

## October–December 2015

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## Lisbon Addictions 2015 — round-up



Goulão: 'Now is a unique moment to establish a leading international forum on addictions.'

'Addiction science in Europe is of growing policy relevance, becoming more mature in respect to capacity and quality and more influential in respect to its findings. Despite this, no multidisciplinary forum has existed until now to allow scientists working in the addictions area to share knowledge, to network and to present their latest findings...Now is a unique moment to establish a leading international forum on addictions'.

These were the words of João Goulão, Director of the Portuguese General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD), at the opening of the first European

conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies — Lisbon Addictions 2015 — held in the Portuguese capital from 23–25 September <sup>(1)</sup>. Hosted by SICAD, the event was held in collaboration with: the scientific journal *Addiction*; the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors; and the EMCDDA.

State Secretary to the Portuguese Ministry of Health, Fernando Leal Da Costa, officially opened the conference. The European Commission was represented by Floriana Sipala (DG HOME) and Philippe Roux (DG SANTE).

In his opening speech, EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz declared: 'Lisbon Addictions is a milestone for the European and international scientific community in the substance use and addiction field. In Europe, this is the first time that such a large multidisciplinary and cross-cutting event in this field has been organised and the EMCDDA is proud to be one of the main partners associated with making this possible'.

Showcasing the latest developments in addiction science, the conference

explored the topics of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling and other addictive behaviours. Researchers, practitioners and policy experts participated from 58 countries. This edition of *Drugnet Europe* presents some of the conference highlights (see pp. 2–3).

Addressing the closing session, EMCDDA Scientific Director Paul Griffiths said: 'This conference has exposed us to the cutting-edge of new science occurring across the addictions field and has enabled us to forge new relationships from which, undoubtedly, many future collaborations will be born'.

In his closing address, Deputy Director of SICAD Manuel Cardoso called for a 'broad, global and integrated perspective on problems and responses in the field of addictive behaviours and dependencies'. He ended announcing the second European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies, to be held in Lisbon in 2017.

<sup>(1)</sup> For more, see [www.lisbonaddictions.eu](http://www.lisbonaddictions.eu) — [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApQwllCfNE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApQwllCfNE)

## New Director appointed for the EMCDDA

Alexis Goosdeel (Belgium) has been selected to become the new Director of the EMCDDA, following a public recruitment procedure launched in January <sup>(1)</sup>. Meeting on 10 September, the agency's Management Board interviewed three candidates who had been short-listed for the post by the European Commission. Mr Goosdeel was elected by secret ballot during

the meeting by more than the required two-thirds majority.

Before being formally appointed by the Board on 14 October for a five-year term, Mr Goosdeel held an exchange of views with the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE) on 22 September and outlined his vision for the agency.

Mr Goosdeel joined the EMCDDA in 1999 and, since 2005, has headed its Reitox and international relations unit. He will take up the post on 1 January 2016, succeeding Wolfgang Götz (Germany), who has headed the agency since 1 May 2005.

<sup>(1)</sup> For more, see news release No 6/2015 at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/6/new-director](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/6/new-director)

# LISBON ADDICTIONS 2015

## CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

### Keynotes, presentations and posters



Around 80 e-posters are now available on the Lisbon Addictions 2015 website.

Over 350 keynote speeches, oral presentations and posters provided participants at Lisbon Addictions 2015 with a comprehensive overview of the main issues on the research agenda in the addictions field today. A selection of these is now available on the conference website <sup>(1)</sup>.

Day 1 of the conference focused on 'Addictions: a multidisciplinary perspective'. Related sessions explored a wide range of topics, including: the environment and context; gambling; smoking; measuring addictions; cannabis addiction; the cost and burden of addictions; criminal justice; treating addictions; targeting diversity; addiction and the family; recreational settings and addiction stakeholders.

Day 2 opened with the theme 'Translating research into policy and practice', exploring the issue from the perspective of: harm reduction; addiction therapy; drug-related deaths; prevention; policy shaping and prisons. A session on 'New frontiers in addiction research' followed, which examined: basic research; dynamics and change; complexity; methods and analysis; community perspectives; drug emergencies and publishing addiction science.

