

# 1 Drug-related research

## 1.1 Research structures

### 1.1.1 Drug-related research in national policy-making

After various studies in the past have identified a need for more research in the area of abuse and dependence on legal substances, an “Anti-Drugs Action Plan” was adopted in 1990”. It one-sidedly focused on illicit drugs and was subsequently replaced by the “Action Plan for Fighting Drugs and Addiction” (Die Drogenbeauftragte der Bundesregierung 2003). The focal point of German drug and addiction policy since its inception has above all been on the reduction of tobacco and alcohol consumption (cf. also **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**). This has led to more research in the area of legal addictive substances. The following measures are listed in the “Action Plan for Fighting Drugs and Addiction”:

Establishment of a monitoring system for early recognition of risky substance and consumption patterns,

- Promotion of research projects ...
  - ... which aim at improving prevention and treatment,
  - ... on the causes of addiction taking into account gender-specific differences and secondary prevention measures,
  - ... on the influence of drug and pharmaceutical consumption on driving and the general frequency of accidents at home, at work or in school,
  - ... examining alcohol abuse as a risk factor in the development of violent delinquency and
- Research into causal factors in the rehabilitation process to develop rehabilitation guidelines, cost-benefit analyses and individual assignment to rehabilitation.

The concrete objectives also include fighting illicit drugs (in particular cannabis) and ensuring survival of hard-core drug addicts. It is noted both in the “Action Plan for Fighting Drugs and Addiction” as well as the working programme which is based on the plan of the Board on Drugs and Addiction (DSR 2006) that current research results of the affiliated research projects supported by the Länder and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research should also always be included in these ideas in the pursuit of the objectives which have been spelled out.

### Focal points

All the most important areas of drug-related research are covered in Germany. Disciplines such as biomedicine and biochemistry tend to conduct basic research on substance abuse, while areas such as public health, psychology and sociology tend to be application-oriented.

Research networks which were founded in 2000 with the aim of conducting interdisciplinary, application-oriented research play a significant role in this connection.

### **Limitations and constraints**

All drug-related studies are subject to financial, national, European and international ethical and statutory constraints. A German specialty is the federal structure of the country which prevents a central collection of all regional or local funded projects and activities. For this reason it is not ensured in all cases that for example experiences from regional model projects become nationally known and implemented accordingly. In this context professional societies and networks of scientists, who for example ensure an exchange of relevant research results in national bodies or journals with no consideration for local or regional borders, play an important role.

#### **1.1.2 Relationship between research – policy-making – the field of practice**

Just as policy-makers have an influence on research by virtue of the statutory framework and by funding certain studies, scientific findings also contribute to decisions made by policy-makers, even if no linear relationship is directly perceivable. Over the last few years, the Federal Highway Research Institute (Bundesanstalt für Straßenwesen) has carried out or initiated additional research projects over the last few years on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs on the problem of “drugs and pharmaceuticals” with the aim of improving traffic safety. An additional example is provided by research results which attribute organic brain disorders and long-term damage to the consumption of illegal synthetic drugs. Political policy-makers felt encouraged by these studies to take action against the manufacture, trade and consumption of designer drugs (Die Drogenbeauftragte der Bundesregierung 2003). For this reason as well, preventative measures are on the one hand supported in order to reduce demand, while on the other hand repressive measures by the state are being strengthened to reduce the supply.

#### **1.1.3 Important national structures for drug-related research**

##### **Coordinating institutions**

There is no central coordinating institution for drug-related research in the Federal Republic of Germany. On the one hand, depending on the content of studies, there are various ministries in charge, e.g. the Federal Ministry of Health for the Heroin trial, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research for studies by networks for research on addictions or the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs for drug consumption and traffic. On the other hand, there are numerous research projects which are supported by the German Länder or local governments or by non-governmental organisations and foundations. The biggest national institutions commissioning drug-related research projects are the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, whose main focus is especially on research on use of drugs, the Federal Ministry of Health (including the Federal Center for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung (BZgA) and the Robert Koch Institute) and the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), which concentrates

on basic research. Not only do the Robert Koch Institute or the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) commission research projects – in some cases they perform such studies themselves.

