



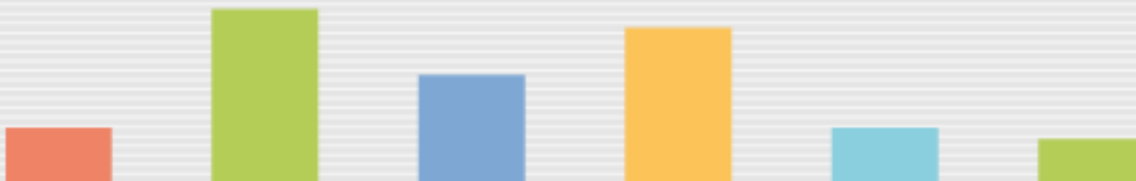
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users

Expert meeting, 30/09 -1/10 2021

**Isabelle Giraudon, Peter Heudtlass, André Noor, Julian Vicente,
Sofia Costa Cabral**

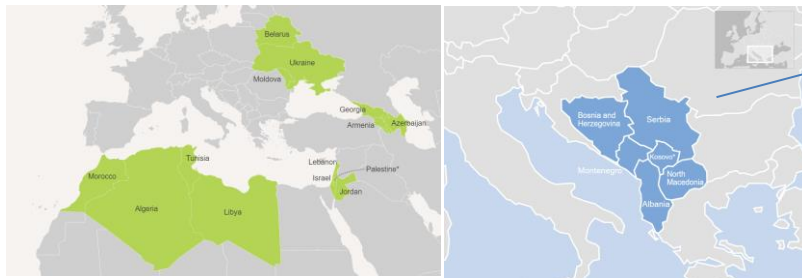
HEA Unit (Public Health) - EMCDDA



The Drug-Related Deaths (DRD) network

A European Network

- 29 EU Members States
- 5 IPA countries
- 8 European Neighbourhood Policy partners (EU4MD)
- Invited external speakers



- Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, IPA : Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina * Kosovo ** North Macedonia Serbia
- European Neighbourhood Policy partners: Algeria Azerbaijan Georgia Lebanon Moldova Palestine Tunisia Ukraine – all active partners of the EU4MD projects
- Invited speakers : Austria, France and Canada

Objectives and main sources of the EMCDDA epidemiological indicator on drug-related deaths



- 3 'pillars' or sources
 - To build a complete and useful picture of the situation, trends, threats;
 - To inform policies and support evidence based responses

Objectives and sources



- Monitoring overdose ('drug-induced deaths')

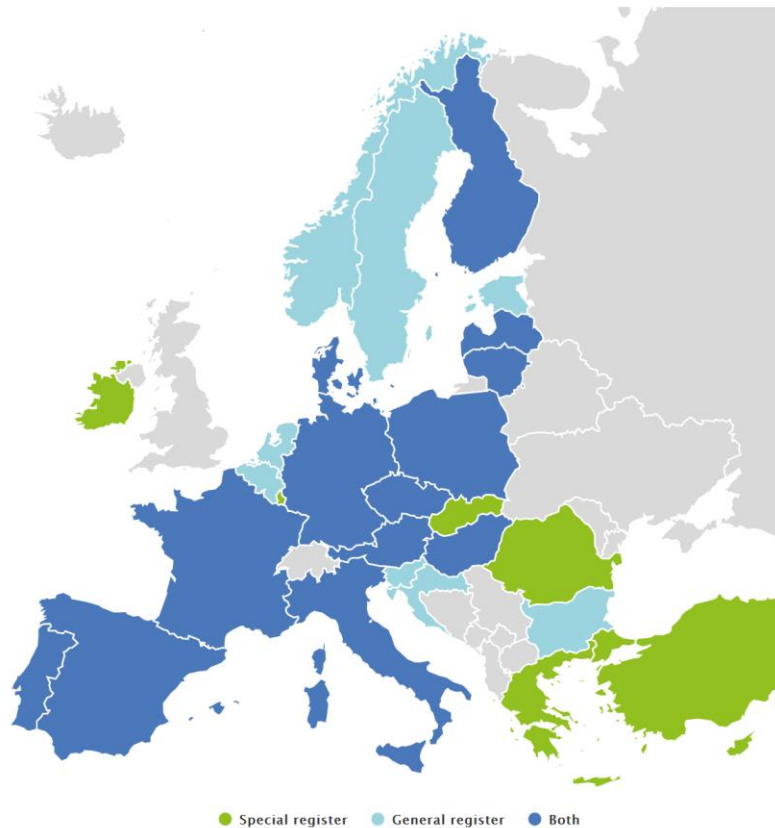
Pillar 1 General mortality registers (national statistics)

Pillar 2 Special registers (forensic toxicology, police)

- Monitoring all causes of deaths among People who use drugs

Pillar 3 Linkage or longitudinal cohorts studies

Sources used by the countries to monitor drug-related deaths



- Most countries report data from both sources (general and special registers) → triangulation and validation
- Countries report data every year
- Many countries have set up a national working group
- Work on-going on several GMRs and several Special registers across Europe

Source Frequently asked questions (FAQ). Drug overdose deaths in Europe, 2021

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/topic-overviews/content/faq-drug-overdose-deaths-in-europe_en#question16



Objectives and corresponding activities

1) Quantify (how many deaths, where, when?)

- Statistical Bulletin
<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/data/stats2021/drd>
- Dashboard project continued

2) Characterise (what substances involved? polydrug?)

