

January–March 2017

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EMCDDA embarks on Strategy 2025



Towards a healthier and more secure Europe.

The EMCDDA Management Board gave its seal of approval on 15 December on a new EMCDDA Strategy 2025, which sets out an ambitious course of travel for the agency over the next decade. Our vision, and the ultimate goal of our journey, will be to contribute to a healthier and more secure Europe, through better informed drug policy and action.

Adopted unanimously by the agency's key stakeholders in 2016, the strategy is the result of a year-long, in-depth analysis of the environment in which the EMCDDA operates. This analysis focused, in particular, on customer

needs and a critical review of our internal capacity to meet them.

This new, long-term strategic framework will ensure, first and foremost, that the agency's work continues to reflect the reality that Europe faces with respect to drug issues and the evolving needs of EMCDDA stakeholders. It will also ensure that the agency's activities are supported by an internal business model which promotes appropriate and efficient working practices.

In making this commitment, we are mindful of the challenges ahead of us. These challenges however — be they political uncertainties facing the EU, the difficult economic climate or the increasingly innovative means employed by the interlinked European and global drug market — make us even more aware of the importance of the EMCDDA's work.

Reflecting the multifaceted dimension of the drug phenomenon, the EMCDDA is in the privileged position to work with policymakers and practitioners, both from the health and law-enforcement domains.

We have the means to provide them with the best evidence for their decisions, which affect European citizens, particularly those touched, directly or indirectly, by drug consumption and trafficking. In order to do so, we will continue to improve our monitoring system, enriching it with novel sources of data developed with established, or new, partners in Europe and beyond. Our analyses will gain in timeliness, relevance and complexity, and our means of disseminating knowledge will reflect the fast-evolving communication technologies and channels of the modern world.

As professionals, and above all EU citizens, we aim for a healthier and more secure Europe. And we are convinced and proud that our work under this Strategy 2025 can make a clear contribution to achieving this goal. Having completed my first year as EMCDDA Director, I know that, along with my dedicated team, I can make this ambitious commitment to our stakeholders and to all Europeans who support our work.

Alexis Goosdeel, EMCDDA Director

EMCDDA publishes 2017 work programme

The EMCDDA Single Programming Document (SPD) for the period 2017–19, which includes the 2017 work programme, is now available on the EMCDDA website ⁽¹⁾. Adopted by the Management Board in December, this is the first work programme to be implemented under the new EMCDDA Strategy 2025.

Among the key EMCDDA outputs this year will be *European Drug Report 2017: Trends and Developments* information

package, complemented for the first time by 30 graphic-rich *Country Drug Reports*, developed with the Reitox national focal points. The first *European Drug Responses Report* will follow in the autumn, providing a state-of-the-art overview of responses to drug use and related problems across the EU.

The EMCDDA outputs are based on data collected through the agency's complex European monitoring system. Priority in

2017 will be given to improving core monitoring tasks and to operating the EU Early Warning System under a new regulation on new psychoactive substances, which is expected to enter into force in the course of the year.

Narcisa Murgea

⁽¹⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/work-programmes-and-strategies/2017-work-programme

DRUG SITUATION

CONFERENCE

Lisbon Addictions 2017

Registration is open, and early-bird fees available (until 31 March), for the Second European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies, to be held in Lisbon from 24–26 October ⁽¹⁾. The conference will be organised jointly by the Portuguese General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD), the journal *Addiction*, the EMCDDA and the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE).

Proposals submitted for paper presentations, symposia/panel discussions/workshops and posters (deadline: 28 February) are currently being evaluated by the conference scientific committee, composed of renowned experts in the addictions field. A limited number of late-breaking abstracts may be accepted until 31 July.