### **Research institutes and organisations**

As a result of deficits in research on addictions and the health care of addicts, interdisciplinary research associations have been set up since 2000 within the framework of the Federal Health Research Programme in which specific substances and questions relating to substances in general have been explored. Application-oriented research is promoted in the research networks in close cooperation with health-care facilities with the aim of making the results of research available to institutions which provide counselling and treatment and as a result contributing to an adoption of these results in everyday health care. The four networks for research on addictions (North Rhine-Westphalia Addiction Research Association (NRW), the Baden-Württemberg Addiction Research Association (BW), the Saxony/Bavarian Addiction Research Association (ASAT) and the Northeast Addiction Research Association) each constitute regional amalgamations of reputed researchers and research institutions. While the other three addiction research associations engage primarily in research on tobacco and alcohol in addition to several projects involving basic research, the focal point in the ASAT is on the research of illegal substances.

Some important university and independent institutes include the Central Institute of Mental Health (Zentralinstitut für seelische Gesundheit, ZI) in Mannheim, the Institute for Psychology and Psychotherapy at Dresden University of Applied Sciences (Institut für Psychologie und Psychotherapie der Technischen Universität), the Centre For Drug Research (CDR) and the Institute for Social Work and Social Education (Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik, ISS) in Frankfurt/M., the Centre for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research (Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Suchtforschung, ZIS) in Hamburg, the Federal Center for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung (BZgA)), the Platform of Competence for Research on Addictions at the North Rhine-Westphalian Catholic University of Applied Science), the Faculty for Health Sciences at the University of Bielefeld and the Institute for Therapy Research (IFT) in Munich.

### **Framework funding**

Basic funding is provided for some of these institutions, especially university faculties, departments, professorships, working groups and professors such as, for example, the ZI in Mannheim, the ZIS in Hamburg and the working groups in Frankfurt. In addition, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the DFG either tender research projects at the national level with stipulated framework conditions (budget, term, content, etc.) or research topics which university or independent research institutes apply for, or research institutes apply for funding of a specific study from funding agencies. Regional projects receive financial support from German Länder, cities, local governments or non-governmental organisations and foundations. The budgets of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Federal Ministry of Health and the DFG distinguish between

different areas of health research, but not in every rate explicitly according to projects on illicit drugs.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research provided € 9 million in financial resources for the first funding period (2001-2004) for the four addiction-research associations, with € 600,000 being added to this amount by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art for the Baden-Württemberg Addiction-Research Association. Of the sum total of 24 projects receiving financial support, two focused exclusively on illegal consumption of drugs while five additional ones dealt generally with the abuse of licit and illicit substances. In the second funding period (2004-2007), the research associations were furnished with € 10,807,351 for 26 studies (of these, five studies dealt exclusively with illicit drugs and four with both licit and illicit drugs). Among the projects which were officially promoted within the framework of addiction-research associations, there were also a whole host of additional associated projects which are not listed in the said budget, but which profited in structural terms from the networks which were established. Out of the six associated projects in the ASAT, four of them relate to illicit drugs while the other two address both licit and illicit drugs.

## **1.2 Most recent important studies and publications**

### **1.2.1 Important studies since 2000**

#### **The Federal German demonstration project on heroin-supported treatment of people dependent on opiates (Heroin Trial)**

**Research institution:** The demonstration project is a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry of Health, the Länder of Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia along with the cities of Bonn, Frankfurt, Hanover, Karlsruhe, Cologne and Munich and is supported by the Federal Chamber of Physicians (Bundesärztekammer). The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Hamburg (ZIS) was commissioned with the research planning and execution of the study. The head of the clinical examination is Prof. Dr. Dieter Naber. The clinical project manager is Prof. Dr. Christian Haasen (both from the ZIS).

**Funding:** The project is funded with financial resources from the Federal budget (Federal Ministry of Health), the cities involved and in part the German Länder. Total expenditures between 2002 and 2004 were € 23,528,746 (v. d. Schulenburg & Claes 2006a).

#### **Abstract:**

**Background/objectives:** In this model project, heavily dependent heroin addicts who did not profit from a methadone treatment or from the therapeutic system were treated. The two main criteria for evaluating the effectiveness were whether the structured treatment of these persons with diamorphine is more effective than methadone treatment under similar conditions with regard to health stabilisation and a reduction in illicit consumption of drugs.

*Methods:* In seven cities 1,032 persons dependent on heroin were randomly selected for methadone or heroin-supported treatment. On top of this they were respectively provided intensive psycho-social assistance.

*Results:* 80% of the persons in the heroin group were able to improve their health (in contrast to 74% in the methadone group). Illicit drug consumption declined with 69.1% of the persons receiving diamorphine substitute, but only with 55.2% of the methadone-substitute patients.