'Challenges of addiction in an interconnected world' provided the theme for Day 3 of the event. Here participants presented on: new psychoactive substances; youth and gender issues; semantics; ideology and evidence; digital health and virtual interventions.

With its broad approach and mix of addictions and disciplines, the conference programme was highly rated by participants. In a post-conference evaluation survey (see opposite), 88 % of respondents stated that the main reason for attending the event was the quality of the programme.

**Maria Moreira**

## CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

### Evaluation survey results

Lisbon Addictions 2015 reached its maximum capacity of 600 participants already three months ahead of its opening. The success of the conference, however, is not only reflected in this level of interest and uptake, but also in the satisfaction expressed by participants in a post-conference survey.

Over half of the conference participants responded to the online questionnaire and the results speak for themselves. A notable 86 % of respondents rated the 16 conference keynote speakers as 'excellent' or 'very good', while two-thirds of respondents rated the 200 oral presentations in this way. The over 100 rapid communications (posters) were also considered of high quality by the participants, half of the respondents rating them as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

Finally, over 80 % of respondents rated the 'overall impression' of the conference as 'excellent' or 'very good', explaining why 85 % said that they would recommend the event to others. The results of the evaluation survey suggest that the conference met the expectations of its audience. The follow-up Lisbon Addictions 2017 is already in the pipeline.

**Renate Hochwieser**

## CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

### Digital communication campaign

The EMCDDA conducted its first digital communication campaign during Lisbon Addictions 2015. As co-organiser of the event, the agency set up a package of interlinked channels, including a conference website, regular electronic newsletters, a Facebook events page, updates through LinkedIn and a dedicated Twitter account and related hashtag.

These responsive channels were used, both for the build-up to the conference, as well as during the event itself. In this way, the organisers were able to provide key information to participants travelling to Lisbon and also share the conference proceedings with those who had been unable to secure a place.

The Twitter account shared information live from all plenary and selected parallel sessions. It was also used extensively by participants and presenters alike to convey key messages from the research presented, set up meetings and network. In total, @LxAddictions15 generated the following positive results: a mailing list of 2 408 recipients (who received eight newsletters); 700 unique visits to the conference website during the event; around 3 000 visitors to the Facebook page on the first day; 55 subscriptions to the conference events page; over 300 uses of the hashtag; and around 375 tweets and retweets.

The conference Twitter account will be kept alive in preparation for Lisbon Addictions 2017. Start following now!

**Marie-Christine Ashby**

<sup>(1)</sup> For more, see [www.lisbonaddictions.eu](http://www.lisbonaddictions.eu)

## LISBON ADDICTIONS 2015

### SPONSORED SESSION

## EMCDDA face-to-face

Lisbon Addictions 2015 included a week-long array of satellite meetings and side-events as well as 10 sessions 'sponsored' by organisations to address specific themes. The EMCDDA organised three of these sessions, which are highlighted here.

'EMCDDA face-to-face' was the title of the first session on 23 September designed to showcase the work of the agency as it commemorates 20 years of monitoring the drug phenomenon in Europe. EMCDDA staff members were present at the event to highlight the key achievements of the agency's first two decades of activity and to describe current projects. This hands-on session included thematic corners where visitors could explore the agency's activities through interactive resources.

### SPONSORED SESSION

## Scaling up responses to HCV

'Scaling up responses to hepatitis C (HCV) among people who inject drugs (PWID) in Europe: what are the priorities?' was the title of a sponsored session co-organised by the EMCDDA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on 24 September. This session brought together drug specialists, user representatives, a hepatologist and staff members from the two agencies to discuss the challenges ahead in scaling up hepatitis C treatment among PWID.

Recent improvements in HCV therapeutic options have increased public awareness of the need to increase prevention responses (especially harm reduction), HCV diagnosis and access to treatment. In Europe, PWID are disproportionately affected with HCV (prevalence of up to 80 % in some countries) and there is evidence of ongoing transmission in some areas. Overall, harm reduction has grown, but responses are still insufficient and, in some countries, have even decreased.

