European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

PROGRAMME

First international multidisciplinary forum on new drugs

11–12 May 2011, Lisbon

Steering committee

Roumen Sedefov
Ana Gallegos
Paul Griffiths
Kathy Robertson
Jane Mounteney
Tel. (351) 211 21 02 00 • EWS@emcdda.europa.eu

First international multidisciplinary forum on new drugs

Overview

The new drugs phenomenon has gone through a period of dynamic change in recent years and new psychoactive substances are becoming widely available at an unprecedented pace. It is therefore particularly timely to be holding the *First international multidisciplinary forum on new drugs*.

The rate at which this area is developing is reflected, not only in the increased number of substances appearing on the market, but also in their diversity. Furthermore, it is evident in changes in the way that these substances — often referred to as 'legal highs' — are now being produced, distributed and marketed. These developments pose a serious challenge to current approaches to how we monitor, assess the risk of, respond to, and potentially control, new psychoactive substances.

The purpose of the forum is to take stock of the current state of the art in this area and identify common anchor points that can inform our future actions. In discussions, the delegates will chart how this phenomenon has developed over the last 10 years and explore, through case studies, differing national experiences.

The programme will focus on early-warning systems as well as responses to new drugs, such as risk assessments, controls and options for prevention and treatment.

The forum will:

- audit the state of play and provide a global overview on new drugs and 'legal highs';
- identify key issues, commonalities and differences in the experience of, and response to, this phenomenon;
- anticipate future challenges; and
- begin to chart a comprehensive vision for the future as to how these substances will impact on drug use, responses and policies.

The forum is organised in conjunction with the *11th Annual meeting of the Reitox early-warning system (EWS) network*. The EWS provides EU Member States with an information exchange mechanism for reporting on the emergence of new psychoactive substances. It is a key element in the European fast-track system for assessing and responding to new drugs.

Participants

The forum is an expert meeting, by invitation only, with a target audience of around 100 invited participants. The event will bring together, for the first time, key European and international experts in the field of new psychoactive substances. In so doing, it will create a forum to discuss the latest developments regarding new drugs and to identify the challenges that need to be overcome.

Participants will include representatives of the Reitox national focal points from the 30 EMCDDA member countries — 27 EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey and Norway — as well as from the European Commission, Europol and the European Medicines Agency. Also invited are experts from: Australia, Belarus, Canada, Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative Region), Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United States.

The participants have been selected for their technical expertise and research in the field of new psychoactive substances. They include: epidemiologists; forensic scientists; clinicians; law-enforcement experts concerned with new drugs; as well as technical staff from EU and international institutions.

Themes

The forum will be organised around six thematic sessions:

- *Global review: perspectives on a dynamic phenomenon* — the appearance and use of new drugs and responses (e.g. risk assessment, control, prevention, treatment)
- *Understanding the evidence: forensic science, a key component* — forensic data as a foundation for identification and response
- *Epidemiology: auditing current capacity and identifying future priorities* — the epidemiological challenges of tracking a moving target
- *Making the most of the evidence: early warning* — multidisciplinary early-warning systems (models, rationale and function)
- *Defining a balanced response agenda* — risk assessment: final destination or point of departure?
- *A comprehensive vision for the future* — conclusions

Location

EMCDDA, Cais do Sodré, Lisbon.

Programme at a glance

11 May (Wednesday)	11th Annual meeting of the Reitox early-warning system (EWS) network	
09.00 – 09.30	Registration	
09.30 – 11.00	Council Decision on new psychoactive substances: implementation review 2010	
11.00 – 11.30	Break	
11.30 – 12.45	EWS projects and national developments	

11 May	First international multidisciplinary forum on new drugs	
13.00 – 14.00	Registration	
14.00 – 15.30	Opening session	*Plenary session 1*
15.30 – 16.00	Break	
16.00 – 17.30	Global review: perspectives on a dynamic phenomenon	*Plenary session 2*
17.30 – 18.00	Break	
18.00 – 19.00	Global review: perspectives on a dynamic phenomenon *(continuation)*	*Plenary session 3*
19.00	Reception	
12 May (Thursday)		
09.00 – 11.00	Understanding the evidence: forensic science, a key component	*Parallel session 4A*
09.00 – 11.00	Epidemiology: auditing current capacity and identifying future priorities	*Parallel session 4B*
11.00 – 11.30	Break	
11.30 – 13.00	Making the most of the evidence: early warning	*Parallel session 5A*
11.30 – 13.00	Epidemiology: auditing current capacity and identifying future priorities *(continuation)*	*Parallel session 5B*
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 16.00	Defining a balanced response agenda	*Plenary session 6*
16.00 – 16.30	Break	
16.30 – 18.00	A comprehensive vision for the future	*Plenary session 7*
18.00	Closure	

