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Key Indicator “Prevalence and patterns of drug use among the general population – Population Surveys”

2012 Annual EMCDDA Expert meeting

Lisbon, 26-27 June 2012

DRAFT MINUTE

The 2012 annual expert meeting on the EMCDDA epidemiological indicator “Prevalence and patterns of drug use among the general population” took place the 26 and 27 June at the EMCDDA in Lisbon. The annual expert general population survey meeting brought together experts from almost all Member States, as well as from the ESPAD and HBSC international schools survey projects, a group of Balkan country experts and others from as far afield as Australia.

The meeting objectives were to: provide an overview of progress in the Key Indicator and survey results for 2011/2012; exchange information between countries and international projects; promote methodological discussion about ways to progress through national studies and EU Reitox reporting, and promote discussion about measuring and describing patterns of substance use. Another objective was to promote discussion about ways to analyse and interpret trends, particularly in relation to cannabis, cocaine and alcohol use. Specific topics included: a special focus on response rates and ways to address concerns about low response in some countries. Other methodological foci were the progress in the harmonisation of questionnaire wording as well as ensuring comparable analysis. A special session was included on intensive cocaine and intensive cannabis use.

Julian Vicente opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and providing a brief overview of the current EMCDDA situation in relation to the GPS Key Indicator and the continued assessment of the level of implementation in member states and partner countries. Deborah Olszewski then outlined the scope of the meeting agenda and gave a brief update on recent progress with the Key Indicator. Seven new general population surveys have been reported in this year’s annual report and (based on the 22 national abstracts received so far) 11 more surveys are in progress or planned for 2013. General population surveys are a powerful performance indicator and they also serve to validate findings from other sources. Confidence intervals are now being reported by most countries with new surveys. Nine

countries are participating in the harmonised database work and a satellite meeting took place in Lisbon on 25 June. The group are using a set a core harmonised variables and analysis of polydrug use in progress. Work on intensive forms of drug use is ongoing and progressing with a satellite meeting on 28 June. With regard to concerns about response rates, 16 countries have provided information for the Table (GPS 121) on survey characteristics. The Questionnaire Map has been checked by 17 countries and new questionnaires sent to the EMCDDA. The Map will be made available on line by the end of the year. This year, 17 countries have provided the wording of questions on new substances and 6 countries reported their experiences of using online data collection tools. References and electronic links to research analyses that have been provided will be made available either on the extranet or public site. Also considerable progress has been made initiating school surveys in the Balkans. The EMCDDA hosted the ESPAD schools survey meeting at the end of 2011, strengthened cooperation with ESPAD and published a multilingual (23 language) summary of the 2011 Report and also continues cooperation with HBSC. On-line data collection and processing constantly improving thanks to National Experts, NFP and the data team. The Statistical Bulletin is undergoing changes to make it more user friendly as part of a new integrated communication strategy, emphasising the concept of 'customer service'.

Session 2 focused on school surveys, their recent results and methods. Björn Hibell presented up to date information about the ESPAD school survey project, including methodological aspects and some results from 39 countries that participated in the 2011 survey. The full report is available at www.espad.org and the summary at <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/2011-espad>. Then Tom ter Bogt presented the HBSC Schools Survey focusing on trends in tobacco, alcohol and cannabis use. On the basis of preliminary analyses 2002 to 2010, he described temporal trends in substance use and explored risk factor analysis for cannabis use. Finally Elena Alvarez Martin presented results from the 2010 Spanish School Survey. She gave an overview of results including prevalence of: alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, 'new' drugs and polydrug use. She also presented drug use in relation to which hour of returning home after a night out, frequency of going out at night and peer drug use and student perceptions about risk and drug availability.