- Revised ST6 → more information on drugs and medicines
- 'ST6 clinic' - support to FP and experts
- So-Prep – opioids preparedness
- MDMA and on NPS
- López-Pelayo, H., Vicente, V., Gallegos, A., McAuley, A., Büyük, Y., White, M. and Giraudon, I. (2021), 'Mortality involving **new psychoactive substances** across Europe, 2016-2017', *Emerging Trends in Drugs, Addictions and Health* 1, 100016.
- Roxburgh, A., Sam, B., Kriikku, P., Mounteney, J., Castanera, A., Dias, M. and Giraudon, I. (2021), 'Trends in **MDMA-related mortality** across four countries', *Addiction*,



Objectives and corresponding activities

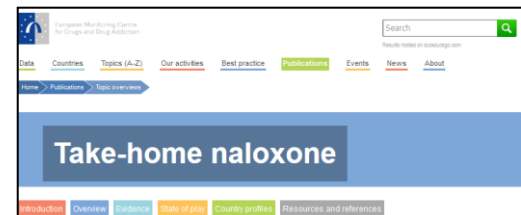
3) Validate (real burden?)

- Cross indicator-validation of opioid-deaths
- Cohort studies mapping
- Cohort workshop Croatia Q1 2021

4) Link with responses

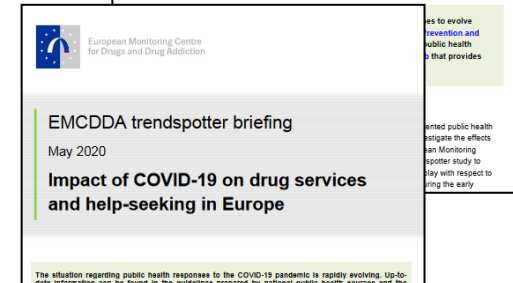
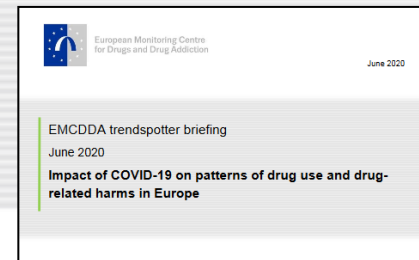
- Updates from the network today
- In press: EU Response Guide – incl. harm reduction and preventing DRD

Mortality cohort studies among people using drugs in Europe: countries with studies conducted within the last 10 years or earlier, July 2021 – provisional findings



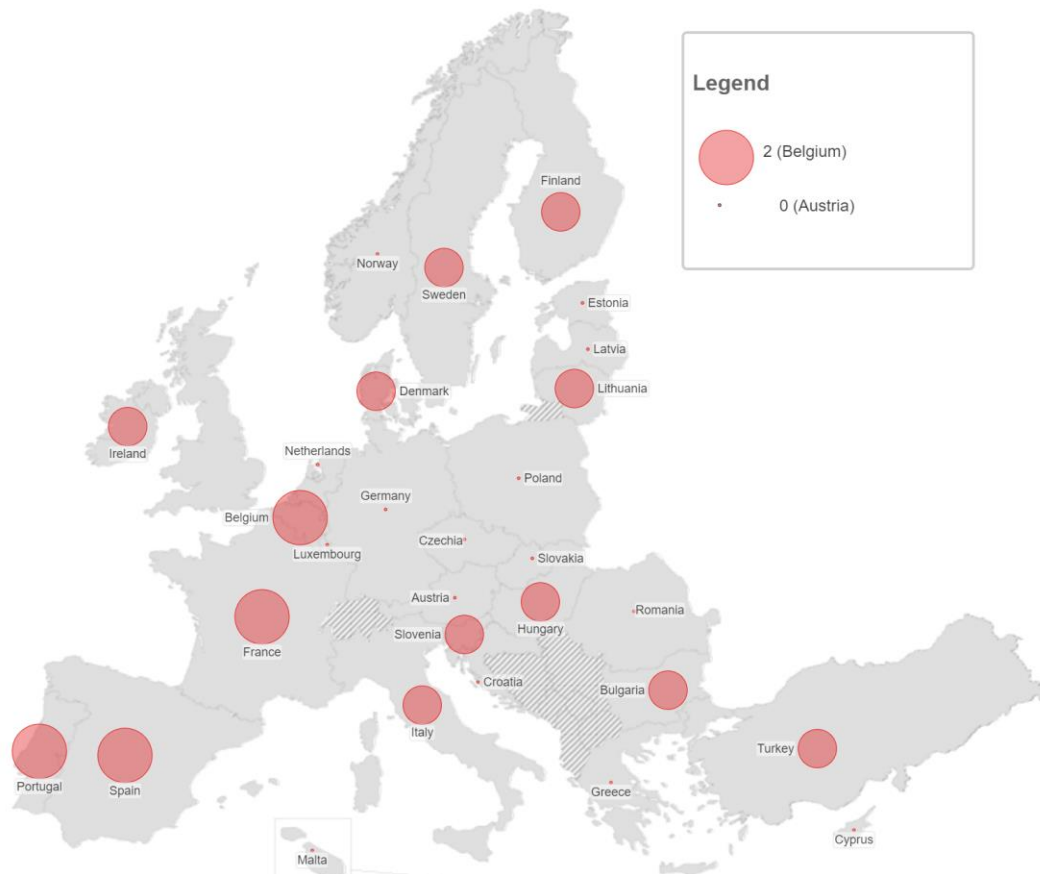
Activities → Updates

- **5) Assess health threats**
- Trendspotter studies on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on drug use, harms and services
- → with contributions from experts in drug-related harms (DRD, emergency and drug treatment clinicians, public health specialists)



New data – reported in September 2021

Provisional



Half of the countries have reported data from at least one source (GMR or SR)

4 countries have reported data from both sources

Reporting in progress.
Normal at this stage

Provisional results have been presented and discussed with the participating experts

Data validation and analysis is in progress

Results will be available in 2022



Thank you

More information will be available on the expert meeting from

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/meetings/2021/drug-related-deaths-drd_en

Including Agenda, participants, presentations, supporting documents..

