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**Original Articles** 

# Changing Control of the Open Drug Scenes in Oslo— Crime, Welfare, Immigration Control, or a Combination?

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association of foreign actors in the drug scene with organized crime, and a stricter

Norwegian legislation and approach to immigration questions, with a tendency toward a conflation of immigration and criminal law.

### Keywords:

Crimmigration	Drug addicts	Drugs	Open drug scenes	Organized crime	Oslo	Police control
Social control	Undocumented	migrants				

# Acknowledgements

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# Notes

1 Uteseksionen is organized under the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Sorvice	oin Oslo
municipa	g children
and you	adults with
drug pro	
<sup>2</sup> The C	ulnerable
populati	ere drug
users ca	wed up by
the e	misjon
2011	
<sup>3</sup> In the	ampen.
These pa	ough tabloid
to social	
<sup>4</sup> Sandb	g the
Akerselv	an minority
youth, but they also describe the situation of migrants with unresolved re	sidency.

- <sup>5</sup> Drug law violations are covered by the General civil penal code's §§ 162, 162b, 317, parts 4 and 5, and the Act relating to medicines etc. (see § 31, part 2).
- <sup>6</sup> All translations are by my translator, with the exception of published translations of law.
- <sup>7</sup> The source for the number of reports concerning violations of the Penal code § 162, parts 1, 2 and 3, is the police's criminal case figures, which are somewhat less reliable than Statistics Norway's ('SSB') figures. The SSB does not publish figures distinguishing between the number of reports for the Penal code's § 162, parts 1, 2 and 3. There are, however, no major variations between the general police report numbers from the SSB and those directly from the criminal case registry STRASAK.
- <sup>8</sup> Færre tyveri og flere narkotikalovbrudd, SSB (<u>2010</u>).

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retursentrene 2011).

<sup>9</sup> SSB does not publish tables clarifying both geographic areas and reported crime which distinguish between different types of drug law violations. Report numbers published by police are close to those published by SSB and in most cases only deviate with single digits below the SSB numbers.

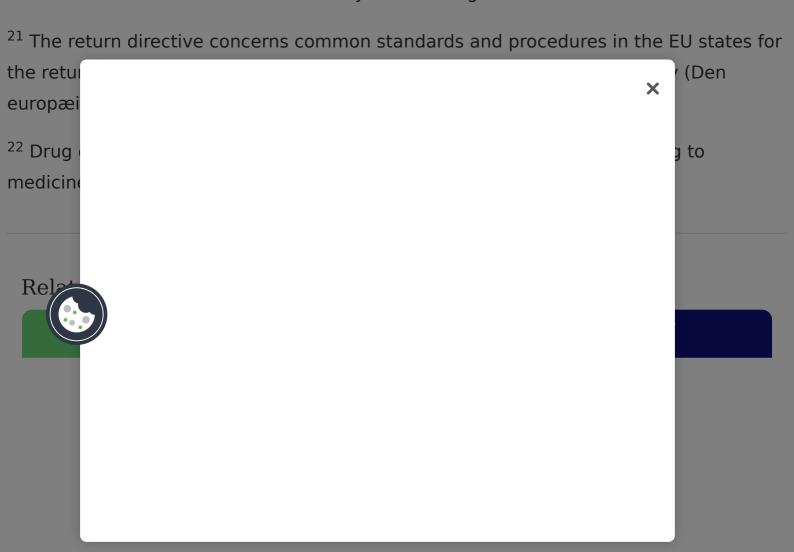
<sup>10</sup> The statistics only show an increase in police reports for the last two years. This could indicate a shorter-term increase based on a special focus on these cases over the

e explained. last few The inve istics Norway es time before a n penalty o indicate statistics that the court room. 11 The first safe cour n Norway has app dence narbeidet permit i 2011). 12 With nmigrants

aiting return.

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- <sup>13</sup> Approximately €1,800.
- <sup>14</sup> Eighty percent of all users of Møtestedet are men.
- <sup>15</sup> Their material is from 2007. Perhaps more such sentences are handed down now.
- <sup>16</sup> Between 2002 and 2010 unemployment in Norway was between 2.5% and 4.5% (<u>Yrkesdeltakingstatistikk</u>, SSB: Table 18, 2002–2010). By comparison, unemployment in Spain in 2010 was at 20.1%, while it was 8.4% in Italy and 12.6% in Greece (Eurostat 2011).
- <sup>17</sup> There are some exceptions to this rule, such as for visiting lecturers, professional athletes, internships with international firms, and the like (Utlendingsdirektoratet <u>2010</u>).
- $^{18}$  Area close to Oslo Central Station, perhaps the most infamous open drug scene in Norway.
- <sup>19</sup> Some of the news articles before 2009 that mention foreign citizens in the drug scenes give us personal stories about the foreigners as well.
- <sup>20</sup> This will be documented further in my forthcoming PhD dissertation.



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