



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

European Web Survey on Drugs: patterns of use

Project Overview

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GPS 2016 Expert meeting.



Aims & objectives

- 1. Develop and test potential of web survey tool**
 - Feasibility for NFPs and EMCDDA
 - Recruitment strategies
- 2. Validity & reliability study – mainly CZ**
- 3. Collect data on amounts of drugs used to improve market size estimates**
- 4. Consider possible future applications**



Basic approach for pilot

- Shorter version of the questionnaire used by Trimbos/RAND Europe/ICPR for Further Insights study
- Focus on frequency and amounts used for cannabis, cocaine, MDMA, amphetamines
- Eligibility criteria = age 18+ and used one of these drugs in past year
- Translation and sampling strategy development undertaken by NFPs with guidance documents from EMCDDA
- Survey hosted by EMCDDA using Limesurvey
- Cleaning programmes & basic derived variables developed at EMCDDA for comparability
- Participant countries to get own datasets & participate in cross-national analysis



Countries involved in pilot & state of play

Country	Stage	Approximate sample achieved to date			
		Cannabis	Cocaine	MDMA	Amphetamines
Czech Republic*	Completed	468 (513)	145 (155)	204 (223)	115 (126)
Croatia	Completed	3722 (3865)	882 (921)	1425 (1475)	1064 (1096)
France	Completed	2200 (2333)	853 (919)	1098 (1171)	634 (687)
Switzerland**	Completed	1025 (1205)	370 (432)	424 (562)	292 (400)
The Netherlands	On-going	364 (395)	254 (270)	416 (447)	262 (285)
United Kingdom	On-going	248 (317)	129 (148)	158 (185)	35 (44)

Note: Further cleaning to be done which will reduce the sample sizes a bit more.

* Czech Republic also did follow-up surveys on sample for test-retest reliability not included here.

** Switzerland also included a module on heroin and responses to this not included here.



Some emerging findings

- Approach looks v. promising – quick & relatively low cost
- Good collaborative working – interest & enthusiasm
- Acceptable to users – positive comments + open to follow-up
- Value of European branding & central web page
- Current recruitment strategies => recreational users
- Trade-offs eg wide reach vs ineligible participants
- Data cleaning takes a lot of time – more attention to routing and range controls needed
- Importance of clarity about what these surveys can & can't tell us – who we are reaching.
- The power of Facebook!



Likely next steps

Patterns of use survey

- **Analysis & reporting**
 - EMCDDA reports
 - academic papers
- **Modify questionnaire based on lessons learned**
- **Amend guidance documents**
- **Second round of countries?**

Further developments

- **Additional modules**
 - Availability, price & purity?
 - Heroin module
- **Targeting more problematic users**



And now for the NFP perspective ...

Some possible issues for discussion

The European web survey as a service to NFPs

- How would it be most useful to NFPs, eg NFP vs EMCDDA roles
- Can pilot participant countries suggest improvements?
- Are other countries interested in participating in Round 2 of the patterns of use study?
- What are the challenges or barriers to participation in such a survey?
- What other topics might be addressed in this way?






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Thank you

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