International progress and recent findings were the focus of the third session, which João Matias opened with an overview of the GPS data in 2012 Annual Report and Statistical Bulletin using 2011 EMCDDA data collection. This was followed by a presentation from an invited Australian expert - Marian Shanahan from The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) - who presented the results of the Australian National Drug Strategy Household Survey. She briefly described the aims and characteristics of the survey as well as the sampling method. She then presented the prevalence of drug and alcohol use in Australia by drug, by age and gender and described changes over time. She also addressed some concerns about content and response rates. Ola Ekholm then gave a brief update on the European Health Interview Survey (E HIS), standing in at the last minute for the DG SANCO expert who was unable to come. 16 countries have participated so far and the survey will become mandatory in 2015 but the drugs module will remain optional. Experts involved in this were encouraged to exchange information between countries and with the EMCDDA.

In the next session four different countries presented findings from their most recent surveys with a special focus on methodological issues and response rates in particular. Jean Long began with the Irish General Population Survey: recent findings and methods. This was followed by the UK with Nicola Singleton presenting data from the 2010/11 Crime Survey for England & Wales, the Scottish Crime & Justice Survey and the Northern Ireland Drug Prevalence Survey. Then Renata GlavakTkalic presented recent findings and methods from

the first Croatian General Population Survey and Mustafa Ilhan presented recent findings and methods from the new Turkish General Population Survey.

This was followed by a panel discussion on response rates with Elena Alvarez, Björn Hibell, Daniela Piontek, Jean Long. Serious response rate problems are restricted to a few countries only and in school surveys the problem is largely confirmed to schools participation rather than among individual students. In adult surveys there are numerous different aspects that may influence response rates. Motivation issues led to discussion about the use of incentives and opinions on this were mixed. There was general agreement that vigilance and efforts are required to maintain or increase response rates. Mixed mode survey data collection, particularly with online self completion tools, may help. However, further research on mode effects is required. The EMCDDA has commissioned a study on data collection tools and experts were asked to make their contributions to this work. The results will be available by next June.

Session six focused on trends in use of cannabis, cocaine and alcohol with presentations for four different countries. Marie Line Tovar presented French General Population Survey: trends, Daniela Piontek German, Janusz Sieroslawski Polish and Nicola Singleton the UK trends.

Gregor Burkhart, of the responses unit at the EMCDDA, presented European developments in prevention highlighting that impulse control, is mediated by environment, appears to be the common determinant of many problem behaviours. Then Marian Shanahan from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) in Australia spoke about policy research. She explored views on policy to see if ideologies can be identified. She also presented work on the relationship between cannabis and alcohol & indicators of the business cycle and briefly addressed ways to measuring the illegal drug economy.

Deborah Olszewski provided a brief update on the Questionnaire map and Nicola Singleton reported on the Harmonised data workshop that took place on 25 June. Cyprus, Denmark, France, Latvia, UK, Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Spain are now participating. Through this work participants report developing better understanding of the problems may improve future survey design / data provision and facilitate more truly comparative international analysis. It also serves as a forum to highlight issues to consider in more depth at national level.

Second day's afternoon session was devoted to exploring the potential and limitations of general population surveys in monitoring of more intensive forms of drug use. Traditionally, the EMCDDA has been looking into the possibilities of monitoring intensive cannabis use by means of this methodology. In the first part of the session, the possibilities of monitoring intensive cocaine use were explored, too, for the first time. It was not clear, whether intensive cocaine use can be monitored reliably within the framework of general population surveys. However, several countries are testing this methodology: Daniela Piontek presented a German approach using a short screening instrument (Severity of Dependence Scale) to ascertain cases of possible dependence (on amphetamines, cocaine and cannabis) in general population survey respondents. Elena Alvarez presented the approach adopted by Spain, using frequency of cocaine use in the past year to estimate the size of population with problem cocaine use. Sturla Nordlund presented the Norwegian approach, where, in the city of Oslo, a combination of methods including several surveys and waste-water analysis were used to estimate the prevalence of problem cocaine use. Amanda Roxburgh complemented the European experience with Australian experience, which, however, was negative in the question of the ability of general population surveys to obtain insight into the size and characteristics of populations with more intensive cocaine use. Targeted surveys provided more information instead. UK confirmed a similar experience in the discussion.

