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Drugnet Europe

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99

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EMCDDA joins forces with partners to address viral hepatitis elimination targets

Hepatitis and other drug-related infectious diseases were the focus of 'Hepatitis week', held at the EMCDDA from 12–16 June ([1]). The initiative brought together around 100 specialists from: EU Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries to the EU, as well as representatives from the European Commission, partner agencies, civil society and professional organisations active in the hepatitis field.

The week kicked off with a two-day meeting of the hepatitis B and C network of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) (12–13 June) and closed with the regular annual meeting of the EMCDDA drug-related infectious diseases (DRID) network of national experts (15–16 June).

Opening the meeting, EMCDDA Director Alexis Goosdeel said: 'The prevalence of antibodies to the hepatitis C virus commonly ranges between 40% and 80% in national samples of injecting drug users in the EU Member States. People who inject drugs frequently accumulate risks, which can increase the likelihood of developing liver-related problems. Although there are effective treatments available to cure HCV infection, these therapeutic options do not cover enough injecting drug users in Europe. Testing is also insufficient and many remain undiagnosed. The EMCDDA, through its new Strategy 2025, is committed to contributing to a healthier Europe by acting as a catalyst for improving the quality and delivery of responses to reduce the health and social consequences of drug use.'

Testing is insufficient and many remain undiagnosed.

A joint meeting day on 14 June was dedicated to viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs (PWID) and provided both networks with a timely opportunity to share and discuss: latest epidemiological data; updates on access to prevention and care and national policy developments.

In the context of the WHO framework, drawn up in 2016, for eliminating HBV and HCV by 2030 (see Spotlight p. 6), experts identified options for improving surveillance and monitoring to support European countries in achieving ambitious elimination targets. Building on existing surveillance mechanisms and indicators, WHO/Europe, the EMCDDA and ECDC will support countries, both in monitoring infection levels and responses and in continuously improving data quality.

Specific vulnerabilities among PWID were identified in the prison setting but also opportunities for scaling up diagnosis and treatment in this context. Here an elevated transmission risk (including after prison release) was identified, potentially contributing to HCV transmission in the community. Scaling-up HCV treatment in prison can provide important public health benefits.

A 'World Café' session showcased current EU projects and networks, which address hepatitis prevention and the continuum of care among PWID, and which develop and test new practices in screening and referral to treatment. Innovative peer-led testing approaches in Portugal were illustrated by peer workers from a local community-based harm reduction centre.

A final debate drew together viewpoints from clinicians, national health administration, civil society and patient organisations and identified considerable opportunities for improved prevention, vaccination, testing and treatment of PWID. It pointed again at the crucial role that the treatment of HCV among this group will play in the overall elimination agenda for viral hepatitis in Europe.

Piotr Kramarz, Deputy Chief Scientist of ECDC said: 'Bringing these networks together has provided us with a great opportunity to draw on the wealth of expertise existing in Europe. It will also help us to move the public health agenda forward around hepatitis prevention and control among people who inject drugs. The elimination of hepatitis B and C in Europe is a huge challenge, especially among drug users, and this meeting has allowed for discussion around practical strategies to tackle the problem. Collaboration, communication and the sharing of good practice, through events such as this, are essential if the goal of elimination is to be achieved'.

([1]) For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2017/fs4/hepatitis-week-june-2017 and www.emcdda.europa.eu/meetings/2017/drid (meeting documentation and presentations). The proceedings are expected to be published in October 2017.

CONFERENCES

ADDICTIONS

Lisbon Addictions 2017

Lisbon Addictions 2017 — the second European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies — will be held in Lisbon from 24–26 October ([1]). The event is organised jointly by the Portuguese General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD), the journal *Addiction*, the EMCDDA and the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE). Following the success of Lisbon Addictions 2015, which gathered over 600 participants from almost 60 countries, the organisers have opted for a larger venue, which can accommodate over 850 participants. Registration for the conference is still open, although places are limited.

