



PROGRAMME

# **Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users**

**2019 annual expert meeting**

21-22 October 2019

**EMCDDA, Lisbon**

Monday 21 October 2019	
08.40 – 8.55	<b>Registration at EMCDDA's building</b>
09.00 - 9.20	Room: conference centre, EMSA building <b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening and welcome address - Alexis Goosdeel, EMCDDA Director</li> <li>- Objectives of the meeting and preliminary analyses of the data reported in 2019 - Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA</li> </ul>
09.20 - 10.30	<b>Session 1: International perspective and concerns in Europe</b> Room: conference centre Chair: Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA  Objective: Providing an international perspective on overdose deaths and an update on some concerns in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Andrew McAuley, Scotland, United Kingdom. Update on the general overdose crisis in Scotland.</li> <li>– Amanda Roxburgh: Opioid deaths in Australia</li> <li>– Christopher M Jones, CDC, USA. The evolving overdose crisis in the U.S. and the role of methamphetamine and cocaine</li> <li>– Short communications on threats and concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Outbreak of serious lung injury among people who use e-cigarette products (vaping), U.S.A – Michael Evans-Brown, EMCDDA</li> <li>o Increase in the number of overdose deaths reported in 2019: selected European countries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00 - 12.30	<b>Session 2: MDMA and other recreational drugs: joint perspective on recent trends from the 'Mortality' and the 'Drug checking' networks</b> Room: conference centre Chair: João Matias and André Noor, EMCDDA  Objective: to discuss the latest evidence on MDMA and cocaine-related use and harm: forensic, public health and market perspectives Amanda Roxburgh, Australia: MDMA deaths in Australia and selected European countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o National insights from post mortem toxicology</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mireia Ventura, Energy Control, Spain. Recent trends from the European drug checking network - a joint EMCDDA-TEDI data collection</li> <li>– Anton Luf, checkit!, Austria. Ecstasy: a substance in the spotlight - 20 years of drug checking data analysed by checkit! in Vienna</li> <li>– Discussion – including on other stimulants</li> </ul>
12.30 - 13.45	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.45 - 15.15	<b>Session 3: Deaths related to new-psychoactive drugs</b> Room: conference centre Chair: Julian Vicente and Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA  Objective: To increase understanding of public health impact of NPS by discussing the first European overview on NPS deaths (based on the European workbooks), and national updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hugo Lopez, Spain. NPS death overview in Europe</li> <li>– Andrew McAuley, Scotland, UK. The role of etizolam in Scottish drug-related deaths</li> <li>– Julian Vicente. Synthetic cannabinoids morbidity and deaths, with a focus on Turkey</li> <li>– Brief tour de table: USA, Germany and Hungary</li> </ul>
15.15 - 15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>

**Session 4 (parallel): Opioid-related deaths and deaths related to (other) medicines / 'DRD dashboard' project**

Room: conference centre

Chair: Isabelle Giraudon and Martin White, United Kingdom

Objective: to discuss national updates on opioids and medicines related deaths. To introduce the DRD dashboard with a focus on regional DRD data

- Suzy Lyons, Ireland, The role of pregabalin in poisoning deaths (2013 to 2016)
- Mario Dias, Portugal. Doubling of the presence of opioids in DRD in 2018 compared to 2017
- **Tour de table** on tramadol-related deaths
  
- Isabelle Giraudon. Possible use of regional data for a 'DRD dashboard'
- Discussion

15.45 - 17.15

**Session 5 (parallel): DRD and cross validation with opioid indicators**

Room: CDS106 (1<sup>st</sup> floor, EMCDDA building)

Chair: Julian Vicente, EMCDDA

Objective: to progress in opioid multi-indicator analysis by discussing practical application of the method to some countries; to discuss data gaps and further analysis

- Julian Vicente: introduction to the work done so far
- National updates and discussion:
  - Guus Crust, The Netherlands. Application of mortality multiplier to POU estimation over time
  - Czech Republic, France, Italy, Poland
  - Brief comments from other countries (e.g. Romania, Sweden) based on country profile prepared by EMCDDA

17.30

*Joint cocktail of the DRD and 'Drug checking' network – EMSA building*

09.00 – 10.30	<p><b>Session 6: Forensic toxicology</b>  Room: conference centre  Chair: Isabelle Giraudon and Axel Heinemann, Germany</p> <p>Objectives: to present the 'Forensic Toxicology Network – Euro-FOTOX project, and the progress and preliminary mapping of the laboratories who handled suspected drug-related deaths in Europe. To discuss, from the forensic toxicology perspective updates on drug-related deaths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Pirkko Kriikku, Finland. Objectives, process and preliminary findings of the Euro-FOTON project.</li> <li>– Anne-Claire Brisacier, France. Relationship between drug-related deaths and heroin availability</li> <li>– Małgorzata Dalmata, Poland. Data from the Warsaw forensic department.</li> <li>– Discussion and Tour de table: the Netherlands - plans to develop a special register; other countries.</li> </ul>
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00 – 12.15	<p><b>Session 7: Responses to reduce drug-related overdose morbidity and to prevent drug-related deaths</b>  Room: conference centre  Chair: Dagmar Hedrich, EMCDDA</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to share information about new initiatives, implementation practice and rolling out of responses to reduce drug-related morbidity and mortality;</li> <li>b) to present and discuss the outline for a new EMCDDA initiative on the prevention of opioid overdose deaths</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Elina Kotovirta, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland. Updates and issues around responses to drug overdose in Finland</li> <li>– <b>Tour de table</b> on recent developments in the response to drug-related deaths: e.g. heroin assisted treatment (Norway); supervised drug consumption facilities; regulatory changes regarding availability and accessibility of naloxone, and other initiatives (all)</li> <li>– Dagmar Hedrich. EMCDDA initiative on the prevention of opioid overdose deaths: focus on barriers to take-home naloxone programmes</li> <li>– Questions and discussion</li> </ul>
12.15 – 13.15	<p><b>Session 8: Updates on the DRD cross validation underestimation project</b>  Room: conference centre  Chair: Isabelle Giraudon and Julian Vicente, EMCDDA</p> <p>Objectives: to discuss progress on multi-indicator analysis as tool for better understanding DRD in the broader framework of opioid use and harms dynamics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Julian Vicente: overview and update</li> <li>– “Case studies” of different situations</li> <li>– Viktor Mravcik, Czech Republic</li> <li>– Thomas Clausen, Norway</li> <li>– Brief updates from other countries: Linda Veisberga (Latvia), Mario João Dias (Portugal), Suzi Lyons (Ireland) and Janus Sieroslowski (Poland)</li> </ul>
13.30	Wrap up and closure of the Drug-related deaths expert meeting
14.30 – 16.00	<p><b>Session 9 IPA 7 Coordination meeting DRD experts 2019 - for experts from the Western Balkan countries only</b>  Room: CDS106 (1<sup>st</sup> floor, EMCDDA building)  Chair: Katerina Skarupova and Frederic Denecker, EMCDDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Introduction and short tour de table</li> <li>– Strategic partners mapping exercise: the first step towards national DRD working groups</li> <li>– ST 5 exercise</li> <li>– Wrap-up / actions points</li> </ul>