*Conclusion:* Heroin appears to be superior to methadone treatment on a statistically significant scale with respect to the main criteria for evaluating success. Given these positive results, an application was filed for the licensing of diamorphine as a medication which is eligible for sale and prescription in accordance with Schedule III to § 1 of the Narcotics Act with the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM), but has not yet been approved, as this requires that the law be changed by the Bundestag.

***Citations:***

Naber, D. & Haasen, C. (2006). Das bundesdeutsche Modellprojekt zur heroingestützten Behandlung Opiatabhängiger – eine multizentrische, randomisierte und kontrollierte Therapiestudie. Abschlussbericht der klinischen Vergleichsstudie zur Heroin- und Methadonbehandlung. Hamburg: ZIS der Universität Hamburg.

Additional information and publications, in particular reports on special studies, can be called up at <http://www.heroinstudie.de>.

**Early family therapy treatment for people addicted to opiates – a comparative cross-sectional and longitudinal study**

***Research institutions:*** This study was carried out at the University Clinic Hamburg-Eppendorf at the Clinic and Polyclinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Rainer Thomasius from 1996 to 2001.

***Funding:*** The project manager for the programme funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research for the concentration area of addictions was the DLR. Expenditures for the entire period of time between 1996 and 2001 were DM 1,211,000 (≈ € 619,000) (P.-M. Sack, personal memorandum, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007).

## **Abstract**

*Background/objectives:* An abstinence-oriented, non-substituting ambulatory family therapy (n=86) with an adolescent or young adult who is dependent on drugs was evaluated in terms of multiple criteria. The ambulatory family therapy is compared with an inpatient control group using a “twin” design (clients of a therapeutic community, n=38) and with data from two reference groups: families with the same problem before the beginning of treatment for addiction (n=51), families with peers exhibiting no psychiatric problems (n=31).

*Methodology:* five target criteria (status of addiction, family dynamics, symptoms of disorder, psychosocial integration and satisfaction with therapy) are examined by pre-post analyses and in one to two-year catamnyses.

*Results:* 72% of the families taking part and 37% of the control group completed their therapies. Among the dependent adolescents in the family therapy sample, 61% improved their addiction status significantly or very significantly (EuropASI, urine analysis). All the family members taking part experienced improvement in all of the target criteria. In spite of the more intensive treatment, the results for the clients in the therapeutic community were the same or only slightly better. In the two-year catamnesis the results of the family therapy random sample turned out to be stable. These results were better than those for the families prior to treatment for addiction and similar to those of the families not exhibiting any problems. In the family relationship there was a delay effect of two years. It was not till then that the majority of the patients treated in a family therapy had established a family relationship which was largely satisfying and allowed the relationship system to solve many other problems which occurred.

*Conclusion:* A good short and longer-term prognosis can be made for an outpatient family therapy treatment of adolescents diagnosed as “dependent on multiple substances/harmful use of opiates” or “dependent on multiple substances/episodial use of opiates” who are in regular contact with their biological families. Adolescents especially at risk of back-sliding and relapse (male, diagnosis of “dependence on opiates/harmful use of multiple substances”) should be introduced to different forms of aftercare.

## **Citations:**

Thomasius, R. (Hrsg.) (2004). Familientherapeutische Frühbehandlung des Drogenmissbrauchs. Eine Studie zu Therapieeffekten und –Prozessen. Hamburg: Dr. Kovac.

## **Optimisation of substitution-supported therapy by indicative assignment of substitute substances and psychosocial treatment components of patient profiles (OSTD)**

*Research institution:* IFT Munich

*Funding:* This is an official project in the ASAT addiction-research association with funding by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research under the management of Dr. Heinrich Kufner. The total budget between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2001 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 was about € 523,000.

## **Abstract.**

*Background/objectives:* The aim is to allocate the substitute substance and assign psychosocial treatment components to disorder profiles in the case of patients dependent on opioids and the identification of predictors of successful treatment.

*Methods:* Firstly a clinical study on effectiveness in prospective randomised-controlled design on unselected random groups of patients and secondly the examination of possible adoption, acceptance and effectiveness by clinical care facilities (Transfer Study).

*Results:* The retention rate totalled 52.1%. Substance abuse declined significantly both among the group treated with methadone as well as among the group treated with buprenorphine. The analysis has not yet been completed.

