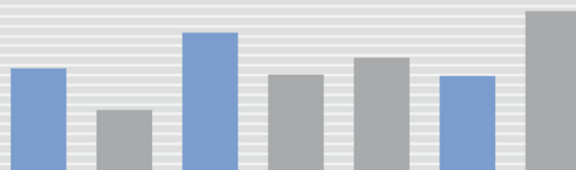




Fact sheet

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon



EMCDDA SHOWCASES WORK IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC HEALTH

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety to visit EMCDDA

(14.10.2016, LISBON) **Vytienis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety**, will visit the **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** this afternoon for an update on the agency's work in the area of public health ⁽¹⁾.

The Commissioner is in Lisbon for the final conference of the **Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA)** project, where he will speak at the closing session along with **Adalberto Campos Fernandes, Portuguese Minister of Health** and **João Goulão, Portuguese National Drug Coordinator** ⁽²⁾.

The RARHA project, launched at the **EMCDDA** in January 2014, is a three-year initiative, funded by the European Union under the second EU Health Programme ⁽³⁾. Led by the **Portuguese General-Directorate for Intervention and Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD)**, it was conceived to mobilise countries to develop common approaches in line with the EU alcohol strategy. The **EMCDDA** is among RARHA's collaborating partners and also a member of its Advisory Board.

During the visit to the **EMCDDA**, the Commissioner will discuss, with the Director and staff, the issue of polydrug use in Europe, including the findings from the latest report from the **European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)**. He will also be presented with the agency's latest work in the area of drug-related infectious diseases, in particular hepatitis C ⁽⁴⁾.

Monitoring the harms related to new drugs in Europe, via the EU Early Warning System (EWS) on new psychoactive substances (NPS), will also be covered. These harms vary in nature and can be serious, including acute poisonings and deaths. In 2014 and 2015, the **EMCDDA** issued 33 public health-related alerts to the Member States regarding the use of NPS ⁽⁵⁾.

Notes

⁽¹⁾ For more on Commissioner Andriukaitis and his visit, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/andriukaitis_en

http://ec.europa.eu/portugal/news_pt | http://ec.europa.eu/portugal/news/comiss%C3%A1rio-andriukaitis-inaugura-o-laborat%C3%B3rio-nacional-de-refer%C3%A2ncia-de-sa%C3%BAde-animal_pt

⁽²⁾ The project aimed to contribute to the health and wellbeing of EU citizens and to reduce costs to health systems and the wider economy. It advised on the interaction of alcohol and drug use in Europe and on related best practice and interventions. For more, see www.rarha.eu/Pages/default.aspx

⁽³⁾ The EMCDDA hosted the project launch: emcdda.europa.eu/news/2014/sicad-rarha-conference

⁽⁴⁾ emcdda.europa.eu/news/2016/10/espada-report | emcdda.europa.eu/news/2016/8/hepatitis-c-among-drug-users-in-europe

⁽⁵⁾ emcdda.europa.eu/publications/implementation-reports/2014 | emcdda.europa.eu/publications/implementation-reports/2015 | emcdda.europa.eu/news/2016/7/nps-responses