In the margins of the conference, the EMCDDA will be co-organising, among others, 'Testing the waters 2017' — the third international conference on wastewater analysis — as well as the 'Third international symposium on drug-impaired driving' (participants are requested to register separately for these side-events)⁽²⁾. On 23 October, the Council of Europe's Pompidou Group will be organising the 8th meeting of the

Key dates — 2017

31 March: Deadline for early-bird registration (fee EUR 350)

31 May: Notification to authors

30 June: Deadline for regular registration (fee EUR 400)

1 July–23 October: late registration (fee EUR 500)

31 July: Deadline for late-breaking abstracts

24–26 October: Conference and on-site registration (fee EUR 500)

Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (MedSPAD)⁽³⁾.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity for: networking among researchers, practitioners and policy experts across countries and disciplines; addressing new challenges; and exploring developing fields. Some 600 participants are expected at the event.

Renate Hochwieser, Maria Moreira and Liesbeth Vandam

⁽¹⁾ For more on the registration and abstract submission process, see www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2017

⁽²⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/wastewater-analysis | <http://score-cost.eu/network-activities/meetings/ttw2017/> | www.emcdda.europa.eu/meetings/2017/3rd-symposium-drug-impaired-driving

⁽³⁾ www.coe.int/T/DG3/Pompidou/Activities/medNet_en.asp

WASTEWATER

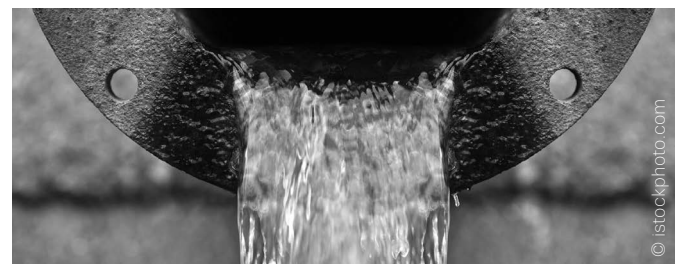
Latest data reveal drug-taking habits in over 50 European cities

The latest findings from the largest European project in the emerging science of wastewater analysis were presented on 13 December by the Europe-wide SCORE group, in association with the EMCDDA ⁽¹⁾. The project analysed wastewater in over 50 European cities in 18 European countries in March 2016 to explore the drug-taking behaviours of their inhabitants.

From London to Nicosia and from Oslo to Lisbon, the study analysed daily wastewater samples in the catchment areas of wastewater treatment plants over a one-week period. Wastewater from approximately 25 million people was analysed for traces of four illicit drugs: amphetamine, cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy) and methamphetamine.

Wastewater-based epidemiology is a rapidly developing scientific discipline with the potential for monitoring near-real-time, population-level trends in illicit drug use ⁽²⁾. By sampling a known source of wastewater, such as a sewage influent to a wastewater treatment plant, scientists can now estimate the quantity of drugs used in a community by measuring the levels of illicit drugs and their metabolites excreted in urine ⁽³⁾.

The SCORE group has been conducting annual wastewater monitoring campaigns since 2011. This is the first time, however, that data were published within only a few months of the campaign, underlining the potential of this method for the timely monitoring of trends in illicit drug use at population level.



Wastewater-based epidemiology — a rapidly developing scientific discipline.

When weekly patterns of drug use were examined, cocaine and MDMA (ecstasy) levels rose sharply at weekends in most cities, while methamphetamine use appeared to be more evenly distributed throughout the week.

The results were released through an innovative interactive map and chart-based tool allowing the user to look at geographical and temporal patterns and zoom in on results per city ⁽⁴⁾. The findings offer a valuable snapshot of the drug flow through the cities involved, revealing marked regional variations in drug use patterns.

Liesbeth Vandam

⁽¹⁾ The Sewage analysis CORE group (SCORE) <http://score-cost.eu/> For a summary of results, see news release www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2016/12/latest-data-reveal-drug-taking-habits-in-over-50-european-cities

⁽²⁾ For more on wastewater analysis, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/wastewater-analysis and www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/assessing-drugs-in-wastewater

⁽³⁾ For the method, see motion graphic at <https://youtu.be/SbdiuEL2r4k>

⁽⁴⁾ www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/waste-water-analysis#panel2 With this tool, the user can view the data on a map or using a specially-developed charting tool. The charting tool allows the user to select the 'city' of choice and the 'target drug' and also to compare sites or explore daily and yearly trends.