*Conclusion:* Substitution treatment is a secure and effective treatment method for drug dependence, whereby methadone and buprenorphine are both equally effective. The length of opioid consumption and the age when persons began taking opioids are important, while withdrawal symptoms are the most important predictors of drop-outs from the treatments.

## **Citations:**

Küfner, H. & Hackmann, K., Schnabel, A. & Soyka, M. (2004) Optimierung der substituionsgestützten Therapie Drogenabhängiger (OSTD): Entzugssymptome und Suchtverlangen in der ersten Einstellungswoche. Suchtmed 6 (1) 95-97.

Küfner, H. & Johann, M.. Psychosoziale Behandlung von Drogenabhängigen unter Substitution. Manual 4.0. Eingereicht in Lengerich: Pabst.

Soyka, M., Zingg, C., Koller, G. & Küfner, H. (2007). Retention Rate and Substance Use in Methadone and Buprenorphine Maintenance Therapy and Predictors of Outcome: Results from a Randomized Study. The International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology. (Submitted)

## **Cost-Benefit and Risk Appraisal of Substitution Treatments (COBRA)**

**Research institution:** The study began in 2003 and was carried out by the Institute for Psychology and Psychotherapy, Working Group on Epidemiology and Health Reporting at Dresden University of Applied Science, the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich, the Working Group for Clinical Psychology and Epidemiology and the Psychiatric Clinic and Polyclinic of Ludwigs Maximilians University of Munich as an associated research project of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research ASAT Addiction Research Association. The project head is Professor Dr. Hans-Ulrich Wittchen.

**Funding:** The project is being supported with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. No information is available on the budget.

## **Abstract**

*Background/objectives:* The research project involves an evaluation of the risks, advantages and disadvantages of various intervention strategies and modalities in the field of substitution

and health care practice for persons dependent on opiates in Germany. The objectives of the project are to characterise existing forms and models of facilities, traits of patients dependent on opiates at these facilities, diagnostics and indication and allocation-related decisions in health-care reality and intervention methods.

*Methodology:* Based on a national representative random sample of physicians administering substitute substances, this is an observation and naturalistic study consisting of three major parts. The first part is a national survey of physicians administering substitute substances (preliminary study, n = 379 physicians). The second part is a cross-sectional study (n = 223 physicians) involving a target-week recording of 2,694 consecutively recruited patients in order to ascertain the degree of difficulty in determining the problem profile, the form of application, dosage, past treatments, co-morbidity and the differences between methadone and buprenorphine substitution including secondary effects. The third part is a prospective longitudinal cohort study with 48 patients respectively receiving methadone and buprenorphine to research differences between treatment methods with respect to the success of treatment, psychosocial and other secondary effects. A follow-up survey was performed twelve months later.

*Results:* The response rate for the physicians was 57.1%, of which 71.7% of the patients they treated were entitled to participation. Initial comparisons with the substitution register demonstrate the national representativeness of the study including regional differences, different settings and execution of treatment.

*Conclusions:* The COBRA study represents a unique, comprehensive database, provides information on the original allocation, the intervention process in everyday treatment, the course and success of development of patients treated with methadone and buprenorphine.

***Citations:***

Wittchen, H.-U., Apelt, S. M., Bühringer, G., Gastpar, M., Backmund, M., Gölz, J., Kraus, M. R., Tretter, F., Klotsche, J., Siegert, J., Pittrow, D. & Soyka, M. (2005). Buprenorphine and methadone in the treatment of opioid dependence: methods and design of the COBRA study. International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research, 14, 14-28.

For additional information see [www.cobra-projekt.de](http://www.cobra-projekt.de).

**CANDIS – “Modular Therapy for Cannabis Disorders”**

***Research institutions:*** Institute for Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, TU Dresden  
The project manager is Dr. Eva Hoch.

***Funding:*** The project is being funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and received a total budget of approximately € 500,000 over the period 2004-2007.

***Abstract***

***Background/objectives:*** Psychological therapy approaches and therapy programmes for cannabis-related disorders are not available either in the Federal Republic of Germany or in

other European countries. The Institute for Clinical Psychology at the University of Applied Science in Dresden has developed a modular adapted treatment programme for patients with cannabis-related disorders whose effectiveness was to be analysed at the end of 2004 following several years of preliminary work. The study was funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

*Methodology:* Based on a randomised-controlled study design, n = 122 subjects were recruited from greater Dresden and assigned to three study treatments between January 2006 and December 2006: 1.) a standardised treatment (ST; n=51) in which motivation-enhancing, cognitive behaviour-therapeutic and psycho-social, problem-solving components are integrated, 2. a targeted, standardised treatment (TST; N = 39) which is composed of the same components as ST, with this treatment, however, being individually adapted to the problem profile of the patients, and 3.) a waiting-control group (DTC, n = 32).

