Harmonisation Workshop report

Nicola Singleton
Director of Policy & Research
UK Drug Policy Commission

Countries involved

- Cyprus
- Denmark
- France
- Latvia
- UK
- Ireland
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain

Year of survey: 2005-2007

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Key features & implications

- Achievements this year
  - Increased number of countries involved
  - Production of harmonised databases
  - Initial exploratory analysis completed

- Issues identified
  - Variations in survey design eg sample size, age range
  - Missing values
  - Some variation in drugs included
  - Variability in variables other than for drug use

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The workshop

- Exploration of the issues identified
- Agreed approach to:
  - Simplification of missing values
  - Restricting age range
  - Use of unweighted bases to identify when sample sizes too small for inclusion in analysis
  - Approach to harmonising explanatory variables
  - Analyses to take further
  - Extension of work to 2009/10/11 datasets

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Next steps

- Finalise harmonised 2005-7 databases and produce basic analyses
- Produce technical paper on the learning from the process
- Produce harmonised 2010ish databases
- More extensive analysis => report of results

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Benefits from project

- Participants developing better understanding of their data
- Understanding of the problems may improve future survey design / data provision
- More truly comparative international analysis – also highlights issues people may want to consider in more depth at national level.

For more information: nsingleton@ukdpc.org.uk

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