RESPONSES

PREVENTION

Healthy Nightlife Toolbox

On 27 January, the EMCDDA began hosting an online Healthy Nightlife Toolbox (HNT), which collects and provides information on good-practice interventions targeting drug and alcohol use and related problems among young people in nightlife settings⁽¹⁾. The European database is designed to support prevention workers and local, regional and national policymakers in identifying and implementing effective responses in nightlife settings.

Recreational settings can be locations for drug and alcohol use and are important venues for prevention measures. Estimates show last-year prevalence of drug use among regular nightclub goers to be between 4 and 25 times higher than in the same age group in the general population of the EU⁽²⁾.

The HNT is built around three databases focusing on: evaluated interventions⁽³⁾; literature on these interventions; and other 'good to know' literature on the subject. An 'Info sheet' can be downloaded summarising knowledge on how to create a healthy and safe nightlife.

The first version of the HNT, funded by the European Commission, was developed in the period 2008–10.



Recreational settings are important venues for prevention measures.

With funding from the Dutch government under its Presidency of the EU in 2016, the toolbox was updated by the Trimbos Institute, in cooperation with Liverpool John Moores University (UK) and the EMCDDA. The new version has been redesigned to make information easier to find and to be mobile-friendly. It expands on the 'partygoers' model of the EMCDDA Best practice portal⁽⁴⁾.

Gregor Burkhardt

⁽¹⁾ www.hntinfo.eu. For more, see Fact sheet at www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/fs1/2017/emcdda-hosts-healthy-nightlife-toolbox

⁽²⁾ *European Drug Report 2015*, p. 49. www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/974/TDAT15001ENN.pdf

⁽³⁾ The 'Interventions' section enables users to select their intervention by problem (e.g. alcohol use), type (e.g. drug testing, first aid) or keyword.

⁽⁴⁾ www.emcdda.europa.eu/best-practice

PRISONS

WHO regional consultation

An estimated 31 deaths per 10 000 prisoners occur every year in Europe's prisons, three times more than in the same age group in the general population (10 *10000). Suicide is the leading cause of death in prison, accounting for around one-third of all fatalities. Substance use disorders are also among the key risk factors for suicide. Recent studies comparing prisoners with or without substance use disorders reveal a higher suicide risk among the former.

With the aim of improving data and facilitating the sharing of experiences and results on prison health research, the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) organised a consultation on prisons and health in Copenhagen from 3–4 November 2016⁽¹⁾. The EMCDDA participated in the event as a member of the steering committee of the WHO Health in Prisons Programme, which supports countries in improving public health by addressing prisoners' needs.

During the consultation, WHO/Europe launched a Minimum Public Health Dataset for Prisons, designed to collect comparable data between its member countries. The event also saw the foundation of a new WHO/Europe Prison Health and Research Engagement Network (WEPHREN), bringing together experts and institutions involved in research on prison health, with the aim of sharing experiences and disseminating results.

Linda Montanari

⁽¹⁾ See meeting report at www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/329740/Regional-consultation-prisons-health-mtg-rpt.pdf?ua=1

QUALITY STANDARDS

Monitoring implementation

The EMCDDA is currently reporting on the implementation of quality standards for drug demand reduction at national level. Quality standards are considered one of the main tools for the implementation of evidence-based interventions at European and national level. The Council conclusions on the implementation of minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction in the EU, adopted in September 2015⁽¹⁾, list 16 standards representing a quality benchmark for interventions in: drug use prevention, risk and harm reduction, treatment, social integration and rehabilitation.

In the standards, the EMCDDA is called on to: continue gathering evidence on effective interventions in drug demand reduction; support Member States in the implementation of these standards; and include information on EU minimum quality standards in its annual reporting.

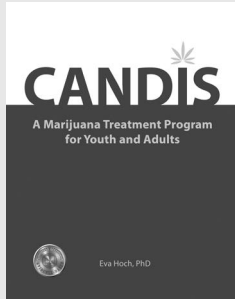
The first data-collection exercise (2015–16) reveals that quality standards (or guidelines) currently exist in some 20 EU Member States and are being developed in others. However, the findings show how the standards are being operationalised in different ways. In some countries, they are linked to service delivery and are used to evaluate provision. In others, they are being used as a requirement for participation in competitions for service contracts and as instruments for service-level self-assessment.

