Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users – annual expert meeting 2016

Introduction - setting the scene

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Federica Mathis, Eleni Kalamara, Julian Vicente, Dagmar Hedrich, Roland Simon

DRD annual expert meeting - Lisbon, 29-30 September 2016
Welcome to all experts, in particular the new nominated national experts, the invited experts and the non-EU experts

- Folders - Documents

- Presentations (from 16 countries!)
- “List of presence” - Premises – security – logistics
Content of this presentation

- Objectives
- Topics covered
- Overview of your ‘2016 national updates’
- EMCDDA information on projects and products
- Questions to the national experts
1 - Objectives

- Strengthen the network
- Share and discuss new data and analysis, policy developments, research
- Some technical work around the indicator
- Produce useful outputs: presentations, report on the web pages, contribution to other products
2 – Topics

- Two ‘2016 DRD projects’
- Preliminary findings for discussion
- Responses to DRD
- What is in place? national updates, national inquiries and policy developments
- ICD coding, GMR/SR data flow, implications for the protocol
- Opioids/Medicine/tramadol – is there a problem?
- Implementation of the DRD key indicator
- strengths, weaknesses, utility of the assessment
- 2015 figures: some increases? Various contexts…
- Burden of disease, cohorts - overall mortality
- Ageing, liver related mortality, measure of the protective effect of treatment; prison post release mortality
3 - New data from standard reporting and from the ‘DRD updates’
Several recent increases in OD deaths

Data reported in september 2016 - still under validation and confirmation
Some recent increases

Lithuania – Evelina Pridotkiene

The Netherlands - Guus Crust
Several reports of recently increasing DRD

Lithuania – Evelina Pridotkiene

The Netherlands - Guus Crust

England and Wales. 1201 heroin and 2300 Drug misuse - ONS – Martin White
Some more

Turkey – Bulent Sam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number with opiates (+ any drug)</th>
<th>Number with any drug without opiates</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>14</td>
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Legend:
- Blue bar: Number with opiates (+ any drug)
- Red bar: Number with any drug without opiates
Some more

Turkey – Bulent Sam

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Sweden – Hakan Leifman

Swedish-GMR: 600
EMCDDA-GMR: 600
Toxreg: 600
Turkey – Bulent Sam

- Portugal: increase from both sources (but changes/improvements in the systems)

- Ireland: increase in heroin deaths

- Czech republic: ’a significant almost twofold increase ..in fatal poisoning by opioids – from 14 cases in 2014 to 27 cases in 2015. Problem use of opioid analgesics
Some more

Turkey – Bulent Sam

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For discussion with the national experts

Sweden – Hakan Leifman

Swedish-GMR  
EMCDDA-GMR  
Toxreg
### Other ‘DRD updates’

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Updates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>Data from special register are available again after a 2 years gap. National register on forensic autopsies operational since 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RO</td>
<td>Clear underreporting according to the experts. Need of training for forensic specialists and of legal framework.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Ageing phenomenon. Limitations of both sources GMR and SR with regards to the substances involved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Medical certificate online completed throughout the country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>34% of deaths related to heroin (increasing during past 2 years). New injection room about to open in Bergen – now in Oslo only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td>Capture-recapture planned to estimate IDU prevalence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<td>FI</td>
<td>New opioid causing 3 deaths U-47700</td>
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<td>FR</td>
<td>Special registers show OST implicated in 55% of overdose deaths and heroin in 26%. Vital status of cohort study re checked in Dec 2015. Paris and Strasbourg drug consumption room opening this autumn</td>
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<td>HU</td>
<td>Synthetic cannabinoids seem on the rise</td>
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<td>IE</td>
<td>Safe injection rooms - legislation expected soon</td>
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<tr>
<td>LV</td>
<td>Increase in Fentanyl seizures. Increase in emergency calls</td>
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<tr>
<td>LT</td>
<td>Increase from 87 cases in 2014 to 115 in 2015. 70% related to opioids</td>
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<tr>
<td>LU</td>
<td>Emergence of NPS injection in various risk groups. Second consumption room planned in 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>New cohort in preparation</td>
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| SP   | Most common profile ‘ a man over 40, single with no prior pathology , who has recently used some psychoactive substances and shows no sign of suicide’  
Cohort studies opioids and cocaine |
| TR   | Increase from 497 cases in 2014 to 590 in 2015. Heroin, ecstasy, synthetic cannabinoids |
| UK   | Large increase in OD in Scotland in 2015 mainly driven by increasing opioids overdoses particularly from heroin although there are also increases across other substances group. More cohorts confirming that treatment was highly protective against overdose risk |
Comments and discussion
On-going work

- Full assessment of the Key indicators in 2015
- Emergency ‘indicator’
- An expert meeting in April 2016 and a publication ‘EMCDDA Rapid Communication’ August 2016
- Drug-related infectious diseases
  - *Insights* on hepatitis C among PWID July 2016
- Naloxone *Insights*
- Feed back to the focal points on the workbooks
- 2 large DRD projects
  - 7 countries on ‘high or increasing’ OD mortality
  - 10 countries on ICD coding and data flow between OD sources
On monitoring acute drug toxicity

More information if needed – for discussion
Acute drug toxicity presentations at hospital emergency departments: an other tool in our EU ‘drug monitoring’ tool box

- New webpage in 2015, with references to recent work (Euro-DEN mainly) but also previous work of the EMCDDA, the National Focal points and national experts

- Lisbon Addiction 2015 - Euro-DEN symposium

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/emergencies
In term of monitoring national data (trends and volumes for ‘main’ drugs’), several countries report data (cf review on cocaine emergencies)….. Some potential to follow trends and cross-check other indicators, but **many limitations** to the data (coding issues++, underestimation++)
The Euro-DEN network was established in 2013 as a European Commission DG Justice funded project.

Aim: improve knowledge at a European level on acute established illicit/recreational drug and new psychoactive substance (NPS) toxicity.

The project has continued as the ‘Euro-DEN Plus’ project since the European Commission funding ended in April 2015.

Euro-DEN Plus 20 sentinel sites in 14 countries
Some questions to the network - for discussion

- Timing of the DRD meeting
- Workbooks
- Country profiles
- Others …..
More on the Emergency/Euro-DEN projects

Highlights of the report
Results

10 956 presentations to the 16 original sentinel Euro-DEN Plus centres over the two-year period October 2013 to September 2015

Results - centres

- Oslo and London centres ‘largest’ contributors
- Populations served are diverse – as reflected in the drugs identified (heroin in Oslo, Dublin…GHB in London depending on catchment area)

--> added value of the sentinel network approach
Results - demographics

76.0 % males
median (inter-quartile range (IQR)) age 31 (24–39)
Results – main substances involved in drug acute toxicity presentations

Opioids and heroin involved in 2,604 (24%) of the presentations
Cocaine and cannabis respectively, 1,806 (16%) and 1,741 (16%)
45% of the presentations were discharged from hospital within four hours of their presentation to the emergency department. Only 10.6% of presentations had a hospital stay of more than 24 hours.

Cases with acute drug toxicity can constitute a burden on emergency health services. Agitation and aggression are common features, and presentations are more common at weekends, late evenings or night.
Thank you!

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Julian Vicente, Dagmar Hedrich, Eleni Kalamara, Federica Mathis, Roland Simon

DRD Key Indicator annual expert meeting