11th Annual meeting of the Reitox early-warning system network

11 May (Wednesday)	
09.00 – 09.30	Registration
09.30 – 11.00	**Council Decision on new psychoactive substances: implementation review 2010** Chair — Roumen Sedefov, EMCDDA

Introduction to the meeting — Roumen Sedefov, EMCDDA

- Welcome to the new early-warning system (EWS) correspondents
- Explanation of the agenda, objectives and expected results of the meeting
- Adoption of the agenda

Update on relevant EMCDDA developments — Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA

Update on progress made in 2010 and future developments

- Presentation by the EMCDDA — Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA
- Presentation by Europol — Bo Pallavicini, Europol
- Update from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) — Jean-Marc Vidal and Sahid Hocine, EMA
- Update from the European Commission (EC) — Maurice Galla, EC
- Update from the early-warning system correspondents

Discussion

11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30 – 12.45	**EWS projects and national developments** Chair — Roumen Sedefov, EMCDDA

Update on the publication on national early-warning systems — Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA

EMCDDA Internet monitoring — Ulrik Solberg, EMCDDA

Project match — Ana Gallegos and Ulrik Solberg, EMCDDA

Updates from national early-warning systems

- Legal highs: triangulation of information from sample collection, seizures, Internet monitoring — Emmanuel Lahaie, French national focal point
- Hungarian Internet snapshot — Anna Péterfi, Hungarian national focal point
- Updates from the Italian EWS — Claudia Rimondo, Italian national focal point

Discussion

12.45 – 14.00	Break

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11 May (Wednesday)		
13.00 – 14.00	Registration	
14.00 – 15.30	**Opening session** Chair — Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA	*Plenary session 1*

Introduction by the Chair: responding to a dynamic global phenomenon
— Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA

Global review: perspectives on a dynamic phenomenon

- Update EU — Roumen Sedefov and Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA
- Update Australia — Lucy Burns
- Update Canada — Jocelyn Kula

Discussion

15.30 – 16.00	Break	
16.00 – 17.30	**Global review: perspectives on a dynamic phenomenon** Chair — Roumen Sedefov, EMCDDA	*Plenary session 2*

- Update Hong Kong SAR — Chan Wa-shing
- Update Israel — Udi Wolf
- Update Japan — Ruri Kikura-Hanajiri
- Update New Zealand — Chris Wilkins

Discussion

17.30 – 18.00	Break	
18.00 – 19.00	**Global review: perspectives on a dynamic phenomenon** *(continuation)* Chair — Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA	*Plenary session 3*

- Update Switzerland — Monika Joos
- Update United States — Moira O'Brien
- Update Global Smart programme — Beate Hammond (UNODC) and Juan Carlos Araneda (UNODC/CICAD)
- Other updates

Discussion

19.00	Reception

12 May (Thursday)		
09.00 – 11.00	**Understanding the evidence: forensic science, a key component** Chair — Les King, UK	*Parallel session 4A*

Introduction by the Chair: forensic science, a foundation stone — Les King, UK

- Designer drugs/research chemicals. Unravelling the evidence: forensic science networks — Michael Bovens, Switzerland
- Testing the water: an emerging science to assess the use of new drugs — John Ramsey, UK
- Survey of current trends in the abuse of psychotropic substances and plants in Japan — Ruri Kikura-Hanajiri, Japan
- Highs and laws — Udi Wolf, Israel
- The role of the forensic chemist in Hong Kong — Chau-wing Lee, Hong Kong SAR
- Elucidating the components: the Spice phenomenon — Volker Auwärter, Germany, EU-funded project

Discussion

09.00 – 11.00	**Epidemiology: auditing current capacity and identifying future priorities** Chair — Jane Mounteney, EMCDDA	*Parallel session 4B*

Introduction by the Chair: the epidemiological challenges of new drugs — Jane Mounteney, EMCDDA

- Understanding drug trends: a multi-indicator approach — Moira O'Brien, US
- Trends in ecstasy and emerging use of related drugs — Lucy Burns, Australia
- Monitoring the recreational drug market: Drug Information Monitoring System — Raymond Niesink, The Netherlands
- Salvia: the Canadian experience — Suzanne Desjardins, Canada

Discussion

11.00 – 11.30	Break	
11.30 – 13.00	**Making the most of the evidence: early warning** Chair — Les King, UK	*Parallel session 5A*