Marica Ferri

⁽¹⁾ www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/attachments/1933/INT19_EU%20%20Min%20Quality%20Standards_ST11985.EN15.pdf See also www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2016/meeting-quality-standards-demand-reduction

BOOKSHELF

CANDIS, a marijuana treatment programme for youth and adults



Dependence on marijuana affects millions of people worldwide and may threaten their health and quality of life. In June 2017, author and leading cannabis researcher Eva Hoch, in partnership with Hazelden Publishing, is introducing a new, evidence-based approach that addresses the challenges faced by those deciding to quit.

CANDIS, a marijuana treatment program for youth and adults — a manual with accompanying DVD and CD-ROM — presents an evidence-based programme designed for use by professionals in a variety of settings. Using motivational enhancement therapy, cognitive-behavioural therapy and contingency management, the programme begins with a client assessment, before moving on through 10 sessions.

The three main objectives for participants in the programme are to: realise that they have a problem with cannabis; accept therapy and participate in treatment; and obtain abstinence and gain relapse prevention skills. Originally developed in Germany, CANDIS is the only English-language programme of its kind currently available.

Publisher: Hazelden Publishing

Languages: English

Date: June 2017

ISBN-13: 978-1-61-649676-0

Ordering information:

[www.hazelden.org/OA_HTML/](http://www.hazelden.org/OA_HTML/item/502140?CANDIS-Curriculum&src_url=itemquest)

[item/502140?CANDIS-](http://www.hazelden.org/OA_HTML/item/502140?CANDIS-Curriculum&src_url=itemquest)

[Curriculum&src_url=itemquest](http://www.hazelden.org/OA_HTML/item/502140?CANDIS-Curriculum&src_url=itemquest)

The EMCDDA is responsible for the selection of materials for the Bookshelf and for the text presented. However, responsibility for the content of these materials and the opinions expressed therein lies with the authors themselves.

FEATURE

EMCDDA chairs JHA agencies' network and focuses on the theme of the internet

On 1 January, the EMCDDA embarked on a year-long presidency of a network of nine EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies, which play key advisory, operational and coordination roles in implementing EU priorities in the areas of freedom, security and justice ⁽¹⁾.



Taking over from the Vienna-based Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the EMCDDA will act as chair of the network until 31 December 2017, before handing over to the Vilnius-based European Institute for Gender Equality.

The nine agencies work together on a wide range of issues, including human trafficking, migration and border management, drug trafficking and combating organised crime. The network was established in 2006 to boost cooperation in the migration and security fields and to develop synergies in areas of common interest (e.g. operational work, training, external relations). In 2017, the agencies will continue to provide technical support and deliver cross-agency evidence-based input to policy- and decision-making processes at EU level.

Current migration and security situations in Europe call for ever closer cooperation between the JHA agencies

EMCDDA Director Alexis Goosdeel said: 'Current migration and security situations in Europe call for ever closer cooperation between the EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies. Through this small network, the nine agencies assess how to improve their collaboration — in areas from information exchange to work on the ground in migration "hotspots" — in order to respond in a timely and efficient way to a dynamic and changing environment. Strong cooperation within this cluster over the last decade has shown what can be achieved when agencies build solid working relationships and enhance each other's work'.

The theme chosen by the network for 2017 is the internet. From 20–21 April, a group of experts will address: 'The expanding influence of the internet, the exploitation of cyberspace and the transformational nature of new technologies — challenges and opportunities for the work of the JHA agencies'. Discussions will focus on: monitoring open source information; drug supply on the darknet; and online secure communication.

Three regular network meetings will take place at the EMCDDA in the course of the year, culminating in a fourth and final meeting in November bringing together the Directors of the nine agencies to assess results. The first coordination meeting of the network took place from 9–10 February 2017 in Lisbon, bringing together its members and the observer members (EC and EEAS). Additional expert meetings will also be organised in 2017.

Since 2009, the JHA agencies have been required to report jointly to the Council's Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) ⁽²⁾ on the progress and the achievements on bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation in the network. A formal report, to be endorsed by the Heads of the JHA agencies in November in Lisbon, will be presented to COSI by the end of the year.