Modelling studies illustrate the potential of combining opioid substitution treatment, needle and syringe provision and antiviral treatment to eradicate the disease. Monitoring also plays a central role in developing effective responses to tackle the epidemic, but there is a need to further improve routine surveillance and programme monitoring as well as to develop alternative epidemiological methods.

Clinicians from French prisons and staff from Portuguese low-threshold services stressed the importance, and feasibility, of enhanced testing and counselling, adapted to these settings and their specific client needs. Both reported challenges but also some success in treatment scale-up. Ahead of the session, the EMCDDA published an update from its drug-related infectious disease (DRID) network (see opposite) which looks at the challenges of increasing HCV treatments and presents national examples of best practice in this area.

Isabelle Giraudon (EMCDDA) and Erika Duffell (ECDC)

## Rapid communication



The EMCDDA released ahead of Lisbon Addictions 2015, an update from its expert network on drug-related infectious diseases (DRID). This Rapid communication covers the agency's work under the drug-related infectious diseases indicator as well as on responses in this area. The report includes highlights and new findings discussed during the network's

annual expert meeting, held in Lisbon from 15–16 June. Topics receiving particular attention include: scaling up HCV treatments; an update of the HIV situation in Europe; bacterial infections, including botulism outbreaks in Scotland and Norway; and changing patterns of injection in Europe and their implications for public health.

For more, see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/rapid/2015/drug-related-infectious-diseases-in-europe](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/rapid/2015/drug-related-infectious-diseases-in-europe) and [www.emcdda.europa.eu/expert-meetings/2015/drd-drid](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/expert-meetings/2015/drd-drid)

### SPONSORED SESSION

## Capacity building in research and programme implementation

On 23 September, the EMCDDA co-organised with the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) a session dedicated to 'Capacity building in research and programme implementation in the addictions: promoting synergies and sustainability'. The event provided the opportunity for participants to exchange views on how synergies could contribute to improved quality and sustainability of technical cooperation activities and a better transfer of knowledge.

The session showcased examples of capacity building in the field of drug monitoring. Speakers from NIDA and Virginia Commonwealth University (USA) described their investment in training future leaders in the field of addiction research, mainly thanks to US-government-funded exchange programmes. The EMCDDA reported on its achievements and challenges in developing national drug monitoring centres in non-EU countries. The representative of the Centre of Health Management of Moldova — which hosts such a centre — provided an overview of its achievements, despite limited resources. UNODC discussed opportunities and difficulties in implementing the EU drug monitoring model in Senegal and Nigeria.

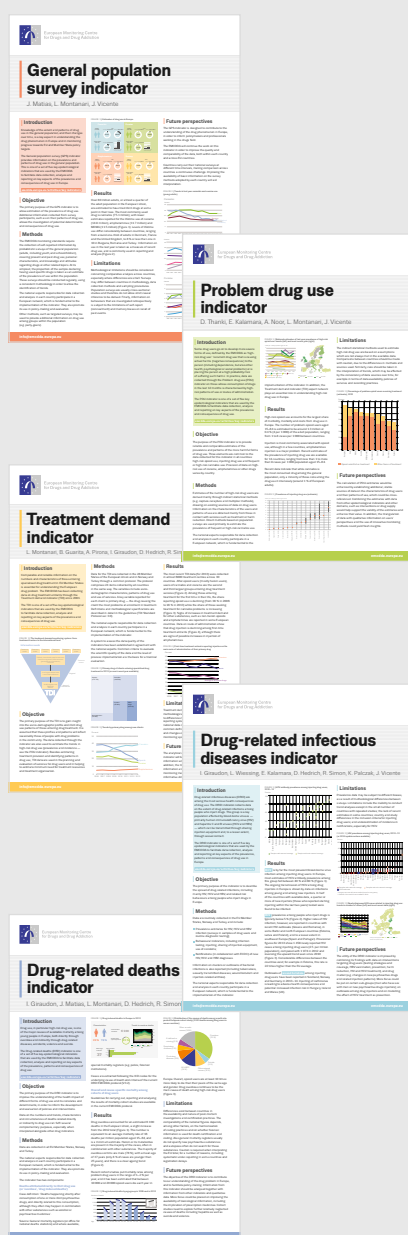
Online training programmes were seen to open up opportunities for combining the resources of leading international organisations and academia. The speakers concluded that there was room for closer coordination in capacity development activities in the addictions field in future.

