



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

PROGRAMME

Expert meeting on Drug-Related Deaths (DRD)

10-11 October 2023 - Hybrid

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Tuesday, 10 October 2023

08:40–09.00	Registration at the EMCDDA (Lisbon time)
09:00–10.30	Session 1 - Introduction Chair: Isabelle Giraudon Welcome - Jane Mounteney, EMCDDA Introduction and preliminary findings - Isabelle Giraudon and Peter Heudtlass, EMCDDA The role of NPS benzodiazepines (etizolam) in DRD – and increase in cocaine related deaths - Suzi Lyons, Ireland Correlation between opioid drug prescription and opioid-related mortality in Spain as a surveillance tool: ecological study - Luis Sordo, Spain Country updates: Cyprus, Germany, Norway, Ukraine
10.30–11.00	Coffee-break
11.00–12.30	Session 2 - Outbreaks Chair: Isabelle Giraudon Synthetic opioids in Europe: update from the EWS - Joanna de Morais, EMCDDA Sharp increase in the number of deaths due to synthetic opioids in 2023 - Gleb Denisov, Estonia Nitazene related deaths and hospitalisations, in prison and in the community, La Réunion Island, 2023 - Sabrina Cherki, France Fentanyl (patches) related deaths among heroin users, 2023 - Chara Spiliopoulou, Greece Fentanyl (or analogues)-related overdose, Varna region, June 2023 - Snezha Zlateva, Bulgaria
12.30–13.30	Lunch Break
13.30–15.00	Session 3 - Outbreaks (continued) and national updates Chair: Suzi Lyons and Alessandro Pirona Madeira and Azores regions, cluster of a-PHP and a-PHIP related deaths - Antonio Castañera, Portugal Drug-related deaths in 2023 – Cathinones. Małgorzata Dalmata, Poland Increases in deaths related to synthetic opioids – emergence of d cathinones - Ruta Gedminiene, Lithuania Nitazenes overdose deaths in 2022-2023 - Diāna Vanaga-Arāja, Latvia Country updates: France, Denmark, Malta, Spain, Albania, Palestine
15.00–15.30	Coffee-break
15.30–17.00	Session 4 - Polydrug use and post mortem toxicology Chair: Peter Heudtlass and Pirkko Kriikku Polydrug working group with the Focal Points - Liesbeth Vandam, EMCDDA and Anna Péterfi, Hungary Fatal buprenorphine poisonings with extremely low femoral blood drug concentration – increase in the number of oxycodone-related deaths - Pirkko Kriikku, Finland PM toxicology – higher concentrations – and place of cocaine - Antonio Castañera, Portugal

Experimental survey with data on the cause of death and on the substances involved - Sabina Strano Rossi Italy

Update on the German situation - Heiko Bergmann, Germany

Discussion (morphine metabolites interpretation; and role of cathinones in DRD)

Country updates: Ireland, The Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Türkiye

Wednesday, 11 October 2023

08.45–10.15	<p>Session 5 - Overall mortality among people who use drugs Chair: Martin Busch</p> <p>Mortality among individuals prescribed opioid-agonist therapy in Scotland, UK, 2011–20: a national retrospective cohort study - Andrew McAuley, Scotland, UK</p> <p>Cause-specific mortality among patients in treatment for opioid use disorder in multiple settings: a prospective comparative cohort study - Thomas Clausen, Norway</p> <p>Country updates: Austria, Finland, Luxemburg, Slovenia (including overdoses with suicidal intent), Sweden, Georgia, Moldova</p>
10.15–10.40	<p>Coffee-break</p>
10.40–12.10	<p>Session 6 - Drug-related harms: toward a whole system response? Chair: Linda Montanari and Iciar Indave</p> <p>New synthetic opioids responses: preliminary findings from an ongoing scoping review - Iciar Indave, EMCDDA</p> <p>Harm reduction interventions in prison - Linda Montanari, EMCDDA</p> <p>Country updates (incl. Response items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Austria (New THN in Tyrol and drug testing) ii. Belgium (Resolution on THN) iii. Croatia (Planning pilot of THN project, introduction of home doses) iv. Czechia, (New harm reduction approaches) v. The Netherlands (Municipal level targeting of public nuisance, Amsterdam and Utrecht) vi. Norway (Updates from the THN Summit, Oslo, August 2023) vii. Slovenia (Plans for SCR in 2 cities) viii. Lebanon (THN in hospital and in the community)
12.10–13.20	<p>Session 7 - Discussion with the EMCDDA Director Alexis Goosdeel</p> <p>Exchange of views with the national experts on the EUDA: opportunities, priorities and needs</p>
13.20	<p>Wrap up and closing of the meeting</p>