Klaudia Palczak and Renate De Neve

⁽¹⁾ The nine agencies are CEPOL, EASO, EIGE, EMCDDA, euLISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA and Frontex. For more, see brochure and video at http://ec.europa.eu/justice/about/files/jha_agencies_en.pdf www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LppnTJ3eIA. See news release at www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2017/1/jha-emcdda-presidency

⁽²⁾ www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/standing-committee-operational-cooperation-internal-security/

PARTNERS

Translating and transferring know-how

Cooperation and transfer of know-how to certain non-EU countries are among the objectives set out in the EMCDDA's recast regulation, adopted in 2006 ⁽¹⁾. Besides providing capacity building and financial support for data-collection, the agency also ensures that key EMCDDA methodological tools and publications are translated into the languages of these partner countries and disseminated. This is made possible thanks to funds from the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)⁽²⁾.

In line with this approach, the five EMCDDA epidemiological indicators ⁽³⁾, plus its drug seizure indicator, are now available in Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Montenegrin and Serbian. Following a request from the Egyptian authorities, the updated Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI) protocol has recently been translated into Arabic.

The ESPAD survey, which provides an overview of substance use among 15–16-year-old students every four years, was carried out in 2016 in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro. An ESPAD video, produced by the EMCDDA, has been translated for promotional

and dissemination purposes at national level with the active contribution of the EMCDDA national correspondents in these countries ⁽⁴⁾. The *European Drug Report: Trends and Developments* and the *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview* have recently been translated into Russian and disseminated to Russian-speaking countries ⁽⁵⁾.

Cécile Martel

⁽¹⁾ www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/founding-regulation

⁽²⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/cc/ipa4 and www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/nc

⁽³⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/key-indicators www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/manuals/tdi-protocol-3.0 www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/methods/gps-overview www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/methods/pdu-overview www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/methods/drid-overview www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/methods/drd-overview

⁽⁴⁾ <https://youtu.be/JeHzBRGY1oo> (English); <https://youtu.be/S84Stb08C6s> (Albanian); <https://youtu.be/aWHA3dFgD5g> (Macedonian); <https://youtu.be/UC9Y9UNVQ0c> (Montenegrin).

⁽⁵⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications

Reversing the HIV epidemic

At a two-day conference organised by the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), HIV experts from across the EU gathered to discuss how Europe could meet the UNAIDS target to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 ⁽¹⁾. Speaking at the opening session in Valletta on 30 January, EMCDDA Director Alexis Goosdeel focused on 'HIV, drugs and risk behaviours — what we have learnt and what are the

challenges for the future' ⁽²⁾. On the occasion of the conference, ECDC published an overview, illustrating how European countries addressed the HIV epidemic in 2016. The EMCDDA contributed to this with data on the HIV situation and prevention coverage among people who inject drugs.

⁽¹⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2017/maltese-presidency-ecdc-conference-hiv

⁽²⁾ Full speech at www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/attachments/3715/AG_SpeechMaltaHIV_Final_WEB.pdf

DRUGS-LEX

Germany enacts new law to control NPS

A New Psychoactive Substances Act entered into force in Germany on 26 November 2016, controlling specific new psychoactive substances (NPS) listed in its annex ⁽¹⁾. Prior to the new act, Germany had applied its 'medicinal products' law, modelled on an EU Directive ⁽²⁾, to quickly ban NPS. However, a judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU of 10 July 2014 on the prosecution of NPS found that substances with no therapeutic properties could no longer be controlled under such laws, thereby prompting the new legislation ⁽³⁾.

Under the new act, NPS are defined as any substance or preparation belonging to the specified generic (group) definitions for synthetic cannabinoids and compounds derived from 2-phenylethylamine. Substances already listed in the Narcotics Act or Medicines Act are excluded. The Ministry of Health can amend these definitions in future, based on expert advice. The new act prohibits producing, trading, importing, offering and possessing NPS and empowers the police to confiscate and, eventually destroy, such substances using their general powers to protect life

and health. Customs authorities may confiscate substances which they have good reason to believe are relevant NPS.

For supply-related offences, the law sets out various penalties: up to three years in prison for standard cases; and 1–10 years in prison for aggravated cases (e.g. acting professionally or continuing involvement in organised crime; selling to minors when the offender is over 21; causing severe danger to public health or death). Lower sentence ranges are given for aggravated cases which may be considered less serious or committed through negligence. Trade for recognised commercial, industrial or scientific uses of the substance concerned is excluded.

Brendan Hughes

⁽¹⁾ For more, see New Psychoactive Substances Act (NpSG in German) at www.gesetze-im-internet.de/npsg/index.html

⁽²⁾ Directive 2001/83/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 http://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/files/eudralex/vol-1/dir_2001_83_cons2009/2001_83_cons2009_en.pdf

⁽³⁾ Judgment concerning joined cases C-358/13 and C-181/14, Court of Justice of the European Union <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=154827&doclang=EN>. See also www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/eurojust/nps-legislation-and-prosecution

SPOTLIGHT



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European drugs summer school 2017

This summer, the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) and the EMCDDA will be offering the sixth European drugs summer school (EDSS) on 'Illicit drugs in Europe: demand, supply and public policies' ⁽¹⁾. The two-week course, taking place in Lisbon from 26 June to 7 July, enjoys the support of the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) international programme.

EMCDDA scientific experts, leading academics, guest speakers and policymakers, will prepare participants to meet the complex policy challenges in this field. The focus of the 2017 course will be on preventing and reducing drug-related mortality. Students will participate in study visits to outreach facilities and will meet members of the Lisbon 'Commission for dissuasion'.

Registration opened in October 2016 and is organised in three phases. Phase I (early-bird discount) closed on 3 February. Phase II will close on 17 April and Phase III on 2 June (Limit: 50 students).

Some 200 students from 28 nationalities and six continents have already participated in this multidisciplinary, interactive course. Profiles of former alumni and their testimonials can be found on the official summer school website and their statements viewed in a promotional video ⁽²⁾. The EDSS is run in English.

Marica Ferri

⁽¹⁾ For more on the EDSS and how to register, see www.drugsummerschool.cies.iscte-iul.pt/np4/home and

www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/fs9/registration-opens-for-2017-european-drugs-summer-school

⁽²⁾ https://youtu.be/rKlmV_vSall

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

New synthetic opioid under the microscope

Following an examination of the information available on the new synthetic opioid acryloylfentanyl, the EMCDDA and Europol launched a data-collection exercise in September 2016 marking the first stage of the three-step legal procedure designed to respond to potentially threatening new psychoactive substances (NPS) available on the market ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾. The results of this phase are recorded in a recently published Joint Report on the substance ⁽³⁾.

The health and social risks caused by the manufacture, trafficking and use of acryloylfentanyl, as well as the involvement of organised crime and possible consequences of control measures, were also examined via a formal risk-assessment procedure, culminating in a meeting under the extended EMCDDA Scientific Committee on 22 February. On the basis of the resulting risk assessment report, a decision will be taken on whether to submit this substance to control measures throughout the EU.

Acryloylfentanyl is closely related to fentanyl, which is internationally controlled. It has been available in the EU since, at least, April 2016 and has been detected in six EU Member States.

Acryloylfentanyl is sold as a 'research chemical' online and is available in small and wholesale amounts. In most cases, it has been seized as a liquid, but has also been detected in other forms (e.g. tablets, powders, capsules). The powders are reported to be used in the making of solutions, which are then placed in nasal spray containers. The detected quantities are relatively small; however, they should be considered in the context of the high potency of the substance.

To date, 42 deaths associated with acryloylfentanyl have been reported by four Member States, of which 40 were analytically confirmed. In 29 of these deaths, acryloylfentanyl was the cause of death or contributed to it. All deaths occurred in 2016; 80% of them occurred within a period of three months.

