



emcdda.europa.eu

Who we are

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Established: 1993
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Illicit drug use and trafficking are worldwide phenomena that threaten health and social stability. Statistics show that around one in three young Europeans has tried an illicit drug and at least one of our citizens dies every hour from a drug overdose. At the same time, ever-changing patterns in supply and demand call for constant monitoring and dynamic responses.

Independent, science-based information is a vital resource to help Europe understand the nature of its drug problems and better respond to them. It was on this premise, and in the face of an escalating drug phenomenon, that the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) was established in 1993. Inaugurated in Lisbon in 1995, it is one of the EU's decentralised agencies.

The EMCDDA exists to provide the EU and its Member States with a factual overview of European drug problems and a solid evidence base to support the drugs debate. Today it offers policymakers the data they need for drawing up informed drug laws and strategies. It also helps professionals and practitioners working in the field pinpoint best practice and new areas of research.

At the heart of the agency's work is the promotion of scientific excellence. To achieve its core task of providing sound and comparable information on drugs in Europe, the EMCDDA has developed the infrastructure and tools needed to collect country data in a harmonised way. These data are then fed by national drug monitoring centres (Reitox network) to the Lisbon agency for analysis, resulting in a variety of information products conveying the broader European picture.

While the EMCDDA is primarily European in focus, it also works with partners in other world regions, exchanging information and expertise. Collaboration with European and international organisations in the drugs field is also central to its work as a means of enhancing understanding of the global drugs phenomenon.

The EMCDDA works on the principle that sound information is the key to an effective strategy on drugs. Although it does not propose policy, the agency is now making a clear impact on decision-making through the analyses, standards and tools it provides.

EMCDDA, your reference point on drugs in Europe



What we do

The state of the drugs problem in Europe

The EMCDDA's main output is its yearly overview of the European drug phenomenon which it presents in a multilingual annual report package. This is essential reading for policymakers, scientists and practitioners in the drugs field or anyone seeking the latest findings on drugs in Europe.

Annual report: the state of the drugs problem in Europe, an overview of the drug phenomenon in some 30 European countries — www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/annual-report

Statistical bulletin, over 500 tables and graphs on the European drug situation
www.emcdda.europa.eu/stats/home

Selected issues, annual reviews on issues of topical interest
www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/selected-issues

Country overviews, over 30 national drug situations at a glance
www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/country-overviews

Reitox national reports, overviews of national drug situations
www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/national-reports

Monitoring the drug situation

Understanding the nature and scale of the drugs problem is a critical requirement for effective policymaking and action. The EMCDDA uses a variety of monitoring methods and tools (e.g. key indicators) which offer countries a 'common language' with which to interpret the drug phenomenon. As well as monitoring the drug situation today, the EMCDDA remains vigilant to new drugs and trends that may pose a future threat to our societies. Here it plays an active role in early-warning and risk-assessment activities through legal instruments and case studies.

Monitoring the drug situation — www.emcdda.europa.eu/drug-situation

Methods and tools — www.emcdda.europa.eu/drug-situation/methods

Monitoring new drugs — www.emcdda.europa.eu/drug-situation/new-drugs

Drug profiles — www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles

Responding to drug problems

Monitoring drug interventions, laws and policies is firmly enshrined in the EMCDDA's work. By providing a European overview of such responses to drug problems, it helps countries follow trends and design appropriate strategies. The agency has developed a number of mechanisms to describe the availability and nature of responses as well as a variety of tools to evaluate them. Its Best practice portal helps those working in the areas of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and social reintegration take evidence-based decisions when planning interventions.

Best practice portal, a gateway highlighting examples of best practice and offering tools to improve the quality of interventions — www.emcdda.europa.eu/responses/best-practice

Drug treatment overviews, an online resource mapping the availability of drug-related treatment in Europe — www.emcdda.europa.eu/responses/treatment-overviews

European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD), an entry-point to information on drug-related legislation in Europe — eldd.emcdda.europa.eu

National drug strategies and action plans, a repository of these key national documents
www.emcdda.europa.eu/policy-and-law/national-strategies

EU drug policy activities, an online database of policy documents published by the EU institutions in the field of drugs — www.emcdda.europa.eu/policy-and-law/eu-activities

Reitox network

The EMCDDA would not be complete without Reitox, the European information network on drugs and drug addiction. This network comprises national drug monitoring centres or 'focal points' in the 27 EU Member States, candidate countries to the EU, Norway and at the European Commission. These bodies are the main information interface between the EMCDDA and its Member States. As such, they provide national drug information to the agency for EU-level analysis and play the role of EMCDDA 'ambassadors' at home.

Reitox focal points — www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/reitox-network

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Publications Office
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Printed in Belgium

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2009

2009 — 2 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm