – More Harm than Good?

Critiques of the performance of drug control legislation and institutions; evaluating the record of drug control and methodologies for assessing performance moving on to consideration of the unintended and negative consequences of drug control strategies.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE: participants to assess the impact of drug control strategies in their case study countries / areas, highlighting success and setbacks in terms of national, regional and international policy goals. Analysis of negative social, economic and security consequences of drug policy application.

Session 3: Reform Trends

This session will explore the drivers of change in drug policy, analysing the pressures for reform of international conventions, institutions and drug strategy. Assessment of change will extend to a mapping of actors, ideas and institutions influential in devising and implementing reform options – from decriminalisation to legalisation.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE: participants will consider the relevance of drug reform lobbies in their case study countries; evaluate the possibilities for reform and assess variables limiting or influencing prospects for policy change.

15 May 2015

Scenario Planning

Session 4: Principles and Practices

Delivery of the course will shift to conducting the planning, analysis and projections for an environment of drug legalisation, focusing initially on skills for critiquing existing assessments and assumptions, and conducting alternative analysis. The session will consider the challenges inherent in developing accurate scenarios including the risk of hazardous, overt and unacknowledged projections, psychological traps, the risk of thin-tail focus and the misuse of scenarios.

CASE STUDIES: Case studies: cognitive pitfalls in strategic thinking.

Session 5: Trend Analysis

Developing accurate forecasts requires competent risk mapping and skills of trend analysis that are informed by relevant drug sensitive indicators. This session will assess how risks, trends, vulnerabilities and opportunities for advocacy, public sector and private interests can be identified, mitigated and exploited in the volatile and unpredictable context of drug policy reform, in particular focusing on index construction, tools for monitoring the political, social and regulatory environment, stakeholder analysis and development of early warning systems.

INTERACTIVE CASE STUDIES AND POLICY LAB

The second section of the course will be delivered by the Global Analysis and Advisory firm Oxford Analytica. It will develop skills of strategic and policy-relevant analysis, enabling participants to develop rigorous scenarios and analytical frameworks in anticipation of the changes ahead.

Session 6: Responding to Change

The concluding session will assess the priorities and strategies for organisational management in response to drug policy reform, and the use of scenario planning in guiding strategic and institutional change.





Course information

ARRIVAL AND DINNER RECEPTION: Wednesday, 13 May 2015

The course will be held at the **School of Public Policy**, on the campus of the **Central European University** in Budapest, Hungary.

The course is open to the following categories of participants:

- Civil society leaders with a track record of analysis, oversight and policy advocacy;
- Mid-level government officials from departments, both central and local level, involved in policy design, implementation, and compliance;
- Professional staff from international organisations who are active in the field of drug control;
- Professionals from development agencies, including consultancies and aid agencies;
- Journalists with previous experience reporting on national or global drug policy;
- Academics and doctoral students undertaking applied research or teaching on issues related to drugs policy;
- Business professionals in corporate and strategic planning and risk assessment.

The full cost of participation in the course is **EUR 300–**. This does not include travel and accommodation (lunches and coffee breaks during the course will be provided).

A limited number of scholarships covering travel, accommodation, and the full cost of tuition are available on a competitive basis. In addition, a number of tuition waivers will be available on a competitive basis for applicants who cover their own travel and hotel accommodation. Note that scholarships or tuition waivers will not be available for applicants from the private sector or international agencies.

Interested individuals should complete the application form at <http://spp.ceu.hu/content/anticipating-drug-legalisation> by **2 March 2015**.



Faculty



Julia Buxton

Associate Dean and Professor of Comparative Politics, School of Public Policy, CEU (course lead)

Julia Buxton is a specialist on South America and the region's rapidly evolving political, economic and security architecture. She is an expert on Venezuela, receiving her PhD from the London School of Economics, where she also studied for her MA (Distinction) in Comparative Politics.

She is a member of the Latin American Studies Association and has served as track chair for Violence and (In) Security. Her current research focuses on the changing dynamics of the Inter-American Security System that frames relations between North and South America and the implications of new regional peace and security norms for hemispheric ties.



Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch

Director, Open Society Global Drug Policy Program

Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch directs the Open Society Global Drug Policy Program, which provides grants to initiatives advocating an evidence-based approach to drug policy worldwide and encourages greater scrutiny of current international drug policy. A major contributor to the debate about the interplay of drug use and HIV, she previously

headed the Open Society International Harm Reduction Development program, introducing and significantly scaling up access to needle exchange and substitution treatment across Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Before joining OSF, Malinowska-Sempruch worked for UNDP in New York and then Warsaw. She co-authored Poland's first national AIDS program and has helped formulate policy at the Global Fund, the WHO, the Millennium Challenge, and other bodies through her membership of various expert boards and committees. She has authored or co-authored dozens of policy and scientific papers for scientific journals and book chapters including "Global HIV/AIDS Medicine" and "Public Health and Human Rights, Evidence-Based Approaches," as well as articles for the international press. She received the Norman E. Zinberg Award for Achievement in the Field of Medicine in 2007 and the Gold Order Medal from the Polish Ministry of Justice in 2000 for work on HIV in prisons.



Dave Bewley-Taylor

Director of the Global Drug Policy Observatory, Swansea University

Dave Bewley-Taylor is a Professor of International Relations and Public Policy and founding Director of the Global Drug Policy Observatory at Swansea University, UK. He has been researching aspects of drug policy for over 20 years with his main areas of interest being US drug policy, the UN and international drug policy and more recently counter narcotic strategies in Afghanistan. Dave has written two major research monographs – *The United States and International Drug Control, 1909–1997* (Continuum, 2001) and *International Drug Control: Consensus Fractured* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) – a number of book chapters and published in a wide range of academic journals. He was the founding Secretary of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (2006–07), and is currently on the editorial boards of *The International Journal of Drug Policy* and the *International Journal on Human Rights and Drug Policy*. Dave is also a member of the International Advisory Committee of the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, (University of Essex), a member of the International Advisory Board of the David F. Musto Center for Drug Policy Studies (Shanghai University), an Associate of the LSE IDEAS International Drug Policy Project and a technical advisor to the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy.



Tom Wales

Oxford Analytica, Director of Analysis

Tom Wales joined Oxford Analytica in 2005. He specialises in analytical integrity and methodology, in the fallibility of expert predictions, and in long-term contingency and scenario planning. He is also the firm's chief analyst for the United States and Canada. Tom is co-author of *The Politics and Strategy of Clandestine War* (Routledge, 2006) among many other publications, and holds a PhD on the early history of the Anglo-American intelligence relationship from the University of Edinburgh (2005). He served as an aide to the late Air Marshal Lord Tim Garden, former Assistant Chief of the UK Defence Staff, and worked as a risk management analyst for Chase Manhattan Corporation in the City of London, where his principal work was on fund counterparties of the Bank in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. A *magna cum laude* graduate in history from Harvard College (1999), Tom held a University Studentship/ Scholarship at Edinburgh, where he earned an MSc with distinction in history, 2002.

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