

# SO-PREP

Synthetic Opioids prevalence, use and overdose in Europe


## MAIN FOCUS

How can EU countries be prepared and equipped for a continued rise in Synthetic Opioids prevalence, use and incidents?

Publications | SO-PREP | Partners | SO-PREP | Fun: Why Am I The One | Fonte - 3.2.0 - Dashboard | Fonte - 3.2.0 - Home

https://so-prep-project.eu/partners/

**SO-PREP** Home Background Objectives Publications Partners Events Contact




**Trimbos  
instituut**  
Netherlands Institute of  
Mental Health and Addiction

**Trimbos Institute (TI, The Netherlands)**

TI has a substantial track record in coordinating and collaborations in EU projects since 1993. TI is the country's EMCDDA Reitox National Focal Point, and participates in the European Early Warning System. The Institute has also a vast experience in developing and implementing drug monitoring and intervention instruments.


[Read more](#)



**Tervise Arengu Instituut**  
National Institute for Health Development

**The National Institute for Health Development (TAI, Estonia)**

TAI is a government-based research and development agency collecting, connecting and providing health information to the population of Estonia. TAI is the country's EMCDDA Reitox National Focal Point.




**FRANKFURT  
UNIVERSITY  
OF APPLIED SCIENCES**

**Frankfurt University of Applied Science (FRA-UAS, Germany)**

FRA-UAS leads the project's research activities. It has a long-standing expertise in academic and practice-oriented research and project development at European and international level.


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**Correlation**  
European  
Harm Reduction  
Network

**Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN, The Netherlands)**

C-EHRN is a network ran by Dutch Foundation Rainbow Group (FRG). It has over 200 civil




**Finnish institute for  
health and welfare**

**Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL, Finland)**

THL is the country's key responsible agency for the studying, monitoring and promoting public health. THL is the country's EMCDDA Reitox National Focal Point. THL is a well experienced in international programming, including in EC projects and in Joint Actions.

[Read more](#)




**GHENT  
UNIVERSITY**

**University Ghent (Belgium)**

Windows taskbar: 8°C Sunny 14:16 30.09.2021

- Gaining a better insight and understanding of the current use and trends of SO and related health needs in Europe
- Strengthening the national health system SO preparedness
- Developing an evidence-based toolkit with seven implementation guides describing good practice monitoring and responses to SO in Europe



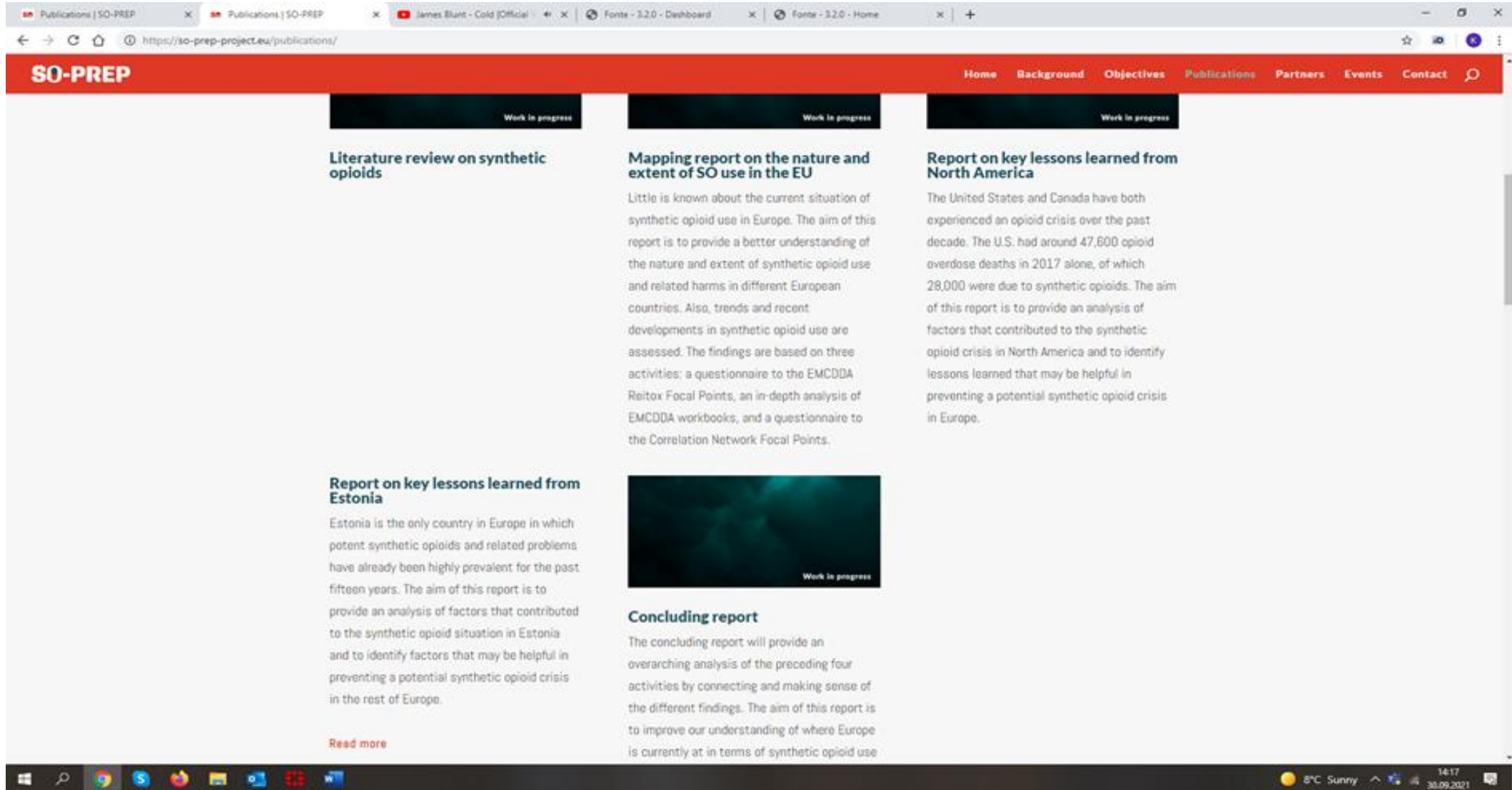
**SO-PREP** Home Background Objectives Publications Partners Events Contact

