Session 5: Heroin and other trends

Chair: Michael Donmall

Four presentations

- 10-year overview of heroin abuse in Greece through the treatment demand -and other indicators (Anastasios Fotiou)
- Heroin trends in Switzerland (Etienne Maffli)
- Discussant: Erik Iversen

- Other trends in Malta (Christine Marchand Agius)
- Problematic cannabis use in Austria based on TDI data (Alexander Eggerth)
- Discussant: Johan Van Bussel

Content related conclusions -1

- High level of opiate users share among all TDI patients, smaller among first treatment (Malta, Swiss, Greece)

- Decreasing trend in opioids (heroin) use
  - shown by data from various sources (Swiss)
  - TDI data - decrease in share but increase in absolute numbers (Greece)

Content related conclusions -2

- Increasing trend in cannabis use shown by TDI data
  - What does it mean?
    - Increase in use or in coverage of reporting system
    - TDI cannabis patients – are all cannabis dependent (problem users)
  - What are the factors?
    - Increasing prevalence of cannabis problem use
    - Political influences
    - Increasing awareness

Methodological conclusions

- Issue of „opiate" oriented treatment offer
- Controlling changes in coverage of reporting system as a key issue when interpreting trends in drug use
- Analysis of percentage distribution according to main drug should be accompanied by analyses of trend in absolute numbers
- Advantages of using data from various sources for common analyses.
- Time Lag to treatment greater for newly emerging drugs