*Results:* The structured short-term therapy was well received by the 16 to 44 year-old, primarily male (79%) group, with patients coming from all strata of the population; the retention rate for the entire course of the therapy was 67%; 84% of all therapy beginners took part in a final examination following the completion of the therapy. The majority of patients reduced their consumption considerably after the completion of the therapy, while 49% were completely abstinent following CANDIS.

*Conclusions:* As a result of the high level of acceptance by the patients and therapists taking part and the encouraging therapy results (whose stability is still being examined at present in 3 and 6-month catamneses), a follow-up study on the implementation and evaluation of CANDIS therapy in the outpatient addiction support system is to be carried out (funding: Federal Ministry of Health). It is at present being considered whether to expand the study to the European level.

***Citations:***

No articles have been published on this study to date. The data provided is all based on personal memoranda (Hoch 30th September 2007) and data contained on the website.

For additional information see [www.candis-projekt.de/](http://www.candis-projekt.de/)

**Epidemiology of consumption, abuse and dependence on licit and illicit drugs among adolescents and young adults” (EDSP)**

Another important study is the longitudinal prospective-epidemiological study on the “epidemiology of consumption, abuse and dependence on licit and illicit drugs among adolescents and young adults” (EDSP). The study was funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the DFG. The project managers were Professor Dr. Hans-Ulrich Wittchen and Dr. Rosalind Lieb. 3,021 adolescents and young adults aged 14 to 24 (T0) from Munich and the vicinity were examined retrospectively and prospectively within the framework of the EDSP from 1995 (measurement point T0) until 2005 (T3) in four waves. Beesdo et al. (2007) have provided an overview of the methodology applied in the four

waves of the study. In contrast to the five studies described in the foregoing, the focus of the EDSP was not exclusively on an examination of illicit substances, but rather on the general development of substance abuse. As a result of the representativeness of the random sample and the longitudinal design, however, this study is unique and for this reason deserves special mention here.

The basic EDSP study established that the consumption of licit (>90%) and illicit psychotropic substances (35%) is more widespread in the 14-to-24 age group than was previously assumed. The consumption of psychotropic substances among the younger age group continued to rise in the course of the study and a sizeable number of the persons surveyed developed abuse and dependence syndromes early on (Lieb et al. 2000).

Various publications have examined specific age-, gender- and substance-related vulnerabilities and risks both for first-time use, regular and problematic consumption as well as for the development of abuse and dependence syndromes. One example of this is the recently published work of Wittchen et al. (2007), which describes the connection between cannabis consumption, disorders caused by cannabis and psychological disorders such as anxiety.

### **1.2.2 Scientific peer-reviewed journals with national authors**

A literature list with articles of German experts which have been published in international, scholarly peer-reviewed journals in 2006 is contained in the annex – without any claim to being complete (cf. chapter **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**).

## **1.3 Collection and dissemination of results of research**

### **1.3.1 Flow of Information**

Both the Federal Government Commissioner on Narcotic Drugs as well as the DBDD (Reitox report on the drug situation) report each year in the form of a report on current research results and thus also act as multipliers which make information available to a broader public. The collection and dissemination of research results in the research community is organised to a large extent by researchers themselves, the associations and the specialised institutions and organisations, and primarily takes place through scientific congresses and academic and research journals (cf. Table 1 and Table 2).

### **1.3.2 National scientific journals**

The eight national drug-related journals are listed in Table 1. Four of these journals are peer-reviewed and have English abstracts in addition to the German ones. The areas of concentration differ greatly in part, but none of the journals deals exclusively with illegal drugs.

Table 2 contains a small selection of national journals from other disciplines (public health, psychiatry and psychotherapy) which also publish drug-related research. Articles which relate to drugs are often published in both the disciplines mentioned above as well as in

many other ones (sociology, medicine, biochemistry, economics, jurisprudence and many more). Not all of these can be listed here, however.