### How can EU countries be prepared and equipped for a continued rise in Synthetic Opioids prevalence, use and incidents?

Publication Updates Event Updates

**The SO-PREP project wants to contribute to**

- a better understanding of the current context around SO in Europe
- better informed prepared and equipped national health systems to tackle SO in Europe
- timely and adequate implementation of tailored responses to SO to mitigate related problems of dependence and (fatal and non-fatal) overdoses across Europe



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the SO-PREP website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://so-prep-project.eu/publications/>. The website has a red header with the SO-PREP logo on the left and a navigation menu on the right with links for Home, Background, Objectives, Publications, Partners, Events, and Contact. Below the header, there are three columns of deliverables, each with a 'Work in progress' label in a black box above the title. The first column contains 'Literature review on synthetic opioids' and 'Report on key lessons learned from Estonia'. The second column contains 'Mapping report on the nature and extent of SO use in the EU'. The third column contains 'Report on key lessons learned from North America' and 'Concluding report'. Each deliverable has a short introductory paragraph. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Read more' link. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the browser window, showing the time as 14:17 on 30.09.2021.

Publications | SO-PREP

Home Background Objectives Publications Partners Events Contact

Work in progress

### Literature review on synthetic opioids

Work in progress

### Mapping report on the nature and extent of SO use in the EU

Little is known about the current situation of synthetic opioid use in Europe. The aim of this report is to provide a better understanding of the nature and extent of synthetic opioid use and related harms in different European countries. Also, trends and recent developments in synthetic opioid use are assessed. The findings are based on three activities: a questionnaire to the EMCDDA Reitox Focal Points, an in-depth analysis of EMCDDA workbooks, and a questionnaire to the Correlation Network Focal Points.

Work in progress

### Report on key lessons learned from North America

The United States and Canada have both experienced an opioid crisis over the past decade. The U.S. had around 47,600 opioid overdose deaths in 2017 alone, of which 28,000 were due to synthetic opioids. The aim of this report is to provide an analysis of factors that contributed to the synthetic opioid crisis in North America and to identify lessons learned that may be helpful in preventing a potential synthetic opioid crisis in Europe.

### Report on key lessons learned from Estonia

Estonia is the only country in Europe in which potent synthetic opioids and related problems have already been highly prevalent for the past fifteen years. The aim of this report is to provide an analysis of factors that contributed to the synthetic opioid situation in Estonia and to identify factors that may be helpful in preventing a potential synthetic opioid crisis in the rest of Europe.

[Read more](#)

### Concluding report

The concluding report will provide an overarching analysis of the preceding four activities by connecting and making sense of the different findings. The aim of this report is to improve our understanding of where Europe is currently at in terms of synthetic opioid use

Work in progress

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