Ilze Jekabsone, Cécile Martel, Frédéric Denecker, Sandrine Sleiman

## KEY INDICATORS

## New posters

To mark Lisbon Addictions 2015 and its 20 years of monitoring event, the EMCDDA released five new posters describing the objectives, methods, results, limitations and future perspectives of its key epidemiological indicators. The five indicators underpin the EMCDDA's reporting and analysis and allow EU countries to describe in a 'common language' the extent and effects of drug use and its consequences.



Downloadable from [www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/expert-meetings/2015/key-indicators-20-years#posters](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/expert-meetings/2015/key-indicators-20-years#posters)

For more, see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/key-indicators](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/key-indicators)

## FEATURE

## EMCDDA 20 years of monitoring conference

'Understanding the dynamics, nature and scale of drug use in Europe, including lessons learnt and challenges for the future', was the thrust of an EMCDDA technical conference held in Lisbon from 21–22 September (1). The event, organised ahead of Lisbon Addictions 2015, commemorated the agency's 20 years of monitoring and communicating evidence on drugs.

Over 180 experts from across the globe attended the event, including representatives of: the EMCDDA key indicator expert networks; the Reitox focal points; and other technical domains covered by the agency.



**While drug monitoring can deliver facts, interpretation is always needed to render these facts relevant for policy-making**

The event kicked off with examples of where monitoring had informed policy and practice. Portuguese National Drug Coordinator João Goulão described how monitoring information had been used to evaluate the country's drug policy, both internally (national and regional trends) and externally (comparing developments

with other EU countries). Head of the Spanish national focal point (NFP) Rosario Sendino offered insights into the way the NFP had contributed to decision-making on drugs by adapting its monitoring to a shifting drugs problem. Keynote speaker Dirk Korf, professor of criminology and member of EMCDDA Scientific Committee, presented the evolution of the drug situation over three decades, while the EMCDDA reflected on 20 years of monitoring European drug trends.

A common thread running through the conference was that the drug phenomenon — drug use and related problems, responses and policy — had not remained stable. Over two decades, the focus had moved in many countries from opioids to stimulants; from plant-based drugs, cultivated outside Europe, to home-grown and synthetic substances; from a youth phenomenon to one distributed over many age-groups; from a situation where legal and illicit drug worlds were split, to one where they overlap; and from street dealing to ordering drugs via the Internet.

The participants agreed that the drugs field was likely to remain dynamic and that monitoring tools would need to be regularly evaluated and adapted to ensure that Europe's monitoring system remains fit for purpose.

**Monitoring tools need to be regularly evaluated and adapted to ensure that Europe's monitoring system remains fit for purpose**

The packed agenda featured over 70 interventions and 11 workshops. Several speakers suggested that, while drug monitoring can deliver facts, interpretation is always needed to render these facts relevant for policy-making (requiring cross analysis of research findings and key-indicator and other data). Important

here was the EMCDDA's role as platform for communication between stakeholders.

Finally, social environments, social norms and conditions have changed over the last two decades, along with drug preferences and related risks. Communication today is heavily based on electronic media, making social networks an important factor not only in drug markets, but also in the provision of prevention and treatment.

The conference noted that one of the major challenges for the EMCDDA would be to continue to adapt itself to changing information needs and to develop complementary approaches in information collection, where possible and useful.

**Roland Simon and Julián Vicente**

(1) For more see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/expert-meetings/2015/key-indicators-20-years](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/expert-meetings/2015/key-indicators-20-years)



## INTERNATIONAL

## EMCDDA signs MoU with Georgian Ministry of Justice

The EMCDDA and Georgia are set to cooperate more closely on monitoring the drug phenomenon, following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 4 November in Tbilisi between the agency and the Georgian Ministry of Justice <sup>(1)</sup>. The signatories were EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz and the Georgian Minister of Justice Tea Tsulukiani.

The two bodies recognise that information on the drug phenomenon is an essential and indispensable instrument for drafting and implementing drug policies and for assessing the impact of actions to reduce problems originating from drug use and trafficking.