**Table 1.** National drug-related scholarly journals

<b>Title</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Main emphasis</b>	<b>National/international contribution</b>	<b>Peer-review</b>	<b>Abstract-Language</b>
Akzeptanz	Social work	Addiction and social questions	European	No	German
European Addiction Research	Epidemiology	Research results	European	Yes	English
Konturen	Addiction research	Addiction and social questions	German	No	German
Sucht	Addiction, Epidemiology	Research reports, overview articles, Conference contributions	German, European	Yes	German, English
Sucht Aktuell	Interdisciplinary	Total addiction, alcohol	German	No	German
Suchtmagazin	Interdisciplinary, Health promotion	Health promotion, youth work, prevention	German, Swiss	No	German
Suchtmedizin in Forschung und Praxis	Interdisciplinary, scientific and practical orientation	Total Addiction	German	Yes	German, English
Suchttherapie	Interdisciplinary – practical orientation, treatment	Treatment of addicts and their relatives	German, European	Yes	German, English

**Table 2.** Scholarly journals from other disciplines with drug-related research

<b>Title</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Main emphasis</b>	<b>nationale/internationale contributions</b>	<b>peer-review</b>	<b>abstract-Language</b>
Gesundheitswesen	Public health	Health promotion	German	Yes	German, English
Psychiatrische Praxis	Psychiatry	Mental Health	German, international	Yes	German, English
Nervenarzt	Psychiatry	Mental Health	German	Yes	German, English
Psychotherapie	Psychotherapy	Mental Health	German	Yes	German, English

### 1.3.3 Other types of dissemination

#### Websites on research

More detailed information on individual research projects, research association structures and cooperation partners and research reports and literature citations are provided by the websites of the research associations (Forschungsverbände):

- Suchtforschungsverbund Baden-Württemberg: [www.bw-suchtweb.de/](http://www.bw-suchtweb.de/),
- Suchtforschungsverbund Bayern/Sachsen: [www.psychologie.tu-dresden.de/asat/](http://www.psychologie.tu-dresden.de/asat/),
- Suchtforschungsverbund Nordrhein-Westfalen: [www. www.suchtforschungsverbund-nrw.de/](http://www.www.suchtforschungsverbund-nrw.de/) and
- Suchtforschungsverbund Nord-Ost ("Early intervention in the case of substance-related disorders" (EARLINT)): [www.medizin.uni-greifswald.de/epidem/forschung/intervention/earlint.html](http://www.medizin.uni-greifswald.de/epidem/forschung/intervention/earlint.html).

#### Websites of important institutions and working groups

- Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Suchtforschung Hamburg: [www.zis-hamburg.de/](http://www.zis-hamburg.de/),
- Centre for Drug Research der Johann Wolfgang von Goethe-Universität Frankfurt/M.: [www.uni-frankfurt.de/fb/fb04/forschung/cdr/index.html](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/fb/fb04/forschung/cdr/index.html),
- Institut zur Förderung qualitativer Drogenforschung, akzeptierender Drogenarbeit und rationaler Drogenpolitik Münster: [www.indro-online.de/](http://www.indro-online.de/),
- Zentralinstitut für seelische Gesundheit Mannheim: [www.zi-mannheim.de/](http://www.zi-mannheim.de/),
- Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik Frankfurt/M.: [www.iss-ffm.de/](http://www.iss-ffm.de/),
- Institut für Klinische Psychologie und Psychotherapie der Technischen Universität Dresden: [www.psychologie.tu-dresden.de/klinische/](http://www.psychologie.tu-dresden.de/klinische/),
- Kompetenzplattform Suchtforschung an der katholischen Fachhochschule NRW: [www.addiction.de/](http://www.addiction.de/) und
- Suchtforschungsverbund an Fachhochschulen (SFFH) mit den Standorten Frankfurt/M., Köln, Aachen und Mainz: [www.suchtforschungsverbund.de](http://www.suchtforschungsverbund.de).
- Institut für Therapieforschung München: [www.ift.de/](http://www.ift.de/),

#### National drug conferences

Important national drug conferences, which usually take place at regular intervals (usually on an annual basis) include the "Congress of the German Society for Addiction Research and Addiction Therapy (Deutsche Gesellschaft Sucht), the Interdisciplinary Congress for Addiction Medicine and the scientific research meeting of the German Board on Drugs and Addiction (Deutscher Sucht- und Drogenrat). On top of this, there are various conferences and working meetings on specific topics, most of them organised by universities, funding agencies and addiction research associations.