As an appetiser for the event, the draft conference programme was made available on the conference website on 30 June. In addition to five plenary sessions, where renowned speakers will address current challenges in the addictions field, the event will offer some 100 parallel sessions tailored to a multi-disciplinary audience. The parallel sessions will be grouped into five thematic tracks, which will help guide participants through the multi-faceted programme ([2]). These sessions are divided into oral presentations (in open sessions) and structured sessions (symposia, panel discussions, workshops). Over 150 posters will be displayed to complement the scientific programme.

The EC-funded TWIST project will add a training element to Lisbon Addictions 2017 ([3]). TWIST will provide a two-day training programme, bringing together 120 early-stage addiction professionals with experts from research and non-research stakeholder groups.

In the margins of the conference, a number of major events will again provide a unique opportunity for: networking among researchers, practitioners and policy experts across countries and disciplines; addressing new challenges; and exploring developing fields ([4]).

Renate Hochwieser, Maria Moreira and Liesbeth Vandam

([1]) For more, see www.lisbonaddictions.eu

([2]) The five tracks are: issues in focus; measurement, epidemiology and reviews; extending the evidence base; lessons from practice; substance, set and setting.

([3]) http://www.twist-train.eu/

([4]) See 'Side events and networking' on conference website.

DRIVING

Third international symposium on drug-impaired driving

The Third international symposium on drug-impaired driving will take place in Lisbon on 23 October ([1]). The event is a collaborative effort between the EMCDDA, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA international programme) and the New Zealand Drug Foundation. It will focus on recent road safety developments which aim to reduce drug-impaired driving.

In some parts of the world, the prevalence of drug-impaired driving has begun to rival that of alcohol-impaired driving. This has resulted in a greater focus on the ability to detect drug-impaired drivers using roadside screening tools. Many countries are working towards laws that establish maximum permissible blood-drug limits (sometimes referred to as 'per se' limits). Similar to alcohol, any driver 'over the limit' commits an offence and there is no need to prove physical impairment. Speakers at the symposium will share knowledge on these legislative and policy options and will discuss recent advances in drug testing, screening and detection.

The symposium aims to bring together key stakeholders who have advanced the field — whether it be through detection technology, innovation in prevention or experience in developing new drug policy — to share their experiences and lessons learned and to develop next steps to address drug-impaired driving effectively. It will offer participants the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in this area, highlight new research and identify gaps in need of attention. In special focus at the event will be changes in cannabis policy in different parts of the world and their implications for drug-impaired driving. These changing policies require new models of detection and prevention, and guest speakers from Colorado, Washington State, the Netherlands and Canada will share their experiences and their thoughts on this crucial topic.

Event to focus on recent road safety developments which aim to reduce drug-impaired driving.

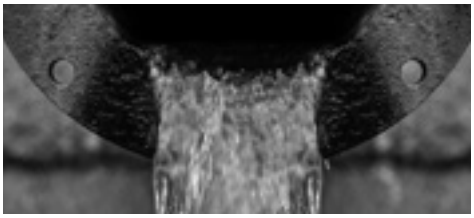
This event will take place on the eve of Lisbon Addictions 2017 and at the same venue. Entry to the symposium is free of charge, but on a first come, first served basis. Prior registration is required.

Brendan Hughes and Liesbeth Vandam

([1]) www.emcdda.europa.eu/meetings/2017/3rd-symposium-drug-impaired-driving. The first symposium was held in Canada (2011) and the second in New Zealand (2014).

CONFERENCES

WASTEWATER



Testing the waters

Leading European and international experts will meet in Lisbon from 26–27 October to review the state of the art of the rapidly developing scientific discipline of wastewater-based epidemiology (which has the potential for monitoring near-real-time, population-level trends in illicit drug use). They will be gathering at 'Testing the waters 2017', the Third international conference on wastewater analysis, organised by SCORE (Sewage analysis CORe group — Europe) and the EMCDDA ([1]).

One of the main objectives of the conference — which will take place in the margins of Lisbon Addictions 2017 — is to bridge the fields of wastewater-based epidemiology and conventional drug epidemiology. Case studies will be presented and novel uses of the approach explored, such as its potential for monitoring drug production and the early detection of new psychoactive substances on the drug market. Registration to 'Testing the waters 2017' is open until 19 August. Participants at Lisbon Addictions 2017 may attend at a reduced fee.

