



EMCDDA CONFERENCE

Identifying Europe's information needs
for effective drug policy

6–8 May 2009, Lisbon

PROGRAMME

Identifying Europe's information needs for effective drug policy

2009 represents a watershed year for drug policy, both in Europe and globally. Many European countries are currently updating or launching new national strategies or action plans, a new EU drugs action plan has been adopted and, at UN level, a new political declaration and plan of action were adopted in March at the high-level segment of the 52nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The EMCDDA has been reporting on the drug situation in Europe since the mid-1990s and, since then, both the drug problem and how Member States respond to it have evolved considerably. During this period, a commitment to evidence-based policymaking has been accompanied by a steady growth in the amount and quality of the information available to facilitate and support the policy debate.

The conference, 'Identifying Europe's information needs for effective drug policy', highlights four main themes: Policy, Practice, Trends and Horizons. It provides an opportunity for policymakers, researchers and practitioners to:

- take stock of progress in European drug policy and the EMCDDA's role in this;
- identify and consider future key issues for the drug situation in Europe;
- propose how these issues may impact on information needs.

The conference conclusions will be used by the EMCDDA and its national partners when planning future activities and when considering the developments needed in drug monitoring in Europe.

Wolfgang Götz
Director

14.00 – 15.30

OPENING SESSION

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair and introductory address: Wolfgang Götz, EMCDDA Director

OPENING ADDRESSES

- **Marcel Reimen**, Chairman of the EMCDDA Management Board
- **Francisco Fonseca Morillo**, Director at the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission
- **Antonio Maria Costa**, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Kamil Kalina**, Chairman of the Working Party on Drugs of the Council of the European Union

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Wolfgang Götz, EMCDDA Director

15.30 – 16.00

COFFEE BREAK

16.00 – 18.00

PLENARY THEMATIC SESSION I: POLICY

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair: Sabine Bätzing, Drug Commissioner of the Federal Government, Berlin, Germany

Rapporteur: Frank Zobel, EMCDDA

Information needs for policy – implications for monitoring and science

OVERVIEW

In 2009, two major international drug policy plans — the EU drugs action plan and the new UN political declaration and plan of action — are in the spotlight. Furthermore, almost half of the 27 EU Member States will draft or re-draft their national drug strategy and/or their national drugs action plan during this period. This session will take a closer look at current and future information needs for drug policymaking.

PRESENTATIONS

1. *Making connections — the questions we have to answer:* This presentation will discuss how monitoring agencies and researchers can best respond to the needs of policymakers.
Speaker: Jürgen Rehm, Technical University Dresden, Dresden, Germany
2. *The National perspective:* Presentation of policy-related information needs at national level by a speaker from an EU Member State currently evaluating and reviewing its drugs action plan.
Speaker: Piotr Jabłoński, National Bureau for Drug Prevention, Warsaw, Poland and Pempidou Group of the Council of Europe
3. *The European perspective:* Presentation of policy-related information needs at EU level, updating and charting the implications of the new action plan for information collection and policy formulation in Europe.
Speaker: Carel Edwards, European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security
4. *The International perspective:* Presentation of policy-related information needs at international level in relation to the UNGASS review. The focus will be on connecting reporting at the global level to activities at European and national level.
Speaker: Sandeep Chawla, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
5. *Civil society forum on drugs:* Presentation of policy-related information which can be provided by civil society and in particular non-governmental organisations. The focus will be on experiences from the 'Beyond 2008 NGO forums' held in the framework of the UNGASS review.
Speaker: Michel Perron, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Ottawa, Canada

09.00 – 10.30

PLENARY THEMATIC SESSION II: PRACTICE

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair: Henri Bergeron, Centre of Sociology of Organisations, (CSO), CNRS, Paris, France

Rapporteur: Dagmar Hedrich, EMCDDA

Making the link between science and practice

OVERVIEW

Europe has seen an increase in the provision, effectiveness and diversification of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and social reintegration interventions. Sound information is the basis for both targeting interventions of every kind and evaluating their impact. However, making the connection between what is known and what needs to be done is never easy, given the complex nature of real world settings. The Practice session will explore how we can ensure that the evidence available informs practice. It will critically examine the extent to which current approaches are fit for that purpose.

