



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

European Drug Report

2014

How many new drugs were detected in Europe over the last year? Is cannabis getting stronger? How many Europeans have ever used an illicit drug? What are the latest drug policy developments in the region? These are just some of the questions explored by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) in the latest European Drug Report (EDR) information package.

Rooted in a comprehensive review of European and national data, the multimedia EDR package offers an interlinked range of products, with the *European Drug Report: Trends and developments* at its centre. This report provides a top-level overview of the long-term drug-related trends and developments at European level, while homing in on emerging problems in specific countries. Such a perspective is valuable, as it allows differing national experiences to be understood within the broader European context.

Presented alongside the report are the innovative *Perspectives on drugs*, online interactive windows on key aspects of the European drug situation (see overleaf). The *European Drug Report: Data and statistics* and 30 *Country overviews* complete the picture, presenting explanatory graphics and national-level data.

The multilingual package offers easy access to evidence-based information on the drug situation, interventions and policies across the 28 EU Member States, Turkey and Norway. The up-to-date analysis it provides makes it an essential resource for informing European policies and responses and enhancing understanding of a drug problem in constant evolution.

European Drug Report 2014: Trends and developments
— available in 23 languages at emcdda.europa.eu/edr2014

EUROPEAN DRUG REPORT PACKAGE 2014

A set of interlinked elements allowing full access to the available data and analysis on the drug problem in Europe



Trends and developments
providing a top-level analysis
of key developments
(print and online)



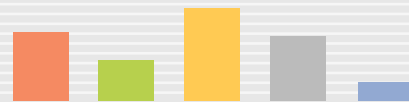
Data and statistics
containing full data arrays,
graphics and methodological
information (online)



Country overviews
national data and analysis at your
fingertips (online)



Perspectives on drugs
interactive windows on key
issues (online)



Perspectives on drugs (PODs)

The EMCDDA releases alongside the *European Drug Report 2014: Trends and developments* six new additions to its *Perspectives on drugs* (PODs) series. These explore: emerging concerns relating to stimulant use; new developments in Europe's cannabis market; as well as advances in Internet-based treatment and wastewater analysis.

Injection of synthetic cathinones

Over 50 synthetic cathinone derivatives were detected via the EU Early Warning System (EU-EWS) between 2005 and 2013. This POD explores new worrying localised and national outbreaks of injecting these substances and recommends close monitoring of the issue as a public health priority.

Health and social responses for methamphetamine users in Europe

Methamphetamine is an established stimulant drug in many parts of the world (e.g. South-east Asia, US), where it has long caused major public health problems. While methamphetamine use in Europe has historically been confined to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, new pockets and patterns of use are now emerging elsewhere in the EU, in diverse populations. In this analysis, the EMCDDA looks at challenges for the provision of health and social responses related to this drug today.

Treatment for cocaine dependence — reviewing current evidence

The EMCDDA has carried out a meta-analysis of six reviews examining the effectiveness of medications used in treating cocaine problems. The original reviews, undertaken by the Cochrane Drugs and Alcohol Group, involved 92 studies (85 in the US) and over 7 000 participants. This POD shows how some medications can reduce specific symptoms (e.g. cravings), yet no single pharmacological solution has been found for cocaine dependence overall (see video).

New developments in Europe's cannabis market

Europe has long been one of the world's largest consumer markets for cannabis, particularly resin imported mainly from Morocco. In this analysis, the EMCDDA reports how Europe's consumer market for cannabis is increasingly dominated by herbal products, with domestic herbal production supplying national markets. It also describes how imported cannabis resin appears to be getting stronger (see video).

Internet-based drug treatment

The Internet is now recognised as a plausible vehicle for delivering drug and alcohol education, prevention and treatment programmes in a range of settings. This POD charts developments in Internet-based drug treatment (IBDT), which has expanded in Europe over the past 10 years, and explores some of the benefits it can offer (see video).

Wastewater analysis and drugs — results from a European multi-city study

The findings of the largest European project to date in the emerging science of wastewater analysis are taken up in this POD. The project in question analysed wastewater in over 40 European cities (21 countries) to explore the drug-taking habits of those who live in them. The results provide a valuable snapshot of the drug flow through the cities involved, revealing marked geographical variations.