Renate Hochwieser and Liesbeth Vandam

([1]) For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/wastewater-analysis
http://score-cost.eu/network-activities/meetings/ttw2017/

RESPONSES

EMCDDA to launch new European guide

Health and social responses to drug problems in Europe will be placed in the spotlight this autumn in a pioneering new EMCDDA guide to be launched in the margins of Lisbon Addictions 2017 ([1]).

The guide is designed to provide an overview of health and social responses to drug problems — defined as any actions or interventions undertaken to address the negative consequences associated with the illicit drugs phenomenon — along with more detailed coverage of some of the most salient issues in responding to drug problems from a European perspective. It will also act as a gateway to a package of online resources providing more in-depth information. Given the wide variety of issues addressed and range of possible responses covered, it is intended to be a reference document rather than a publication to be read from cover to cover. In this vein, each section begins with a summary and boxes highlighting other key elements to facilitate reading and navigation.

Three chapters at the core of the guide look at the issue from different perspectives: responding to problems associated with different types of drug and patterns of use; responding to the needs of different groups (e.g. women, young people, asylum seekers); and responding in different settings (e.g. prisons, festivals, schools). The guide opens with a chapter presenting a framework for developing responses and closes with reflections on supporting their successful implementation. While the guide is primarily geared towards those approaching drug problems from a public health planning perspective (local and national), the mapping of approaches and the links to evidence and tools will also be useful for frontline workers and responders.

The guide will be produced every three years and complements the annual *European Drug Report* and the triennial *EU Drug Markets Report*. Together these three reports aim to provide a comprehensive European picture to assist policymakers and practitioners to develop policies and interventions that will contribute to a healthier and more secure Europe.

Nicola Singleton

([1]) *Health and Social Responses to Drug Problems: a European Guide*. See next edition of *Drugnet Europe* for more.

ACADEMIA

EDSS welcomes record number of students

The sixth European drugs summer school (EDSS) — 'Illicit drugs in Europe: demand, supply and public policies' — kicked off in Lisbon on International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking ([1]).
The two-week course (26 June–7 July), was a joint initiative of the EMCDDA and the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) and is supported by the US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). This year, the EDSS reached its maximum capacity, with a record 50 participants enrolled from some 25 countries.

Through a multi-disciplinary and interactive approach to the drugs problem, EMCDDA scientific experts, leading academics, guest speakers and policymakers, prepared participants to meet the complex policy challenges in this field.

Over the two weeks, the students participated in study visits to outreach facilities (mobile methadone unit; harm reduction centre) and met members of the Lisbon 'Commission for dissuasion'. They also attended interactive workshops to discuss their own projects and views.

With students hailing from the EU institutions, UNODC, UNAIDS and national administrations, the course offered an invaluable opportunity for knowledge sharing and professional networking.

The course closed with an open debate on the 'UNGASS outcome document — what next?' ([2]).

Marica Ferri

([1]) For more see www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2017/fs6/european-drugs-summer-school-2017. See also page 7 #WorldDrugDay.

([2]) The United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs 'outcome document' is available at: www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/attachments/2354/E_CN7_2016_L12_Rev.1.pdf
See also www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2016/ungass-2016 and *Drugnet Europe* 94 (p. 5) www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/94

BOOKSHELF

World Drug Report 2017

Around 29.5 million people — or 0.6% of the global adult population — were engaged in problematic drug use in 2015 and suffered from drug use disorders, including dependence. Opioids were reportedly the most harmful drug type, accounting for 70% of the negative health impact associated with drug use disorders worldwide. This is according to the *World Drug Report 2017,* released on 22 June by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna.

Disorders related to the use of amphetamines also account for a considerable share of the global burden of disease. And while the market for new psychoactive substances (NPS) remains relatively small, users are unaware of the content and dosage of psychoactive substances in some NPS, potentially exposing them to additional serious health risks.