The session was continued by presenting work on intensive cannabis use by Amanda Roxburgh (GPS in Australia), Peggy van der Pol (CanDep cohort study in the Netherlands) and Sabrina Molinaro (EU project on short scales).

Finally Julian Vicente and Deborah Olszewski summarised the meeting and concluded that whilst the progress made with this indicator is very positive more remains to be done, particularly with regard to documenting some aspects of survey methods as well as producing more outputs in terms of analysis and publications.

Provisional date of the next annual meeting will be 18-19 June 2013

Appendix 1.

2012 Annual Expert meeting on the EMCDDA Indicator “Prevalence and patterns of drug use among general population” EMCDDA (Lisbon) - 26-27 June 2012

AGENDA

26 June, Tuesday

9.15-10.00 Opening session (Session 1)

- Gathering and Welcome - *Julian Vicente (EMCDDA)*
- Overview of meeting and progress in the Key Indicator - *Deborah Olszewski (EMCDDA)*

10.00-11.00 School Surveys: recent results and methods (Session 2)

- ESPAD Schools Survey - *Björn Hibell*
- HBSC Schools Survey - *Tom ter Bogt*
- Spanish School Survey - *Elena Alvarez Martin*

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 International Progress and Findings (Session 3)

- Summary overview of surveys results in 2012 Annual Report and Statistical Bulletin using 2011 EMCDDA data collection - *João.Matias (EMCDDA)*
- Australian National Drug Strategy Household Survey - *Marian Shanahan, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)*
- European Health Interview Survey (E HIS) – *Ola Ekholm*

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-16.00 New surveys with focus on methodological issues - part 1 (Session 4)

- Irish General Population Survey: recent findings and methods - *Jean Long*
- UK General Population Surveys: recent findings and methods - *Nicola Singleton*
- Croatian General Population Survey: recent findings and methods - *Renata GlavakTkalic*
- Turkish General Population Surveys: recent findings and methods - *Mustafa N. Ilhan*

16.00-16.15 Coffee Break

16.15-17.30 Panel discussion (Session 5)

Panel discussion – Response rates: *Elena Alvarez, Björn Hibell, Daniela Piontek, Jean Long*

27 June, Wednesday

9.15-11.00 Trends in use of cannabis, cocaine and alcohol (Session 6)

- French General Population Survey: trends - *Marie Line Tovar*
- German General Population Survey: trends - *Daniela Piontek*
- Poland General Population Survey: trends - *Janusz Sieroslawski*
- UK General Population Survey: trends - *Nicola Singleton*

- European Developments in Prevention - *Gregor Burkhart (EMCDDA)*
- Policy research: using the Australian NDSHS - *Marian Shanahan, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)*

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 Methodological Issues and Panel Discussion (Session 7)

- Questionnaire map update - *Deborah Olszewski (EMCDDA)*
- Harmonised data project - *Nicola Singleton*

12.00-13.00 Panel discussion

Panel discussion – Harmonisation with focus on polydrug use including alcohol measures: *Nicola Singleton, Janusz Sieroslawski, Björn Hibell*

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-17.30 Using GPS to monitor intensive forms of drug use (focus mainly on cannabis and cocaine) – work in progress, scientific basis and way forward (Session 8)

14.00-15.30 Intensive cocaine use (provisional titles of presentations)

- Using SDS to monitor cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines use disorders in a German population survey – *Daniela Piontek*
- Using frequency of use measure in a Spanish general population survey to monitor intensive cocaine use – *Elena Alvarez*
- A multi-study approach including general population survey to obtain insight into problem cocaine users population in Oslo, Norway – *Sturla Nordlund*
- Monitoring intensive forms of cocaine use – the Australian experience – *Amanda Roxburgh*

Panel discussion – Methodological discussion on using general population surveys to estimate the prevalence of intensive cocaine use. Discussants: *presenters, Nicola Singleton and Antónia Domingo* (possibility of a short presentation)

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-17.30 Intensive cannabis use (provisional titles of presentations)

- The epidemiology of cannabis use and cannabis-related harm in Australia - *Amanda Roxburgh*
- Cohort study of intensive cannabis users “CanDep”: insight into understanding of intensive cannabis users population. Updated results - *Peggy van der Pol*
- Progress on the project of using short cannabis scales - *Sabrina Molinaro*

17.30-18.00 Conclusions, AOB, date of next meeting, (Session 9)

Apendix 2.