PLENARY SESSION

1. *Making science speak to policy and practice:* An introduction to the difficulties that exist on the road from scientific evidence to practice, outlining current developments, challenges and opportunities.
Speaker: John Strang, National Addiction Centre, London, UK
2. *Understanding the evidence base:* The need to critically examine all of the studies and evidence on drug-related interventions as collected and analysed by the Cochrane Collaboration.
Speaker: Marina Davoli, Italian National Health Service, Department of Epidemiology, Rome, Italy
3. *Moving beyond experimentation – translating evidence into practice:* How to integrate findings from randomised controlled trials (RCT) with other types of evidence to further develop best practice in a range of interventions and settings.
Speaker: Henk Garretsen, Tilburg University, Tilburg, The Netherlands
4. *Doing it well:* A review of different best practice scenarios in prevention and treatment, looking at target groups, settings, methodologies and evaluation.
Speaker: Zili Sloboda, University of Akron, Akron, USA

10.30 – 11.00

COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.30

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Presentations will be structured around the central questions:

- What do we know about ‘what works’?
- In which intervention areas has progress been made recently and how can practice be further developed?
- How can we keep up-to-date with progress in intervention practice applied in real world settings?

A. Treatment and harm reduction, needs for more tailored interventions

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair: Annette Verster, World Health Organization (WHO)

Rapporteur: Linda Montanari, EMCDDA

TOPICS:

1. *Treatment systems — a maze for users*
Speaker: Brian Rush, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada
2. *Heroin prescription — new responses for the hard to treat*
Speaker: Christian Haasen, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
3. *Addressing psychosocial needs*
Speaker: Marta Torrens, Municipal Institute of Medical Investigation (IMIM), Hospital del Mar, Barcelona, Spain
4. *Meeting different needs — treatment targeted at specific groups*
Speaker: Gabriele Fischer, Medical University, Vienna, Austria

B. From prevention to treatment — finding the right setting for the right group

Room: Auditorium III

Chair: Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Rapporteur: Gregor Burkhardt, EMCDDA

TOPICS:

1. *Indicated prevention — targeting those most at risk*
Speaker: Jörg Fegert, Ulm University Hospital, Ulm, Germany
2. *Prevention in nightlife settings — intervening early by staying up late*
Speaker: Amador Calafat, European Institute of Studies on Prevention (IREFREA), Palma de Mallorca, Spain
3. *Targeting mental health — working in and with the families*
Speaker: Ana Teixeira de Melo, Doctoral scholar of the Foundation for Science and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
4. *Internet-based interventions — messages that click*
Speaker: Peter Tossman, Delphi Society for Research, Berlin, Germany

C. Interventions related to criminal justice and drug supply

Room: Auditorium IV

Chair: Brice De Ruyver, University of Ghent, Belgium

Rapporteur: Brendan Hughes, EMCDDA

TOPICS:

1. *Gaps in the knowledge-base — evidence in the criminal justice system and its implementation in practice*
Speaker: Krzysztof Krajewski, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland
2. *Treatment and harm reduction in prison and continuity of care*
Speaker: Caren Weilandt, Scientific Institute of the German Medical Association (WIAD), Bonn, Germany
3. *Alternatives to imprisonment — scope and evidence*
Speaker: Alex Stevens, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK
4. *Supply reduction — how to define it and how it could be monitored*
Speaker: Paul Turnbull, Institute for Criminal Policy, School of Law, King's College London, UK

12.30 – 14.00 | **LUNCH**

14.00 – 15.30

PLENARY THEMATIC SESSION III: TRENDS

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair: Franz Pietsch, Federal Ministry of Health and Women, Vienna, Austria

Rapporteur: Julián Vicente, EMCDDA

Monitoring a fast-moving, complex phenomenon

OVERVIEW

The European drug problem today differs considerably from the situation in the early 1990s, when the EMCDDA began its work. The problem of heroin remains, but polydrug use, cocaine and cannabis play a different role than they did before. New psychoactive substances present an additional challenge, as does the misuse of prescription medicines. In addition, drug availability has changed considerably through geopolitical and other influences. The Internet has impacted on both the availability of drugs and on methods of information collection and dissemination. Europe's drug monitoring capacity has developed considerably but now needs to provide a window on a faster moving and more diverse phenomenon — this is the challenge that the Trends session will address.