The report provides a global overview of the supply and demand of opiates, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and NPS, as well as their impact on health. It highlights the scientific evidence for hepatitis C causing greatest harm among people who use drugs and brings into view further diversification of the thriving drug market. To celebrate 20 years since its inception, the *World Drug Report 2017* is presented in a new five-booklet format designed to improve reader friendliness.

Publisher: United Nations
(Sales No. E.17.XI.6)
Language: English (summaries in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish)
Date: June 2017
ISBN: 978-92-1-148291-1
eISBN: 978-92-1-060623-3
Downloadable: www.unodc.org/wdr2017

The EMCDDA is responsible for the selection of materials for the Bookshelf and for the text presented. However, responsibility for the content of these materials and the opinions expressed therein lies with the authors themselves.

FEATURE

EMCDDA responds to increasing risks posed by new fentanils

The number of new synthetic opioids available on the European drug market has significantly increased in recent years, with 25 of these substances detected between 2009 and 2016 ([1]). Fentanils are subject to particular scrutiny — 18 new fentanils were detected by the EU Early Warning System on new psychoactive substances between 2012 and 2016. These highly potent substances, which may be sold as heroin or other illicit opioids, pose serious risks both to individual and public health.

These highly potent substances pose serious risks both to individual and public health

Following an examination of the information available on the new synthetic opioid furanylfentanyl, the EMCDDA and Europol launched a data-collection exercise in November 2016 in the first stage of the three-step legal procedure designed to respond to potentially threatening new psychoactive substances (NPS) available on the market ([2]). As a result, a Joint Report on the substance was submitted to the EU institutions within six weeks (25 January 2017)([3]).

The number of new synthetic opioids available on the European drug market has significantly increased in recent years.

The health and social risks caused by the manufacture, trafficking and use of furanylfentanyl, and the involvement of organised crime and possible consequences of control measures were also examined via a formal risk-assessment procedure under the extended EMCDDA Scientific Committee, culminating in a risk-assessment meeting in Lisbon from 22–23 May ([4]).

Furanylfentanyl is a synthetic opioid, closely related to fentanyl, which is internationally controlled. Furanylfentanyl has been available in the EU since, at least, June 2015 and has been detected in 16 Member States and Norway. While the detected quantities are relatively small, they should be considered in the context of the high potency of the substance. Furanylfentanyl is typically administered by nasal spray, orally and by nasal insufflation. Other routes of administration — including injecting, and vaping of e-liquids — have also been reported.

Between November 2015 and February 2017, 23 deaths were reported by six countries where furanylfentanyl was detected post-mortem. In the majority of cases, other drugs were also detected with furanylfentanyl. In at least 10 deaths, furanylfentanyl was reported to be either the cause of, or to have contributed to, the death. On 5 July, the European Commission proposed to subject furanylfentanyl to control measures across the EU. The proposal will now be discussed by the Member States in the Council, which, in consultation with the European Parliament, will decide whether to adopt the measures ([5]).

In February 2017, the EMCDDA carried out a risk assessment on acryloylfentanyl. A final Council implementing decision on subjecting the substance to control measures is expected to be adopted in the autumn ([6]). Detailed investigations are currently underway on two other fentanils: 4-fluoroisobutyrylfentanyl and tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl.

Michael Evans-Brown, Ana Gallegos and Roumen Sedefov

([1]) See *European Drug Report 2017: Trends and Developments* www.emcdda.europa.eu/edr2017

([2]) For more on this procedure, see Council Decision 2005/387/JHA http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32005D0387:EN:HTML

([3]) See Joint Reports www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports/furanylfentanyl

([4]) See risk assessments www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/action-on-new-drugs

([5]) http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-05-07-2017.htm

([6]) See Joint Report www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports/acryloylfentanyl
See also *Drugnet Europe* 97, page 6 www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/97
http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8858-2017-INIT/en/pdf

INTERNATIONAL

IPA5 project draws to a close

The EMCDDA organised a conference in Sarajevo on 21 June, marking the end of a two-year technical cooperation project with beneficiary countries of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)([1]). The conference was held in association with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Delegation of the EU to the country. Deputy Minister of Security, Mijo Krešić attended the opening session ([2]).