Ana Gallegos and Michael Evans-Brown

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision 2005/387/JHA: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32005D0387:EN:HTML>

⁽²⁾ See also www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/action-on-new-drugs

⁽³⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports/acryloylfentanyl

REITOX

Accreditation project: green light for piloting self-assessment checklist

The EMCDDA is currently developing an accreditation system designed to boost the visibility of the work undertaken by the Reitox national focal points and acknowledge their role as key contributors to the EU drug monitoring system.

The first building block in this endeavour is a self-assessment checklist, intended as a tool to help reflect on the status and functions of a national focal point (NFP) and contribute to the assessment and acknowledgement of its competences. The checklist focuses on the role of the NFP in drug-related data collection, analysis and reporting and explores its

overall capacities based on its mandate and institutional background. The checklist includes a number of standard criteria designed to assess the functioning of the NFP.

At their meeting in Lisbon in November, the NFPs gave the green light to pilot this self-assessment tool among NFPs prepared to do so.

The accreditation system, conceived in 2013, will increase the assurance among EU stakeholders that the NFPs are fulfilling their role as the national interface for the EMCDDA.

Ilze Jekabsone and Sandrine Sleiman

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

NPS in Europe: legislation and prosecution



Eurojust, the EU’s judicial cooperation unit, and the EMCDDA, released in November their first joint publication entitled *New psychoactive substances in Europe: legislation and prosecution — current challenges and solutions*. The rapid evolution of the European market for new psychoactive substances has challenged national authorities to find suitable and efficient responses to the public health and judicial problems caused by these substances. This publication examines different control mechanisms and their implications.

For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/eurojust/nps-legislation-and-prosecution | www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2016/eurojust-joint-publication

Drug-related infectious diseases in Europe



This report, published in November, provides an update on infectious diseases related to drug use in Europe for the period up to June 2016. This latest edition in the agency’s Rapid communication series presents the most recent data on infectious diseases among people who inject drugs in Europe — collected via the EMCDDA drug-related infectious diseases (DRID) indicator — as well as on the responses in this area.

For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/rapid-communications/2016/drug-related-infectious-diseases-in-europe

Drug supply reduction: an overview



This latest edition in the EMCDDA Papers series provides an overview of EU policies and responses to the production and trafficking of illicit drugs in the international context. It considers the different strategic areas involved, the EU structures concerned, along with some of the key measures currently being implemented by the EU and its international partners.

For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/emcdda-papers/drug-supply-reduction-an-overview-of-eu-policies-measures

Drug trafficking penalties across the EU

Drug trafficking penalties across the EU: a survey of expert opinion presents the results of a study on national drug trafficking laws and their application in the EU Member States. Published in January 2017, it is based on an analysis of national laws and opinions of legal practitioners — judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers — from 26 countries.

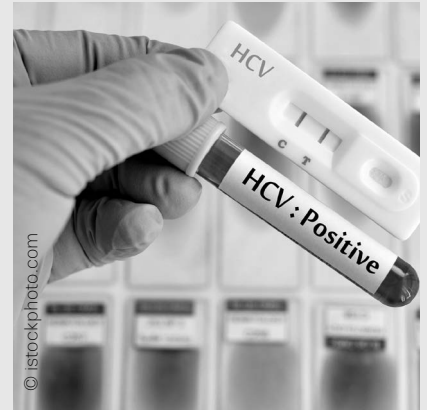
For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/technical-reports/trafficking-penalties

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After 20 years of delivering you *Drugnet Europe* in print, this year the EMCDDA will phase out the print edition of the newsletter (at edition 100). To ensure that you keep up to date with EMCDDA activities, events, products and services, we would like to offer you the opportunity to switch to an electronic subscription. To update your data, or cancel your current subscription, please visit the link below to enter the subscription number appearing on the postal address label.

Update at http://surveys.publications.europa.eu/formserver/emcdda/mailling_list.html

EVENTS



Hepatitis week

Hepatitis and other drug-related infectious diseases will be the focus of a ‘Hepatitis week’ taking place in Lisbon from 12–16 June. On 12–13 June, the EMCDDA will host the 4th meeting of the hepatitis B and C network of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). This will be followed on 15–16 June by the annual EMCDDA meeting of the drug-related infectious diseases (DRID) network. On 14 June, the agencies will bring together both expert networks for a joint meeting to discuss issues related to drug-related infections, drawing on their broad expertise and experience.