The MoU provides for the: exchange of technical expertise and knowledge between the two institutions; co-sponsoring of technical meetings; and the pooling of human and financial resources to launch joint programmes. The agreement will be implemented through a joint work programme to be updated every three years.

This is the fifth MoU to be signed between the EMCDDA and a country of the European Neighbourhood Policy area: agreements already exist with Armenia, Israel, Moldova and Ukraine.

**Cécile Martel**

<sup>(1)</sup> For more, see Fact sheet No 9/2015 at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/fs9/georgian-memorandum-of-understanding](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/fs9/georgian-memorandum-of-understanding)

## PARTNERS

## Testing the waters 2015

'Testing the waters 2015' was the title of the second international conference on wastewater analysis co-hosted by the EMCDDA in Ascona (Switzerland) from 11–15 October <sup>(1)</sup>. The event was organised by the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag), in association with the EU-funded SEWPROF project and the Europe-wide sewage analysis CORE group, SCORE. It also benefitted from generous support from the Centro Stefano Franscini (CSF/ETHZ) <sup>(2)</sup>. The conference followed on from Testing the waters I, organised by the EMCDDA in Lisbon in 2013.

Wastewater analysis is a rapidly developing and novel scientific discipline with the potential for monitoring near-real-time, population-level trends in illicit drug use. The conference focused on the latest research findings and technical advances in this field and identified information gaps and future research needs.

The EMCDDA, a member of the organising and scientific committee of the conference, showcased its work in this domain and presented an award for the best poster at the event (Jake O'Brien, University of Queensland). It also previewed its upcoming Insights publication *Assessing illicit drugs in wastewater*, to be released in the coming weeks (see p. 7).

**Liesbeth Vandam**

<sup>(1)</sup> Testing the waters II: <http://testingthewaters2015.ch>  
For more, see Fact sheet No 8/2015 at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/testing-the-waters-2015](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/testing-the-waters-2015)

<sup>(2)</sup> [www.eawag.ch/en/](http://www.eawag.ch/en/) — <http://sewprof-itn.eu> — [www.score-cost.eu](http://www.score-cost.eu) — [www.csf.ethz.ch/](http://www.csf.ethz.ch/)

## DRUGS-LEX

## Malta's new drug law focuses on helping users

A new 'Drug Dependence (Treatment not Imprisonment) Act' entered into force in Malta on 15 April, significantly changing the country's legal framework for responding to drug use and drug-related crime <sup>(1)</sup>. In introducing the Act, the Maltese government provides for the treatment of persons in possession of small quantities of prohibited drugs for personal use and, for some drug-related crimes, for the rehabilitation of persons suffering from drug dependence.

Prior to the legislation, the Magistrate's Court could issue a penalty of 3–12 months' imprisonment and/or a fine for possession of drugs for personal use. Now, the Commissioner for Justice should issue an administrative penalty of EUR 50–100 for the possession of under 3.5g of cannabis or of EUR 75–125 for under 2g of other drugs (provided that there is no evidence of supply).

A repeat offender possessing a drug other than cannabis will appear before the new Drug Offenders Rehabilitation Board, which may take various measures to help the offender recover from dependence <sup>(2)</sup>. The Board is chaired by a retired judge or magistrate and has three members appointed by the Ministers of Home Affairs, Social Policy and Health

respectively. The Magistrate's Court, supported by the Board, may decide to assume the functions of a Drugs Court in defined cases (e.g. dependent offender, some drug-related crimes). Here it may refer the offender to the Board, which would, in turn, manage the offender for up to 18 months in recovering from dependence. After this, the case may be closed, or prosecution continued, accordingly.

The Act also establishes: the removal of mandatory imprisonment for the cultivation of one cannabis plant for personal use; a Sentencing Policy Advisory Board (which aims to achieve consistency in court punishments for drug-related offences); a legal basis for the prescription of licensed medical preparations of cannabis; and an exemption from prosecution for drug possession for anyone assisting a person suffering from drug overdose.

**Brendan Hughes and Manuel Gelle**

<sup>(1)</sup> For more, see <https://mjcl.gov.mt/en/justice/Pages/Drug-Dependence-Act.aspx>

<sup>(2)</sup> This procedure is not excluded for cannabis, but is subject to the discretion of the Commissioner.