The EU-funded project (IPA5)([3]), operating within the framework of the EU Enlargement Policy ([4]), was designed to prepare Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia for future participation in the work of the EMCDDA. Kicking off in July 2015, with a budget of EUR 600 000, and officially ending on 30 June 2017, it: promoted knowledge transfer and capacity building in the area of drug monitoring; provided scientific support for information collection and analysis; and facilitated product development corresponding to national, EU and EMCDDA needs.

The three project goals were:
1) Consolidating cooperation with each IPA beneficiary at institutional level;
2) Fostering scientific cooperation in data collection, analysis and interpretation; and
3) Developing, increasing and promoting the added value of the cooperation.

Under the first objective, national stakeholder meetings in the six beneficiary country capital cities ensured national coherence to the project goals and expected outcomes. Under the second goal, the project included a data-collection exercise on assessing drug seizure data in the region, which involved training sessions and analysis of national data. In cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the EMCDDA supported the assessment of drug treatment availability and service needs at national level by helping interested countries carry out drug treatment facility surveys. Also financed under the project was the implementation of the first national general population survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Montenegro.

In line with the third objective, the EMCDDA supported countries in developing national early-warning systems on new psychoactive substances (NPS). Coaches from selected EU Member States were assigned to the interested beneficiary countries to implement capacity-development activities with key stakeholders.

On 1 July, the EMCDDA embarked on IPA6, a two-year cooperation project which will run until 30 June 2019. The project — with a budget of EUR 340 000 — will strengthen cooperation with the six IPA beneficiary countries of the Western Balkans, preparing them for participation in the work of the agency and the Reitox network.

Cécile Martel

([1]) The European Commission's IPA programme is designed to help candidate countries and potential candidate countries in their efforts to meet accession criteria, to align with EU policies and standards and to foster socio-economic development. https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/instruments/overview_en

([2]) For the full programme, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/cc/ipa5

([3]) IPA5 (July 2015–June 2017) www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/cc/ipa5

([4]) EU Enlargement Policy https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

PARTNERS

Towards a safer and fairer Europe

Current migration and security challenges in Europe call for ever closer cooperation between the nine EU agencies operating in the area of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)([1]). As chair of the JHA agencies' network in 2017, the EMCDDA hosted the second network meeting in Lisbon from 20–21 June to assess implementation of the 2017 work programme priorities ([2]).

Representatives from the nine agencies, the European Commission (DG-JUST, DG-HOME) and the EU External Action Service discussed ongoing developments in the JHA area and their implications for the agencies' common work. High on the agenda were joint activities to implement the European Agenda on Security and the European Agenda on Migration.
On the former, the group examined the new EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime (2018–21)([3]) as well as a review of the EU Internal Security Strategy. On the latter, it looked at a concept paper on health and migration and a Frontex-led proposal for a toolbox on migration (which will provide a comprehensive overview of the work of the JHA agencies in supporting implementation of EU policies in this area). The new mandates of Frontex and the EMCDDA were also presented.

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The participants assessed the added value of the network and received updates on joint activities in the areas of external relations, training, ICT and communication. Highlights were also shared on the expert meeting 'The expanding influence of the internet, the exploitation of cyberspace and the transformational nature of new technologies' (20–21 April).

The EMCDDA will host a high-level meeting of the JHA agencies' directors on 28 November with a focus on issues including the internet and cybercrime, child protection and health and migration. At the end of the year, the network will report on its activities to the Council's Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) and the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).

Klaudia Palczak

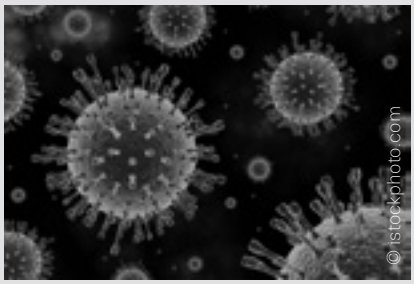
([1]) CEPOL, EASO, EIGE, EMCDDA, eu-LISA, Eurojust, Europol, FRA and Frontex. For more, see brochure and video at http://ec.europa.eu/justice/about/files/jha_agencies_en.pdf | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LppnTJ3eIA

([2]) For an overview and calendar of events, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/jha and www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2017/5/JHA-internet

([3]) http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7704-2017-INIT/en/pdf

SPOTLIGHT

WHO and EU agencies support global hepatitis targets



A recent meeting of EU agency networks on hepatitis B/C and drug-related infectious diseases (see p. 1) has galvanised collaboration between the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), the EMCDDA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in their joint endeavour to assist countries in the elimination of viral hepatitis.

