Drug-related deaths (DRD) and mortality among drug users
EMCDDA key indicator annual expert meeting

18–20 September 2017
EMCDDA, Lisbon
Drug-related deaths (DRD) and mortality among drug users

On 18-20 September 2017, the EMCDDA will bring together more than fifty European and international experts for a meeting on the key epidemiological indicator Drug-related deaths (DRD). The meeting provides a space for sharing and discussing new national and European data and studies in the field of drug-related deaths and mortality, as well as on responses to prevent drug-related deaths.

It also aims to facilitate technical work around the collection and analysis of the different components of this indicator: overdose and toxicological information from special mortality registers; data from the general mortality registers; findings from mortality cohort studies. There will be a range of presentations from EU Member States and other countries, as well as from projects and institutions.

Also see our Statistical Bulletin website (under overdose deaths/methodology/overall situation and trends), where we present detailed data on current situation and trends as well as methodology, and the webpage dedicated to this meeting.

Venue: Conference centre

Monday 18 September 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 1: Setting the scene of DRD monitoring: achievements, challenges ahead and most recent data</th>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td><strong>Opening note:</strong> Alexis Goosdeel, Director of the EMCDDA</td>
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<td><strong>Chairs:</strong> Isabelle Giraudon and Suzi Lyons</td>
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<td><strong>Objectives:</strong> to open the meeting, remind what has been achieved since last meeting, to give an overview of what will be covered this year, and of the next steps and priorities. To share news and introduce the different sessions of the meeting</td>
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<td>**Background, objectives and expected outcomes of the event. Review of the most recent data and trends reported through the ‘2017 DRD national update’ — Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA</td>
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<td><strong>Opioid overdose deaths in relation to prior non-fatal overdoses that required hospitalisation — Mateja Jandl, Slovenia</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Contextualising DRD in a multi-indicator perspective – lessons learnt from 7 countries, implications and thoughts for our monitoring — Tim Millar, United Kingdom</strong></td>
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<td>• DRD and ‘high-risk opioid users’ cross-analysis. Findings of a PDU web-seminar — Thomas Seyler, EMCDDA</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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<td>15.45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 2: Adjust and strengthen reporting of general mortality register (GMR data)</th>
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<tr>
<td>16.15</td>
<td><strong>Chairs:</strong> Julian Vicente and Roberta Crialesi</td>
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<td><strong>Objectives GMR:</strong> to discuss ICD-10 coding practices, the new priority list, and its implications with regards to revising the current DRD protocol. Key indicator: to announce the forthcoming key indicator assessment (process, involvement of the DRD experts, outcome and utility). Thematic presentations on cannabis and cocaine-related deaths</td>
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<td><strong>ICD10 updates implementation and coding practices in Italy for DRD — Roberta Crialesi, Italy</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Brief update:</strong></td>
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<td>• ICD-10 new priority list to select most dangerous drugs in case of combined poisoning: implications and practicalities for DRD monitoring — Gleb Denissov, Estonia</td>
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<td>• Changes in the extraction algorithm from the GMR — Guus Cruts, the Netherlands</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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<td>• Brief update on the ‘Assessment of the implementation of the 5 Key Epidemiological Indicators’ — EMCDDA</td>
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<td><strong>First two DRD cases with cannabis involvement — Mateja Jandl, Slovenia</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cocaine-related deaths in England — an analysis of drug treatment, prevalence and drug-related deaths data — Martin White, United Kingdom</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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## Tuesday 19 September 2017

### 09.00  
**Session 3: Responses to prevent DRD**  
**Chairs:** Dagmar Hedrich and Ilonka Horvath  
**Objectives:** To review recent developments regarding interventions to prevent drug-related deaths

**Supervised drug consumption facilities**  
H17: a drug consumption room in Copenhagen — Henrik Thiesen, HealthTeam for Homeless, Denmark  
Argos, the drug consumption room in Strasbourg, first results — Danièle Bader, Association Ithaque, France

**Discussion**

**Take-home naloxone programmes**  
Update on EMCDDA consultant project: Development of a quick reference guide on how to set up take-home naloxone programmes — consultant: Ilonka Horvath, Austrian Focal Point  
Take-home naloxone programmes in the United States — Jan Losby CDC, USA

**Moderated panel discussion:** News, updates and current issues take-home naloxone, incl. on challenges of TH naloxone programmes in an era of synthetic opioids  
Intranasal naloxone: Short updates from take-home naloxone projects in Estonia, Norway, France, Denmark