For more, see: www.emcdda.europa.eu/meetings/2017/drid

Staff member awarded

EMCDDA principal scientific analyst Gregor Burkhart was awarded in November the 2016 Sloboda Medal from the European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR). He was acknowledged for his ‘sustained contribution to the development of prevention science in Europe and internationally’ and for his role in developing the science of prevention in the fields of drug research, practice and policy.

Also last year, Gregor was highly commended by the Emerald Literati Network for his paper ‘Is the Strengthening Families Programme feasible in Europe?’, published in the *Journal of Children’s Services*.

<http://euspr.org/euspr-2016-awards/www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/authors/literati/awards.htm?year=2016>
www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1108/JCS-02-2014-0009

EMCDDA meetings

9–10 February:	Justice and Home Affairs agencies' network meeting, EMCDDA presidency, Lisbon.
22 February:	Risk-assessment meeting on acryloylfentanyl, EMCDDA Scientific Committee, Lisbon.
20–21 April:	Internet and new technology expert meeting, JHA agencies' network, EMCDDA presidency, Lisbon.
22–24 May:	46 th meeting of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, Lisbon.

External meetings

1–2 February:	UNODC regional meeting on new psychoactive substances in the Western Hemisphere, Bogotá.
7 February:	CLEN project group meeting on designer drugs and other illicit products, Brussels.
7 February:	7 th meeting of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (MedSPAD) committee, Pompidou Group, Paris.
13–15 February:	American Academy of Forensic Services (AAFS) annual scientific meeting, New Orleans.
21–24 February:	Third International Conference on Precursor Chemicals and New Psychoactive Substances, INCB/UNODC, Bangkok.
9–10 March:	Euro-DEN Plus Baltic region expert meeting, Tallinn.
13–15 March:	60 th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), Vienna.
21 March:	TAIEX workshop on drug policy reform – sharing European experiences, Jakarta.

EU meetings

2 March:	Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels (Maltese Presidency).
28–29 March:	Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.
29 March:	EU–CELAC meeting, Brussels.
24 April:	Meeting of the EU national drug coordinators, Saint Julian's, Malta.

Management Board update

At its latest meeting, held from 15–16 December, the EMCDDA Management Board adopted an EMCDDA Strategy 2025 and the first Single Programming Document (SPD) for 2017–19, which includes the 2017 work programme (see p. 1). Also adopted was a new organisational structure for the agency, designed to support the implementation of the strategy and ensure delivery of the expected results. Furthermore, the preliminary draft SPD for 2018–20 was endorsed and a consultation draft sent in January to the European Commission and EMCDDA Scientific Committee for opinion.

As usual in December, the Board adopted the EMCDDA 2017 budget, totalling some EUR 15.8 million (EUR 15.1 million EU subsidy, plus a contribution of some EUR 400 500 from Norway and EUR 271 000 from Turkey), and the preliminary draft budget for 2018. Sanja Mikulić (Croatia) was elected as member of the Budget Committee (composed of three EU Member States — BE, HR, CY — and two members of the European Commission).

The Director informed the Board of the EMCDDA's presidency of the Justice and Home Affairs agencies' network in 2017 (see p. 4), and welcomed a presentation by the Portuguese delegation on the Lisbon Addictions 2017 conference, to take place in Lisbon from 24–26 October (see p. 2).

Monika Blum

Scientific Committee begins new mandate

The EMCDDA Scientific Committee embarked on a new three-year mandate on 1 January, having ended its first term in December 2016. As decided by the Management Board, the current members — 15 top-level scientists selected in 2013 following the publication of a call for expressions of interest in the *Official Journal of the European Union* — will continue to serve as guardians and advocates of the scientific integrity of the agency until the end of 2019 ⁽¹⁾.

The Committee kicks off 2017 with the risk assessment of acryloylfentanyl in February (see p. 6). It will hold its 46th regular meeting in Lisbon from 22–24 May, where a new chair and vice-chair will be elected.

Maria Moreira

⁽¹⁾ For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/sc

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