Introduction by the Chair: early-warning systems, EU models — Les King, UK

- Bringing in law-enforcement information — Bo Pallavicini, Europol
- Medicinal chemistry, drug design and 'designer drug design' — István Ujváry, Hungary
- Test purchasing new drugs — Pierce Kavanagh, Ireland
- Regional monitoring: how does it work? Experience from the Nordic countries — Anders Persson, Sweden
- New possibilities: technological advances in early warning — Teodora Macchia, Italy

Discussion

11.30 – 13.00	**Epidemiology: auditing current capacity and identifying future priorities** *(continuation)* Chair — Simon Gibbons, UK	*Parallel session 5B*

- Impact of the prohibition of BZP in New Zealand — Chris Wilkins, New Zealand
- What can we learn from Internet surveys? Mephedrone in Europe — Adam Winstock, UK
- What can prevalence data tell us? 'Legal highs' in Poland — Michal Kidawa, Poland
- Spanish epidemiological survey on new drugs — Rosario Sendino, Spain

Discussion

13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 – 16.00	**Defining a balanced response agenda** Chair — Brice de Ruyver, Belgium	*Plenary session 6*

Risk assessment: final destination or point of departure?

- Setting the standards: European risk assessments — Leon Van Aerts, The Netherlands
- Optimising the WHO assessment of substances: which way to choose? — Willem Scholten, WHO
- Drug harms: a multi-criteria decision analysis — Lawrence Phillips, UK

Discussion

Balanced response: will it enhance our capability?

- Control measures: theory and practice — Brendan Hughes, EMCDDA
- Tackling 'legal highs' in Poland — Michal Kidawa, Poland
- Novel drugs, novel response: not something just for the emergency department — David Wood and Paul Dargan, UK
- Novel drugs, novel response: exploring the potential of interactive technologies in the field of drug prevention — Ornella Corazza and Fabrizio Schifano, UK, EU-funded project

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30	Break	
16.30 – 18.00	**A comprehensive vision for the future** Moderator — Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA	*Plenary session 7*

Anticipating new drugs — Les King, UK

The law-enforcement perspective — Bo Pallavicini, Europol

The clinician's perspective — Paul Dargan, UK

The prevention perspective — Fabrizio Schifano, UK, EU-funded project

Assessing the risks: evidence-based approach — Leon van Aerts, The Netherlands

The policy perspective — Suzanne Desjardins, Canada

Concluding remarks — Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA

18.00	Closure

EMCDDA publications in the area of new psychoactive substances

Reports published in the framework of the Council Decision on new psychoactive substances (from May 2005)

Report on the risk assessment of mephedrone in the framework of the Council Decision on new psychoactive substances
EMCDDA, Lisbon, May 2011

Risk assessment of new psychoactive substances — operating guidelines
EMCDDA, Lisbon, March 2010

Report on the risk assessment of BZP in the framework of the Council Decision on new psychoactive substances
EMCDDA, Lisbon, February 2009

Early-warning system on new psychoactive substances — operating guidelines
EMCDDA, Europol, Lisbon, October 2007

Available in English at: www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/risk-assessments

Reports on the implementation of the Council Decision on new psychoactive substances (from 2005)

EMCDDA–Europol annual reports on the implementation of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA in accordance with Article 10 (for the years 2005–10).

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

Other publications

Understanding the 'Spice' phenomenon
EMCDDA, Lisbon, November 2009
www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/thematic-papers/spice

GHB and its precursor GBL: an emerging trend case study
EMCDDA, Lisbon, March 2008
www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/thematic-papers/ghb

Hallucinogenic mushrooms
EMCDDA, Lisbon, June 2006
www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/thematic-papers/mushrooms

Monitoring new drugs (leaflet)
EMCDDA, Lisbon, April 2006
www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index40105EN.html

EMCDDA member countries

27 EU Member States
Croatia
Turkey
Norway

Guest countries

Australia
Belarus
Canada
Hong Kong SAR
Israel
Japan
New Zealand
Russia
Switzerland
United States of America

EU institutions

European Commission
Europol
European Medicines Agency (EMA)

International organisations

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
World Health Organization (WHO)

About the EMCDDA

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Established in 1993 and based in Lisbon, it is the central source of comprehensive information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe.

The EMCDDA collects, analyses and disseminates factual, objective, reliable and comparable information on drugs and drug addiction. In doing so, it provides its audiences with an evidence-based picture of the drug phenomenon at European level.

While the agency's main task is to collect and disseminate data on the use of substances controlled by the United Nations drug conventions, in recent years, it has become increasingly active in monitoring new substances not listed in these conventions, but which may pose health and social risks to our societies.

Action on new drugs

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