1. *The Reitox experience — lessons learned in developing a network of national focal points and challenges for the future.* The Reitox network provides a unique example of a regional data-collection system gathering comparable and standardised national information on the drug situation in 30 – shortly to become 35 – countries, building on national and supra-national resources and commonly agreed commitments.
Speakers: Alan Lodwick, Head of the UK national focal point (NFP) and Reitox Spokesperson and Viktor Mravcik, Head of the Czech Republic NFP
2. *What can Europe learn from the US experience of policy-related drugs monitoring?*
The United States have a long tradition of monitoring and research. The presentation will allow a reflection on how far US ideas could be adapted and used for European needs.
Speaker: Terry Zobeck, The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Washington D.C., USA
3. *What can Europe learn from the Australian experience of policy-related drugs monitoring?* Australia is a global player in drug research and can offer ideas and experiences to be used in Europe to further develop concepts and approaches.
Speaker: Wayne Hall, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
4. *The missing link — how do we include qualitative information in monitoring systems?* While the bulk of research and monitoring is relying on quantitative information, qualitative research often offers valuable insight into new developments. Methodologies and results will be discussed here.
Speaker: Dirk Korf, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

15.30 – 16.00

COFFEE BREAK

16.00 – 17.30

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Presentations will be structured around the central questions:

- Europe's drugs problem has evolved — how do we keep updated?
- How can monitoring systems remain policy-relevant and sensitive to emerging trends?
- How can we meet the challenges of monitoring a fast-moving and complex phenomenon?

A. Understanding the intricacies of Europe

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair: Franz Trautmann, Trimbos Institute, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Rapporteur: Deborah Olszewski, EMCDDA

TOPICS:

1. *ESPAD — are young Europeans getting more alike?*
Speaker: Björn Hibell, Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAN), Stockholm, Sweden
2. *Keeping on target — the need for more rapid and policy-relevant reporting*
Speaker: Jane Mounteney, Bergen Clinics, Bergen, Norway
3. *Blurred lines — prescription, over-the-counter and in-the-post medicinal products*
Speaker: Tim Pfeiffer-Gerschel, Institute for Therapy Research (IFT), Munich, Germany
4. *New drugs coming our way — what are they and how do we detect them?*
Speaker: Les King, former head of the drugs intelligence unit, Forensic Science Service, and member of the Home Office Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), Basingstoke, UK

B. Drug problems and consequences

Room: Auditorium III

Chair: Andrea Ammon, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Rapporteur: Lucas Wiessing, EMCDDA

TOPICS:

1. *HIV and HCV, TB and other drug-related infections — the way forward*
Speaker: Mirjam Kretzschmar, Centre for Infectious Disease Control, Bilthoven, The Netherlands
2. *Monitoring drug-related overdose and mortality in Europe*
Speaker: Eva Keller, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary
3. *Problem cannabis use — what is it and how to assess it?*
Speaker: François Beck, National Institute for Prevention and Health Education, Saint Denis, France
4. *Monitoring drug emergencies — what does it tell us?*
Speaker: Paul Dargan, National Health Service Foundation Trust (NHS), Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, London, UK

C. Trafficking routes and markets

Room: Auditorium IV

Chair: Robert Hauschild, Europol

Rapporteur: Laurent Laniel, EMCDDA

TOPICS:

1. *Mapping the changing European cannabis market place*
Speaker: Jean-Michel Costes, French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT), Saint-Denis, France
2. *Assessing price and purity — cocaine as a case study*
Speaker: Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, RAND Drug Policy Research Centre, Santa Monica, USA
3. *Amphetamines — trends in stimulant production and use in Europe*
Speaker: Tomáš Zabranský, Center of Addictology at the Psychiatric Clinic, 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
4. *What's happening to heroin? Methodological challenges in understanding trends in heroin production and supply*
Speaker: Thomas Pietschmann, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

09.00 – 10.30

PLENARY THEMATIC SESSION IV: HORIZONS

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair: Fernando Rodriguez de Fonseca, Fundación Imabis, Hospital University Carlos Haya, Malaga, Spain

Rapporteur: Anna Gyarmathy, EMCDDA

Arising issues

OVERVIEW

The world of science is constantly evolving, as are patterns of drug use and communication structures. New scientific findings deepen our understanding of the mechanisms behind drug use and drug addiction. New methodologies make us know more about human behaviour and analyse our findings better. This session will highlight recent developments and outline information needs and perspectives for the future, including ethical issues.