**Discussion**

### 10.45  
**Coffee break**

### 11.15  
**Session 4: Public health decisions and links with DRD and harm — countries’ experiences**  
**Chairs:** Marica Ferri and Elena Alvarez  
**Objectives:** To discuss various developments in policy and situation

The role of the safe consumption room in Oslo and the opening hours on patterns of ambulance call-outs for overdose — Thomas Clausen, Norway  
National plan 2017–20 to reduce DRD: joint work of the National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW) and Public Health Agency. Process and outcome — Mimmi Eriksson Tinghog and Charlotta Rehnman Wigstad, Sweden

**Thematic presentations**  
- **Trends in injector deaths in Ireland as recorded by the national drug-related deaths index, 1998–2014** — Suzi Lyons, Ireland  
- **Updates of drug vaccines** — Chara Spiliopoulou, Greece

### 13.00  
**Lunch**

### 14.00  
**Session 5: Forensic toxicology practices — special mortality registers**  
**Chairs:** João Matias and Pirkko Kriikku  
**Objectives:** To discuss the findings of the review of practices of post mortem toxicology of DRD cases in Europe and to discuss the implications for our DRD monitoring

Update on EMCDDA consultant project coordinated by Axel Heinemann, Germany  
- Scoping study on national reference documents which address DRD toxicology investigation  
- Preliminary findings of the European survey to forensic toxicologists

**Discussion**  
Heroin and OST-related deaths, from a forensic toxicology perspective — Michel Mallaret, France  
DRD trends in Portugal: updates from forensic toxicology services — Mário Dias, Portugal

**Discussion**

### 15.45  
**Coffee break**
### 16.15 Session 6: Opioids related deaths in the USA and in Europe

**Chairs:** Roumen Sedefov and Mateja Jandl  
**Objectives:** to discuss some national recent developments, in the light of the situation in the USA and the insights from the Early Warning System on synthetic opioids

**Opioid Overdose Epidemic in the United States — Jan Losby, CDC, USA**

**Brief updates**
- Oxycodone related treatments and health consequences – future steps — Ioanna Yiasemi, Cyprus
- Tramadol related deaths — Josef Sidlo, Slovakia
- U-47700 deaths — Pirkko Kriikku, Finland

**New synthetic opioids in Europe: perspective from the EU Early Warning System — Rita Jorge, EMCDDA**
- Carfentanil deaths — Helgi Danielsson, EMCDDA

**Discussion**

**Conclusions of the ‘DRD meeting’** and brief introduction to the joint session on Wednesday morning with the TDI expert network — Isabelle Giraudon and Linda Montanari

### 19.00 Dinner at restaurant ‘Populi’ in Lisbon

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<th><strong>Wednesday 20 September 2017</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Joint DRD-TDI networks</strong></td>
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<th><strong>09.30</strong></th>
<th><strong>Session 7: Mortality cohorts among high-risk drug users – key role of treatment data</strong></th>
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| **Chairs:** Julian Vicente and Christophe Palle  
**Objective:** to discuss example of cohort studies and to reflect on how, in practice, collaboration with treatment centres and use of treatment data, can contribute to assess the whole health impact of high-risk forms of drug use; to reflect on identifying data capable of supporting linkage  
**Overview of the topic and background — Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA**  
**The performance of a national OMT program with time. Are the benefits from the program in terms of mortality reduction stable or changing during a period from 1997–2009? — Thomas Clausen, Norway**  
**Linkage study TDI and mortality registers: main findings, practicalities, lessons learnt, capacity building opportunities — Tim Millar, United Kingdom**  
**Brief tour de table — other mortality cohorts**  
**Discussion** |

| **11.00** | **Coffee break** |

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<th><strong>11.30</strong></th>
<th><strong>Session 8: Ageing high-risk drug users</strong></th>
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| **Chairs:** Alessandro Pirona and Catherine Crawford  
**Objective:** The joint session is dedicated to the ageing cohorts of high risk drug users in and out of treatment and the implications for practice and policy at national and European level  
**Predicting size of treatment population by 2020 — Martin White, United Kingdom**  
Will Kuijpers and Jeroen Wisselink, The Netherlands  
Alexander Grabenhofer-Eggerth, Austria  
Domingos Duran, Portugal  
Suzi Lyons, Ireland |

| **13.00** | **Lunch break** |