## SPOTLIGHT



## Minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction

The EU Council of Ministers (General Affairs Council) adopted on 14 September 'Minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction in the EU' <sup>(1)</sup>. This innovative initiative lists 16 standards which represent a minimum quality benchmark for interventions in: drug use prevention; risk and harm reduction; treatment; social integration and rehabilitation.

The standards are the result of work carried out under three consecutive EU presidencies (Greece, Italy, Latvia) between January 2014 and June 2015. They were drawn up in the context of Action 9 of the EU action plan on drugs (2013–16), which calls on the Council, Commission, Member States and the EMCDDA 'to agree and commence implementation of EU minimum quality standards' in demand reduction.

Although non-binding for national governments, these standards represent solid political will in the EU to address drug demand reduction through an evidence-based perspective. The EMCDDA is invited in the document 'to continue gathering evidence on effective interventions and services in drug demand reduction and provide Member States with technical support and expertise in the implementation of these standards'. It is disseminating the standards via its Best practice portal <sup>(2)</sup>.

The newly adopted standards represent a major development in drug policy formulation at EU level, bridging expert knowledge and political decision-making across 28 countries.

**Danilo Ballotta and Marica Ferri**

<sup>(1)</sup> For more, see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/eu-minimum-quality-standards](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/eu-minimum-quality-standards)

<sup>(2)</sup> [www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice)

## NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

## Europe responds to health concerns posed by new psychoactive substances

Europe has responded to rising concerns over the use of two new drugs by subjecting them to control measures and criminal penalties throughout the Union. The implementing decision of the Council of the EU <sup>(1)</sup> was adopted on 8 October, in the final stage of the three-step legal procedure designed to respond to potentially threatening new psychoactive substances (NPS) available on the market <sup>(2)</sup>.

The two new substances — 4,4'-DMAR (a derivative of aminorex with psychostimulant properties) and MT-45 (a synthetic opioid investigated in the 1970s for its analgesic properties) — have been raising health concerns in Europe after harmful effects related to them were reported by the Member States through the EU Early Warning System (EWS) <sup>(3)</sup>.

On 18 November, an extended EMCDDA Scientific Committee will meet in Lisbon to undertake the risk assessment of a new psychoactive cathinone currently detected in over 100 serious adverse events in Europe. The substance in question, the stimulant drug  $\alpha$ -PVP, is

the third cathinone to be risk assessed by the agency <sup>(4)</sup>. The EMCDDA has also issued early-warning alerts on acetylfentanyl, a new potent synthetic opioid with analgesic properties, after it was linked to serious harms in the EU. Concern over this fentanyl has led the EWS to launch a data-collection exercise on this substance. This will lead to the preparation of an EMCDDA–Europol Joint report, due in December 2015 <sup>(5)</sup>.

**Roumen Sedefov and Ana Gallegos**

<sup>(1)</sup> Council implementing decision (2015/1873) published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on 20.10.2015. For more, see news release No 9/2015 at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/9/44-dmar-and-mt-45](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/9/44-dmar-and-mt-45)

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Decision 2005/387/JHA. For more, see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/action-on-new-drugs](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/action-on-new-drugs)

<sup>(3)</sup> Risk assessment reports on the two substances are available at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/risk-assessments](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/risk-assessments)

<sup>(4)</sup> Joint report available at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports/alpha-pvp](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports/alpha-pvp) Upcoming risk assessment report at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/risk-assessments](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/risk-assessments)

<sup>(5)</sup> Upcoming Joint report at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports)

## REITOX

## Reitox week 2015

Candidate, potential candidate and neighbouring countries of the EU, preparing to collaborate with the EMCDDA, will participate in the fourth 'Reitox week' to be held in Lisbon from 23–27 November.

This annual event, initiated in 2012 and enlarging the regular Heads of focal point session, will bring together representatives of over 40 nations, including: the current 30 members of the network; Russia and a number of beneficiaries of the European Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) <sup>(1)</sup>.

