



Agenda | Technical meeting

DRD annual expert meeting 13-14 October 2020

Date **13–14 October 2020**

Chair **Isabelle Giraudon**

Venue **Zoom**

Tuesday, 13 October 2020

08.45–09.00

Welcome participants

09.00–10.40

Session 1: Update on DRD activities (core and development). Preliminary analysis of the 2020 reports

Chair: André Noor, EMCDDA

Objectives: Welcome the participants, share the objectives of the meeting and the updates on DRD activities and projects. Present and discuss the preliminary analysis of the 2020 reports.

- Opening and welcome address - Alexis Goosdeel, EMCDDA
- Objectives of the meeting and updates on activities and projects - Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA
 - Revision of the standard tables for the Key indicators - André Noor, EMCDDA
 - Underreporting and cross indicator validation - Julian Vicente, EMCDDA
 - Project with a network of toxicologists - Pirkko Kriikku, Finland
- Why and how to set up an ad hoc special mortality register - Eefje Vercoulen, The Netherlands
- Preliminary analyses of the DRD data reported in 2020 – Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA
 - Discussion

10.40–11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00–13.00

Session 2: COVID-19 pandemic: impact on DRD, lessons learned and preparedness - Responses to overdoses

Chair: Jane Mounteney, EMCDDA

Part 1 COVID-19

Objectives: share different perspectives on the impact of COVID-19 on DRD: the preparation will be structured along the following themes: updates on overdose and mortality, main concerns, monitoring issues, lessons learned and preparedness for possible further waves.

- Trends spotter studies 2020 – brief summary as background - Alessandro Pirona, EMCDDA
- Addictovigilance contribution during COVID-19 epidemic and lockdown - Michel Mallaret, France
- COVID-19 survey among people who use drugs in three cities - Thomas Clausen, Norway
- Discussion/questions

Part 2 Responses

- Knowledge Questionnaire on overdose and take-home naloxone (THN) – preliminary analysis of the responses from the health policy planners - Katrin Oien (and Dagmar Hedrich), EMCDDA
 - Discussions/questions

13:00

Wrap up and closure of the core Drug-related deaths expert meeting

Wednesday, 14 October 2020

09.00–10.30

Session 3: Cohort studies

Chairs: Martin Busch, Austria and Julian Vicente, EMCDDA

Objectives: the participants to this session are interested and involved (or willing to be involved) in studies of mortality among people who are using drugs. They are willing to support and contribute to the cohort project led by Martin Busch. The project will be discussed in details: policy questions to be addressed, 2021 timeline, milestones, expected input and outputs. There will be also a national communication of the findings of a recently published study.

- Practical steps of the new EMCDDA project on cohorts, and how the FP and experts can contribute and benefit from the project - Martin Bush, Austria
- Mortality and cause of death among patients with opioid use disorder receiving opioid agonist treatment: a national register study (BMC, 2019) - Thomas Clausen, Norway

10.30–11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00–12.00

Link to participants

Session 4: COVID and DRD: Rapid assessment from the EURO-FOTON and toxicologists networks

Chair: Pirkko Kriikku, Finland and Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA

Objectives: This session provides a specific forensic toxicology perspective on the question of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on overdoses. It also aims to assess whether the format of ONLINE structured discussion with a network of experts is feasible and can bring first hand and timely information of drug-related deaths. The session should contribute to build further the 'Forensic Toxicology Network – (Euro-FOTON project) and facilitate the networking between newly identified and nominated national experts.

Finally, in the light of the latest updates received from some countries, a focus on synthetic cannabinoids will allow discussions around outbreaks and the latest trends.

- 'Tour de table' based on the structured questionnaire on COVID-19 and recent trends on selected substances
 - o Facilitated discussion
- Focus on synthetic cannabinoids
 - o Outbreak of 21 deaths related to 4F-MDMB-BICA in the summer 2020 - Gergely Horváth, Hungary
 - o Drop in deaths related to synthetic cannabinoids - (EMCDDA on behalf of) Yalçın Büyük, Turkey
 - o Discussion

12.00

End of meeting

Thursday, 15 October 2020

Link to participants

EMCDDA's EU4DM project (European Union for Drug Monitoring project). Side event with the nominated national experts from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

09.00–10.30

Session 5: EU4DM countries – Drug-related deaths and drug-related emergencies

Chair: Anne Bergenström and Thomas Néfau, EMCDDA

- Welcome and introductions - Anne Bergenstrom, Health Unit/EU4MD, EMCDDA
- Country overviews. National experts
- Introduction to Euro-DEN - Isabelle Giraudon, Health Unit, EMCDDA
- Briefing on upcoming work/meeting - Thomas Néfau, Security and safety Unit, EU4MD, EMCDDA

10:30

End of meeting