



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Monitoring misuse of psychoactive medicines at the EMCDDA

Indicator “prevalence and patterns of drug use among general population”
EMCDDA Annual Expert meeting 17-18 June 2014



Background

Mandate

The EMCDDA founding Regulation calls for a better understanding of the misuse of medicines, particularly when these are used in combination with illicit drugs

Account should be taken of new methods of use, especially poly-drug use, where illicit drugs are taken in combination with licit drugs or medication'

Conceptual Framework

Cross Unit Project to conceptualise methodological framework for EMCDDA activities on the monitoring of medicines (by 2015)

Case study

Leading topic for 2014 - benzodiazepines

Background

General Population Survey:

- EMQ has a specific module for medicines
- 2011 a mapping exercise was performed looking at the compliance of the questions in the national surveys with the EMQ
- 2011 project on 'harmonised national databases' looked into the psychoactive medicines questions in the GPS
- 2012 auditing of the EMCDDA data collection tools incl. GPS and national and international studies
- 2014 national abstract asking for information on misuses of benzodiazepines – some results

Objectives of the session

- To map different approaches to assess prevalence and behavioural patterns at the national level:
 - Croatia and Bulgaria – implementing the EMQ
 - Finland – misuse of medicines
 - Latvia – benzodiazepines
- To open a debate on the changes to be introduced in the future to the EMQ (misuse vr. use, different medicines groups, different ways of obtaining them)

EMQ – medicines

During the last 12 months, have you taken any sedatives or tranquilisers?

- 1) Yes;
- 2) No

How often do you take sedatives or tranquilisers?

- 1) 4 times a week or more;
- 2) 2-3 times a week;
- 3) 2-4 times a month;
- 4) once a month or less

During the last 30 days, have you taken any sedatives or tranquilisers?

- 1) Yes;
- 2) No

During the last 30 days, on how many days did you take sedatives or tranquilisers?

On ___ days, OR

- 1) 20 days or more;
- 2) 10-19 days;
- 3) 4-9 days;
- 4) 1-3 days

EMQ – medicines

The last occasion you took sedatives or tranquilisers, how had you obtained them?

- 1) I bought them or had them prescribed for me by a doctor;
- 2) I got them from somebody else I know;
- 3) I bought them without a prescription in a pharmacy or drugstore;
- 4) None of the above applies

Pharmaceuticals – Overall

Context	Data Collection
Health	Face to Face Interview
Drug	Self Completion
	Mail



1	2	3	4
Completely different	Different questions/ Different answers	Slightly different questions/ Slightly different answers	Identical
<i>BE</i>	<i>CZ 2004</i>	<i>CZ 2008</i>	No one
<i>DK</i>	<i>DE</i>	<i>EE</i>	
<i>FR</i>	<i>ES</i>	<i>IE</i>	
<i>LV</i>	<i>IT</i>	<i>RO 2004</i>	
<i>HU</i>	<i>CY</i>		
<i>NL</i>	<i>LT</i>		
<i>FI</i>	<i>AT</i>		
<i>SE</i>	<i>PL</i>		
<i>NO</i>	<i>PT</i>		
	<i>RO 2007</i>		
	<i>SK</i>		
	<i>UK</i>		

Pharmaceuticals – Model questions (1)

[During the last 12 months, have you taken any sedatives or tranquilisers? 1) Yes; 2) No]

Identical		3 months	2 weeks	Ever taken
<u>DE</u>	<i>LT</i>	SE	BE	<i>CZ</i>
<u>EE</u>	<i>AT</i>		DK	FR
<i>IE</i>	<i>PL</i>			<u>IT 2009</u>
ES	<i>PT</i>			NO
<u>IT 2005</u>	<i>RO</i>			
CY	<i>SK</i>			
<i>LV</i>	<u>FI</u>			
NL	<i>UK</i>			

Pharmaceuticals – Model questions (2)

How often do you take sedatives or tranquilisers? 1) 4 times a week or more; 2) 2-3 times a week; 3) 2-4 times a month; 4) once a month or less

Identical	Not asked	Open answer	Different range of answers
<i>CZ 2008</i>	BE	<i>LV</i>	<i>CZ 2004</i>
<i>SK</i>	DK	<i>AT</i>	<u>EE</u>
NL	<u>DE</u>		ES
	<i>IE</i>		<u>IT 2005</u>
	FR		CY
	<u>IT 2009</u>		HU
	<i>RO</i>		<i>PL</i>
	<u>FI 2006</u>		<i>PT</i>
	SE		<u>FI 2010</u>
	<i>UK 2010/11</i>		<i>UK 2007/08 – 2008/09</i>
			NO

Pharmaceuticals – Model questions (3)

[During the last 30 days, have you taken any sedatives or tranquilisers? 1) Yes; 2) No]

Identical	Not asked	Different question	Different range of answers
<i>CZ 2008</i>	<i>BE</i>	<u><i>DE</i></u>	<u><i>EE</i></u>
<i>IE</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>ES</i>	<u><i>IT</i></u>
<i>LV</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>HU</i>	<i>CY</i>
<i>LT 2004</i>	<i>RO 2007</i>	<i>NL*</i>	<i>LT 2008</i>
<i>AT</i>	<i>SE</i>	<u><i>FI</i></u>	
<i>PT</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>UK</i>	
<i>RO 2004</i>		<i>CZ 2004</i>	
<i>SK</i>			

* NL asked also about the last 14 days

Pharmaceuticals – Model questions (4)

During the last 30 days, on how many days did you take sedatives or tranquilisers? On ___ days, OR 1) 20 days or more; 2) 10-19 days; 3) 4-9 days; 4) 1-3 days

Identical	Not asked	Different range of answers
<i>CZ 2008</i>	<i>BE</i>	<i>CZ 2004</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>DE</i>
<i>LT 2004</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>EE</i>
<i>AT</i>	<i>HU</i>	<i>ES</i>
<i>PT</i>	<i>FI</i>	<i>IT</i>
<i>RO 2004</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>CY</i>
	<i>UK</i>	<i>LV</i>
	<i>NO</i>	<i>LT 2008</i>
		<i>NL</i>
		<i>PL</i>
		<i>RO 2007</i>
		<i>SK</i>

Pharmaceuticals – Model questions (5)

The last occasion you took sedatives or tranquilisers, how had you obtained them? 1) I bought them or had them prescribed for me by a doctor; 2) I got them from somebody else I know; 3) I bought them without a prescription in a pharmacy or drugstore; 4) None of the above applies

Identical	Not asked	Different range of answers	Just 'with/without prescription'
<i>CZ 2008</i>	<i>BE 2008</i>	<i>BE 2004</i>	<i>ES 2007</i>
<i>EE 2008</i>	<i>CZ 2004</i>	<i>EE 2003</i>	<i>PL</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>IT 2009</i>	<i>FI</i>
<i>IT 2005</i>	<i>DE</i>	<i>CY</i>	<i>UK</i>
<i>AT</i>	<i>ES 2005</i>	<i>LV</i>	<i>NO</i>
<i>PT</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>LT</i>	<i>RO 2004</i>
<i>SK</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>HU</i>	
	<i>RO 2007</i>		
	<i>SE</i>		

Pharmaceuticals – Not only sedatives or tranquilisers (1)

BE 2004	Non-prescribed medicines; sleeping tablets; tranquilisers
BE 2008	Medicines; dietary supplement; herbal medicines; vitamins; + MOTIVATIONS
<u>DE 2006</u>	Painkillers; sleeping pills; tranquilisers; stimulants; appetite suppressants
<u>DE 2009</u>	Painkillers; sleeping pills; tranquilisers; stimulants; appetite suppressants; anabolic steroids
<i>IE 2002/03</i>	Sedatives; tranquilisers; antidepressants
ES 2005	Tranquilisers; sleeping pills
FR 2010	Tranquilisers; sleeping pills; antidepressants
<u>IT 2009</u>	Sleeping pills; tranquilisers; antidepressants; anxiolytics
LV 2007	Tranquilisers; sedatives; antidepressants; steroids
<i>LT</i>	Sedatives; sleeping pills
<i>AT</i>	Sleeping drugs; sedatives
<i>UK 2007/08 – 2008/09</i>	Tranquilisers (Temazepam; Valium)
<i>UK 2010/11</i>	Tranquilisers (Temazepam; Valium; Roofies; Jellies)
NO	Sleeping tablets

Pharmaceuticals – Not only sedatives or tranquilisers (2)

RO	Inhalants (glue, solvents, nitrate), alkaline or crack; cocaine powder; amphetamine or speed; hallucinogens (LSD, acids, others); heroin; other opioids (Methadone, Buprenorphine, Naltrexone); tranquilisers or sedatives; sleeping pills; antidepressants
FI	Sleeping pills; opioids; sedatives; antidepressants; weight reducing drugs; Buprenorphine or Methadone for replacement drug therapy; painkillers; amphetamine derivatives
SE	Stomach ulcer, gastritis medicine; asthma, allergy medicine; diabetes medicine; blood pressure lowering medicine; sleeping drugs; antidepressive medicine; sedatives, anxiety reducing medicine; painkilling medicine on prescription; prescription-free painkilling medicine; blood fat reducing medicine; other medicine
CZ 2004	Sedatives or tranquilizers; marijuana or hashish; ecstasy; pervitin, amphetamines; cocaine, crack; heroin, other opiates; LSD; magic mushrooms, other natural hallucinogens; volatile substances, solvents
CZ 2008	Benzodiazepine (<i>Diazepam, Oxazepam, Apaurin, Neurol, Xanax, Rivotril, Lexaurin, Rohypnol, Nitrazepam, Dormicum, Halcion, Defobin</i>); barbiturates (<i>Amytal, Nembutal, Seconal</i>); antidepressants (<i>Fluxonil, Seropram, Citalec, Zoloft, Lerivon, Wellbutrin, Efectin, Ixel</i>); others (<i>Quaalude, Doriden, Equanil, Placidyl, Valmid, Hypnogen, Stilnox, Melipramin, Anafranil, Amitriptylin, Prothiaden, Ludiomil, Deprex, Deprenon</i>)
DK	Cough medicine; asthma; antihypertensive; heart; medicine for the skin; pain relievers for aches and pains in the muscles, bones, tendons or joints; other kind of pain; relievers; sleeping pills; laxatives; sedatives and tranquilizers; penicillin or other antibiotics; other

Pharmaceuticals – Not only sedatives or tranquilisers (3)