As in previous years, the Reitox week encompasses three events: technical cooperation project-related meetings;

the Reitox extended network meeting <sup>(2)</sup>; and the regular Heads of focal point meeting. This year's event will also include a full-day session on 'Women and drugs'. Experts and researchers from five EU countries (Spain, France, Italy, Latvia and Malta) as well as Norway and the Lebanon, will animate this session and explore the implications of gender for drug use, drug treatment, harm reduction and service planning.

**Cécile Martel**

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/instruments/overview/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/instruments/overview/index_en.htm) — [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/european-neighbourhood-and-partnership-instrument-enpi\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/european-neighbourhood-and-partnership-instrument-enpi_en)

<sup>(2)</sup> This gathers: the 30 national focal points (NFPs); future NFPs from partner countries in the Western Balkans; and representatives of EU neighbouring countries and Third countries.

## PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

## RESOURCES

## Prevention of addictive behaviours



This latest volume in the EMCDDA Insights series, released ahead of Lisbon Addictions 2015, updates a previous edition *Prevention of substance abuse*, published in 2008. Both editions are based on a German study commissioned by the Federal Centre for Health Education (Cologne) and present a state-of-the-art review of prevention science. Although originally targeted at a German audience, the evidence base addressed is global in scope. The review is broad in its considerations, covering, not only the central topic of drug abuse, but also alcohol, tobacco and behavioural addictions, such as gambling.

Available in English at: [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/preventing-addictive-behaviours](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/preventing-addictive-behaviours)

## New EDPQS toolkits

The European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS) were published in 2011 by the EMCDDA and the EU-funded European Prevention Standards Partnership to provide basic and expert level quality standards for drug prevention (see EMCDDA Manual No 7). Following publication of the standards (Phase I of the EDPQS project — 2008–10), it became clear that additional support materials would be needed to help put the standards into practice. Phase II of the project (2013–15) aimed to develop practical tools to support members of the prevention community. This gave rise to four EDPQS toolkits published in October 2015 dedicated to four areas: funding and decision-making; self-assessment and reflection; training; and adaptation and dissemination. The toolkits are available as downloadable pdfs and in a web application with interactive features.

For more, see <http://prevention-standards.eu/category/news>  
Contact: [info@prevention-standards.eu](mailto:info@prevention-standards.eu)

## EMCDDA 20 years



This year, the EMCDDA commemorates 20 years of monitoring the drugs problem in Europe. To mark the occasion, the agency has published a flyer presenting a brief summary of the agency's key achievements since 1995. Over the last two decades, much has changed in the extent and nature of the drug phenomenon and the Centre's work has developed to keep pace with this complexity. The text is complemented by an illustrative timeline highlighting a selection of major events presented by year.

Available in English at: [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/brochures/20-years](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/brochures/20-years)

## Universal Prevention Curriculum

The Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC), developed by Applied Prevention Science — an international NGO focused on evidence-based prevention — consists of two series of training curricula to encourage professionalisation of the prevention workforce. Each series provides substantial hours of training to address the issues relating to prevention science and substance use, including: physiology and pharmacology; monitoring and evaluation; and prevention in the areas of the family, school, workplace, media, environment and community-based implementation.

The UPC is designed to enhance the skills of prevention professionals and enable them to implement evidence-based substance use prevention interventions and policies. It is based on UNODC's International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and the EDPQS (see above).

For more, see [www.apsintl.org](http://www.apsintl.org)  
Contact: [jeff.lee@apsintl.org](mailto:jeff.lee@apsintl.org)  
[zili.sloboda@apsintl.org](mailto:zili.sloboda@apsintl.org)

## Building a national drugs observatory



The EMCDDA and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD–OAS) published in October an additional language version (Portuguese) of their publication *Building a national drugs observatory: a joint handbook*. National drug observatories have flourished and developed rapidly over the last two decades. This handbook describes the core operational processes and the key strategic factors that are common to these observatories.

Available in 10 languages at: [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint/ndo-handbook](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint/ndo-handbook)

## Upcoming Insights

The EMCDDA Insights series offers topic-based reports on current research and findings on specific issues in the drugs field. In the coming weeks, five new editions will be released. The first of these will focus on *Comorbidity of substance use and mental disorders in Europe* providing a detailed overview of the concept of comorbidity in the context of drug use and the tools available for its assessment. The other titles will focus on: the pre-provision of emergency naloxone to prevent opioid overdose deaths; the Internet and drug markets; wastewater analysis and hepatitis C treatment.