Expert meeting on the Key Indicator "Prevalence and patterns of drug use among the general population (Population Surveys)" EMCDDA (Lisbon) - 26-27 June 2012

Participants List

Austria	Martin Busch
Belgium	Johan van Bussel
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Aida Pilav Željko Ler
Bulgaria	Antoniya Bancheva Aleksandar Panayotov
Croatia	Dijana Jerković Renata Glavak-Tkalić

Cyprus

Ioanna Yiasemi

Czech Republic

Pavla Chomynová

Denmark

Ola Ekholm

Estonia

Maarja Kobiin

Sigrid Vorobjov

Finland

Karoliina Karjalainen

France

Marie-Line Tovar

**Former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia**

Vesna Velik Stefanovska

Germany

Daniela Piontek

Greece

Anastasios Fotiou

Hungary

Zsuzsanna Elekes

Ireland

Jean Long

Italy

Roberto Mollica

Bruno Genetti

Kosovo*

Ilir Begolli

Latvia

Marcis Trapencieris

Lithuania Eva Januseviciene

Luxembourg Alain Origer

Malta Sharon Arpa

Netherlands Gert Jan Meerkerk

** 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*

Norway Sturla Nordlund

Poland Janusz Sieroslowski
Anna Strzelecka

Portugal Casimiro Balsa
Cláudia Urbano

Romania Andrei Botescu

Serbia Biljana Kilibarda

Slovakia Eleonora Kastelová

Slovenia Romana Štokelj

Spain Elena Alvarez Martin

Sweden Björn Hibell

Turkey Mustafa N. Ilhan

United Kingdom Nicola Singleton

External Experts

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Deborah Olszewski

Julian Vicente

João Matias

Gregor Burkhart

Danica Klempova

Miriam Rosa

Appendix 3.

Presentations List

- 1.1. Overview of meeting and progress in the Key Indicator (D. Olszewski)
- 2.1. ESPAD Schools Survey (B. Hibell)
- 2.2. HBSC Schools Survey (T. ter Bogt)
- 2.3. Spanish School Survey (E. Alvarez Martin)
- 3.1. Summary overview of surveys results in 2012 AR and SB using 2011 EMCDDA data collection (J. Matias)
- 3.2. Australian National Drug Strategy Household Survey (M. Shanahan)
- 4.2. UK General Population Surveys: recent findings and methods (N. Singleton)
- 4.3. Croatian General Population Survey: recent findings and methods (R. GlavakTkalic)
- 4.4. Turkish General Population Surveys: recent findings and methods (M. N. Ilhan)
- 5.1. Panel discussion – Response rates (E. Alvarez)
- 5.2. Panel discussion – Response rates (B. Hibell)
- 6.1. French General Population Survey: trends (ML Tovar)
- 6.2. German General Population Survey: trends (D. Piontek)
- 6.3. Poland General Population Survey: trends (J. Sieroslowski)
- 6.4. UK General Population Survey: trends (N. Singleton)
- 6.5. European Developments in Prevention (G. Burkhart)
- 7.2. Harmonised data project (N. Singleton)
- 8.1. Using SDS to monitor cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines use disorders in a German population survey (D. Piontek)
- 8.2. Using frequency of use measure in a Spanish general population survey to monitor intensive cocaine use (E. Alvarez)
- 8.4. Monitoring intensive forms of cocaine use – the Australian experience (A. Roxburgh)
- 8.5. Methodological discussion on using GPS to estimate the prevalence of intensive cocaine use (A. Domingo)
- 8.6. The epidemiology of cannabis use and cannabis-related harm in Australia (A. Roxburgh)
- 8.8. Progress on the project of using short cannabis scales (S. Molinaro)