PRESENTATIONS

1. *Drug use and addiction — new scientific findings:* Developments in biomedicine, genetic and brain research will make the mechanisms of addiction better understood and eventually propose new methods of prevention and treatment. What are the information implications in terms of monitoring and policy?
Speaker: Jean-Pol Tassin, Collège de France, Paris, France
2. *Emerging research needs:* Highlights from the European Commission study 'A comparative analysis of research in the field of illicit drugs in the EU', updating the current state of European drug-related research and analysing research gaps and needs. How can research feed into policy? What are the implications for monitoring?
Speaker: Gerhard Bühringer, Institute for Therapy Research (IFT), Munich, and Technical University of Dresden, Dresden, Germany
3. *Looking out from the EMCDDA — regional systems in a global perspective:* The widening scope of Europe will make it necessary to understand our neighbours' drugs situation in terms of use, production, and trafficking. How do we achieve a wider vision?
Speaker: Pavel Bém, Mayor of Prague, former Czech National Drug Coordinator, Prague, Czech Republic
4. *Monitoring in the technological age:* Internet is a medium for information exchange of hitherto unknown dimensions for drug users, producers, traffickers, professionals, researchers, and policymakers alike. Similarly, new technological advances mean that drug use can be detected with increasing precision by analysing wastewater. Which possibilities and dangers arise from such new monitoring technologies and what are the pitfalls?
Speaker: John Ramsey, St George's Hospital Medical School, London, UK

10.30 – 11.00

COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.00

WRAP-UP SESSION: TAKING FORWARD THE FINDINGS

Rooms: Auditoria VI and VII

Chair: Ralf Löfstedt, Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden

1. *Learning from the past to plan for the future:* How is the drug situation evolving in Europe? How will it look in 15 years from now? Looking at past experience, what can we predict will happen and what challenges will we face? What research is needed to help develop appropriate policies?
Speaker: Virginia Berridge, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
2. *Wrap-up presentation:* What has the EMCDDA learnt?
Speakers: Paul Griffiths and Roland Simon, EMCDDA
3. *Raising the bar – meeting Europe's future challenges*
Speaker: Michael Farrell, Chair of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, National Addiction Centre, Kings College London, UK

12.10 – 13.00

CLOSING SESSION

Chair and final address: Wolfgang Götz, EMCDDA Director

CLOSING ADDRESSES:

- **Carel Edwards**, Head of Unit at the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission
- **Mariano Simancas**, Deputy Director, Europol
- **Manuel Pizarro**, Secretary of State for Health, Portugal



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OVERVIEW

Wednesday 6 May 2009

12.00 – 14.00	Registration and welcome lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Opening session
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 18.00	Plenary thematic session I: Policy Information needs for policy – implications for monitoring and science
19.00 – 21.00	Social programme: cocktail

Thursday 7 May 2009

09.00 – 10.30	Plenary thematic session II: Practice Making the link between science and practice
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	Parallel sessions – Practice
Parallel session A	Treatment and harm reduction, needs for more tailored interventions
Parallel session B	From prevention to treatment – finding the right setting for the right group
Parallel session C	Interventions related to criminal justice and drug supply
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Plenary thematic session III: Trends Monitoring a fast-moving, complex phenomenon
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	Parallel sessions – Trends
Parallel session A	Understanding the intricacies of Europe
Parallel session B	Drug problems and consequences
Parallel session C	Trafficking routes and markets

Friday 8 May 2009

09.00 – 10.30	Plenary thematic session IV: Horizons Arising issues
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.00	Wrap-up session – Taking forward the findings
12.10 – 13.00	Closing session
13.15	Press briefing
16.00 – 18.00	Social programme: cruise

