



Euro-FoToN project

Project with a network of toxicologists

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Euro-FoTON Project in 2020-2021

ICD-10



- The aims of the project were:
 - to better understand the characteristics of data reported through the established systems (Fonte)
 - to investigate, whether a short, regular data collection from a toxicology network can provide useful information on the number of cases, findings and basic demographics
 - to investigate, whether the network can be utilised in identifying clusters or new patterns of use

Summary of the results of the first survey is available

Euro-FoTON: A network of forensic toxicologists to report on acute drug-related harms in Europe

Summary of the preliminary analysis of a pilot facility survey, 2020.

Results from the first survey

- 237 toxicologists were approached (often multiple individuals from the same laboratories)
- Response from 42 toxicologists from 25 countries
- From 78% of the countries that were approached)
- Information was received about
 - Number of labs in each country
 - Great variation in the structure of PM toxicology in Europe: from 1 single national laboratory to several dozens
 - Case load
 - Primary findings in DRD-cases
 - NPS



Figure 3: Most common primary finding in their fatal drugs poisonings



Note: When multiple laboratories replied the results were not always consistent within country and the answer of the laboratory with most samples was showed on the map.

Limitations - solutions

- Cause-of-death information is not available for toxicologists in all laboratories
 - Not at all /only after a considerable delay
- Toxicological findings can be reported and may give equally important preliminary information on topical issues such as clusters or emergence of NPS

Next steps

- Workshop tomorrow
 - Structured questions for forensic toxicologists on findings and trends
- Piloting of a standard form to report on toxicological findings
 - Will be distributed to those toxicologists that agreed in the first survey to participate in an expert panel for post-mortem toxicology