The elimination of hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 — namely a 90% reduction in new infections and a cut in mortality of 65% over the 15-year period leading up to 2030 — are core targets of the first *Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016–2021*, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2016.

Complementing the global strategy and adapting it to the distinctive profile of the European region, an Action Plan for the health sector's response to viral hepatitis was adopted by 53 European countries in September 2016. The plan identifies priority actions needed to be taken by these countries along the continuum of viral hepatitis services — including prevention, testing, treatment and care — and proposes targets and milestones for 2020.

The WHO monitoring and evaluation framework for HBV and HCV elimination gains from the integration of core indicators already developed through existing mechanisms by the EU agencies.

WHO/Europe, the EMCDDA and ECDC will join forces to further operationalise the monitoring framework and assist countries in collecting and analysing the data.

Antons Mozalevskis, WHO/Europe and Dagmar Hedrich, EMCDDA

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

New mechanism to better protect Europeans from new psychoactive substances

Europe's ability to rapidly respond to public health and security threats caused by new psychoactive substances (NPS) will be significantly strengthened, thanks to new legislation currently in the pipeline.
The European Parliament and the Council of the EU reached political agreement on a package reforming legislation on NPS on 29 May ([1]). Based on this agreement, the texts are expected to be formally adopted by both institutions in the coming months. The new rules, will include a stronger EU Early Warning System (EWS) and a faster risk-assessment process.

The developments are in response to the recent huge growth in the market in new substances and follow a proposal from the European Commission (EC) on 29 August 2016 comprising: a *Regulation on new psychoactive substances* (amending the EMCDDA recast founding regulation 1920/2006) and a *Directive laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, as regards the definition of drug* ([2]). This proposal retains the current three-step approach — early warning, risk assessment and control measures — while significantly strengthening existing processes by streamlining and accelerating data-collection and assessment procedures.

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos said: 'The rise in the availability of new psychoactive substances remains a considerable public health challenge in Europe. It is a rapidly evolving and extremely dangerous threat able to cause serious harm and even death. Our response needs to be equally quick and effective and that is why we have agreed on a new legislation'.

Commenting on the developments, rapporteur of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) on the issue Michal Boni (EPP, PL) said: 'Following the deal with Council, we will have an efficient mechanism at EU level to assess a new psychoactive substance and, if the assessment proves that it is dangerous, there will be a mechanism in place to remove it from the market. We need a fast and efficient system to deal with new substances that appear every year, often sold via the internet, posing a danger to our health, and particularly for young people'.

The EMCDDA will continue to play its central role in monitoring all new psychoactive substances reported by Member States, operate the EWS, and prepare an initial report on any new substance that causes concern, as well as assess related risks when needed. Following the submission of an initial report, the European Commission will have two weeks to request an assessment of the potential risks posed by the substance; the results of the assessment should be submitted within six weeks of a request. The Commission will then be able to adopt a decision on controlling the substance. If adopted, the Member States will have to apply control measures no later than six months after the decision.

Roumen Sedefov and Michael Evans-Brown

([1]) For more, see http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press-releases-pdf/2017/5/47244659888_en.pdf and www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20170608IPR76905/drugs-quicker-reaction-against-new-substances

([2]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/HIS/?uri=consil:ST_9566_2017_INIT
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/HIS/?uri=CONSIL:ST_9567_2017_INIT
Drugnet Europe 96, page 5 www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/96

REITOX

Reitox Development Framework takes shape

A new Reitox Development Framework (RDF), which will define the main priorities of the network and guide its future work, was discussed at the latest meeting of the Heads of national focal points (NFP) in Lisbon from 30 May–1 June. The RDF is foreseen in the EMCDDA Strategy 2025, which reaffirms the role of the Reitox network as the central conduit for structured datasets required by agency and recognises the importance of the network for ensuring a European drug information system. The EMCDDA and the NFPs are developing the document through a Joint working group, which presented preliminary results at the May meeting. The RDF is expected to be adopted at the Heads of national focal point meeting in November and, thereafter, submitted to the Management Board for endorsement in December.