Available in English at: [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights)

## EMCDDA meetings

4 November:	Signature of Memorandum of Understanding, EMCDDA–Georgia, Tbilisi.
5–6 November:	3 <sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the EMCDDA reference group on drug supply indicators, Lisbon.
18–20 November:	43 <sup>rd</sup> EMCDDA Scientific Committee meeting, Lisbon.
23–27 November:	4 <sup>th</sup> extended Reitox week, Lisbon.
25–27 November:	53 <sup>rd</sup> Reitox Heads of focal point meeting, Lisbon.
2 December:	EMCDDA Budget Committee and Executive Committee meetings, Lisbon.
3–4 December:	52 <sup>nd</sup> EMCDDA Management Board meeting, Lisbon.
8–9 December:	ENP national Reitox academy on best practice in drug prevention, Rabat.

## External meetings

11–13 November:	ESCAIDE 2015, Stockholm ( <a href="http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/escaide/Pages/ESCAIDE.aspx">http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/escaide/Pages/ESCAIDE.aspx</a> ).
16–20 November:	37 <sup>th</sup> WHO expert committee on drug dependence, Geneva.
17–19 November:	Pompidou Group symposium on experience with new evolutions in drug policy and 77 <sup>th</sup> meeting of Permanent Correspondents, Oslo.
1 December:	World AIDS Day.
15–16 December:	18 <sup>th</sup> MedNET meeting, Pompidou Group, Paris.

## EU meetings

3–4 November:	Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels (Luxembourg presidency).
1–2 December:	Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.
1–2 December:	EU–US expert meeting on drugs, Brussels.

## Management Board update

The EMCDDA Management Board met in Lisbon from 9–11 September and selected Alexis Goosdeel (Belgium) as Director of the agency for the next five-year term (renewable) (see p. 1). On behalf of the Board, and following the positive opinion of the European Parliament, the EMCDDA Executive Committee adopted, on 14 October, the formal decision to appoint the new Director, with effect from 1 January 2016.

During the meeting, the Board adopted the tools for implementing the 'EMCDDA policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest', which concerns both Management Board and Scientific Committee members <sup>(1)</sup>. It also decided to close the follow-up process to recommendations made by the last external evaluation of the EMCDDA (completed in 2012). Furthermore, the Board mandated the Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the EMCDDA and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Georgia (see p. 5).

On the final day, the Management Board held a first discussion on the strategic priorities of the EMCDDA for the period 2016–18. The agency's 2016–18 strategy and work programme, together with the 2016 work programme, are expected to be adopted by the Board at its next meeting in Lisbon from 3–4 December 2015.

**Monika Blum**

<sup>(1)</sup> Policy document available at [www.emcdda.europa.eu/about](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about)

## 2015 scientific paper award

The winners of the 2015 EMCDDA scientific paper award gathered in Lisbon on 23 September for the fifth annual paper award ceremony hosted by the agency <sup>(1)</sup>. The acclaimed writers received a non-monetary prize for their articles in the margins of the Lisbon Addictions 2015 conference (see pp. 1–3).

The prize, inaugurated in 2011 by the EMCDDA and its Scientific Committee, celebrates scientific writing and distinguishes high-quality research in the field of illicit drugs. This year, over 50 papers in five categories were nominated by members of the Scientific Committee, the Reitox national focal points, European drug research peer-reviewed journals and by EMCDDA staff.

<sup>(1)</sup> For full details on the winners and their articles, see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/8/scientific-paper-award](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2015/8/scientific-paper-award) — [www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/scientific-paper-award](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/scientific-paper-award)

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**EMCDDA**, Praça Europa 1, Cais do Sodré, 1249-289 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel. (351) 211 21 02 00 | Fax (351) 211 21 03 80  
[info@emcdda.europa.eu](mailto:info@emcdda.europa.eu) | [emcdda.europa.eu](http://emcdda.europa.eu)  
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