Gonçalo Felgueiras

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

General Report of Activities 2016

The EMCDDA released its *General Report of Activities 2016* on 15 June showcasing the agency's key achievements and governance over the 12-month period. Formerly a printed publication, this year's report is presented in a new digital format, featuring clickable links to products. This detailed account of the agency's work is essential reading for those interested in learning about its activities and how it executed its programme.

Available in English at www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/gra/2016

Pompidou Group–EMCDDA joint publication

This publication *Public expenditure on supply reduction policies* presents the findings of a study conducted by the Pompidou Group in cooperation with the EMCDDA. The report takes a first step towards a systematic analysis of public expenditure on supply reduction interventions, by examining representative estimates. It describes the proportion that total drug-related expenditure represents of national public spending and presents the balance between demand and supply reduction spending. With the aim of facilitating and promoting future empirical expenditure studies, and of setting the ground for the development of good practice, the relevant data sources and methodologies applied are listed and discussed.

Available in English at www.emcdda.europa.eu/joint-publications/pompidou-group/public-expenditure-on-supply-reduction-policies

Joint Report on furanylfentanyl

The EMCDDA published in July a Joint Report on the new synthetic opioid furanylfentanyl (see p. 4). The report follows an examination of the information available on the substance by the EMCDDA and Europol in a data-collection exercise launched in November 2016. Furanylfentanyl is typically administered by nasal spray, orally and by nasal insufflation. Other routes of administration — including injecting, and vaping of e-liquids — have also been reported.

Available in English at www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-reports/furanylfentanyl

EMCDDA–Europol 2016 annual report on NPS

The EMCDDA and Europol report annually on the activities they have performed in the area of the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances. The *EMCDDA–Europol 2016 Annual Report on the implementation of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA* includes information on the number of new psychoactive substances notified in 2016, Joint Reports produced, risk assessments conducted and public health-related alerts and advisories issued to the EU Early Warning System network.

Available in English at www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/implementation-reports/2016

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After 20 years of delivering you *Drugnet Europe* in print, this year the EMCDDA will phase out the print edition of the newsletter (at edition 100). To ensure that you keep up to date with EMCDDA activities, events, products and services, we would like to offer you the opportunity to switch to an electronic subscription. Please visit the link below to fill in the subscription form.

Form available at http://eepurl.com/coizO9

CAMPAIGNS

#WorldDrugDay

International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking (26 June) raises awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society (#WorldDrugDay). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) marked the day this year with its campaign 'Listen FIRST' an initiative to increase support for evidence-based prevention (#ListenFirst). A wide range of campaign materials are available targeting: policymakers, parents, teachers, prevention workers and health workers. The EMCDDA commemorated 26 June by hosting its annual event for the Lisbon diplomatic community and its partners from the Portuguese authorities and by opening the European drugs summer school (see p. 3).

For more, see www.unodc.org/listenfirst

#WorldHepatitisDay

Every year, on 28 July, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners mark World Hepatitis Day (WHD) to increase awareness and understanding of viral hepatitis and the diseases it causes. One of just four disease-specific global awareness days officially endorsed by the WHO, WHD unites patient organisations, governments, medical professionals, civil society, industry and the general public to boost the global profile of viral hepatitis.

Under the theme 'Eliminate hepatitis', WHD 2017 aims to accelerate progress towards achieving the goal of elimination by 2030 (see Spotlight p. 6). To encourage people to feel empowered, personally connected and understand their role in elimination, the theme is brought to life through the #ShowYourFace campaign. This personalised photo campaign focuses on individual human faces to highlight that hepatitis is relevant to everyone, everywhere in the world and that helping to eliminate it is something to be supported by all.

For more, see http://worldhepatitisday.org/en/2017-campaign

CALENDAR 2017

EMCDDA meetings

13–14 September:	18th meeting of the legal correspondents of the European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD), Lisbon.
18–21 September:	Joint expert meeting, EMCDDA treatment demand indicator and drug-related deaths indicator, Lisbon.
28–29 September:	3rd JHA agencies' network meeting (EMCDDA chair), Lisbon.
3–4 October:	5th annual meeting of the EMCDDA reference group on drug supply indicators, Lisbon.
23 October:	8th meeting of the MedSPAD committee, Pompidou Group–EMCDDA, Lisbon.
23 October:	3rd international symposium on drug-impaired driving, EMCDDA and partners, Lisbon.
23–25 October:	5th international conference on NPS, Vienna (novelpsychoactivesubstances.eu/).
24–26 October:	Lisbon Addictions 2017, Lisbon.
26–27 October:	3rd international conference on wastewater-based drug epidemiology, SCORE–EMCDDA, Lisbon.

External meetings

28 July:	World Hepatitis Day— #ShowYourFace (http://worldhepatitisday.org/en).
12 August:	International Youth Day #YouthDay
22 August:	'Making sense of polydrug use: challenges and responses', Helsinki (www.thl.fi/fi/web/alcohol-tobacco-and-addictions/drugs/polydrug-use-workshop).
8–10 September:	Summer school on new psychoactive substances, Florence (www.forumdroghe.it/).
20–22 September:	European Conference on health promotion in prison, Vienna (www.gesundinhaft.eu).
26 September:	European Day of Languages (https://ec.europa.eu/education/initiatives/languages-day_en).
22–23 October:	Addiction Journal regional editors' meeting, Lisbon.
27 October:	HA–REACT partnership forum, Lisbon (http://www.hareact.eu/en).

EU meetings

6–7 July:	EU agencies' network meeting, EFSA, Parma.
11 July:	Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels (Estonian Presidency).
20–21 September:	Horizontal working party on drugs, Brussels.

STATUTORY BODIES

Management Board update

Meeting in Lisbon from 29–30 June, the EMCDDA Management Board gave a favourable opinion on the agency's final accounts for the 2016 financial year and adopted its first amendment to the 2017 budget (introducing EUR 340 000 of EU financing for the new EMCDDA–IPA6 technical assistance project, see p. 5)([1]).
The Board also mandated the EMCDDA Director to sign a working agreement with the Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland later this year.

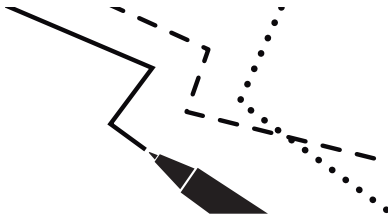
A thematic discussion followed on the challenges and perspectives linked to new psychoactive substances. The European Commission presented EU legislation in the pipeline to address this phenomenon (see p. 6), while the EMCDDA described ongoing challenges for monitoring and risk assessment. Four EU Member States — Germany, Poland, Sweden and the UK — showcased innovative national models in tackling NPS.

The Director updated the Board members on a variety of issues, including the uptake of the launch of the *European Drug Report 2017: Trends and Developments* (media monitoring, web and social media metrics, etc.) and the state of implementation of the EMCDDA Strategy 2025.

Monika Blum

([1]) For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/mb

EMCDDA scientific award 2017



The EMCDDA scientific award, inaugurated in 2011 by the agency and its Scientific Committee, celebrates scientific writing and distinguishes high-quality research in the field of illicit drugs ([1]). Now in its seventh year, the award welcomes nominations in five categories: basic biological, neurobiological and behavioural research; population-based and clinical epidemiology; demand reduction interventions; markets and drug cultures; and drug policy and supply reduction.

This year's winners, selected from almost 50 nominations, will be invited to present their work at the Second European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies (Lisbon Addictions 2017), which will take place in Lisbon from 24–26 October (see p. 2).

Maria Moreira

([1]) For more, see www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/scientific-award

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