



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

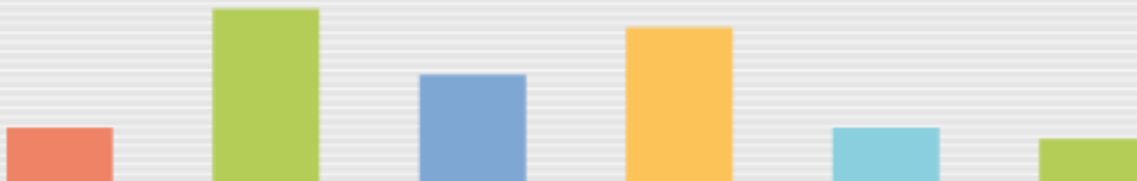
Gesundheit Österreich  
GmbH ● ● ●

# The drug situation in Europa

## Epidemiology and specific responses

Ilonka Horvath (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH)  
Sandrine Sleiman (EMCDDA)

ELISAN-Conference  
24 September 2019, Villach/ Austria



## European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction



### EUROPEAN DRUG REPORT PACKAGE 2019

Interlinked elements allowing access to available data and analysis on the drugs problem in Europe and at national level

#### Trends and Developments

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



#### Country Drug Reports

graphic-rich reports presenting summaries of national drug phenomena (online)

EU 28, Turkey and Norway

#### Statistical Bulletin

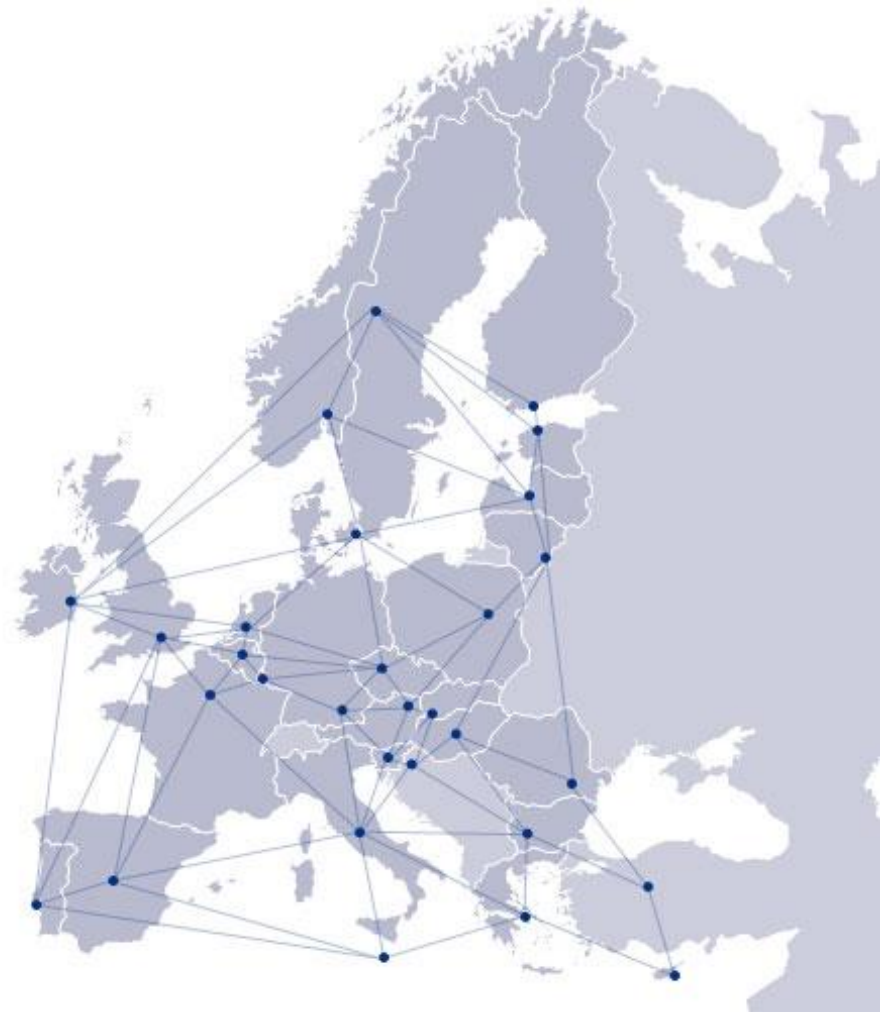
containing full data arrays and methodological information (online)



# Reitox network

NFPs in 28 EU Member States, Norway and Turkey

Unique data collection system



## Cannabis



### Adults (15–64)



### Young adults (15–34)



## Cocaine



### Adults (15–64)



### Young adults (15–34)



## MDMA



### Adults (15–64)



### Young adults (15–34)



## Amphetamines



### Adults (15–64)



### Young adults (15–34)



## Opioids



High-risk opioid users **1.3 million**

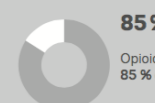
Drug treatment requests

Fatal overdoses

**654 000** opioid users received substitution treatment in 2017

Principal drug in about **35 %** of all drug treatment requests in the European Union

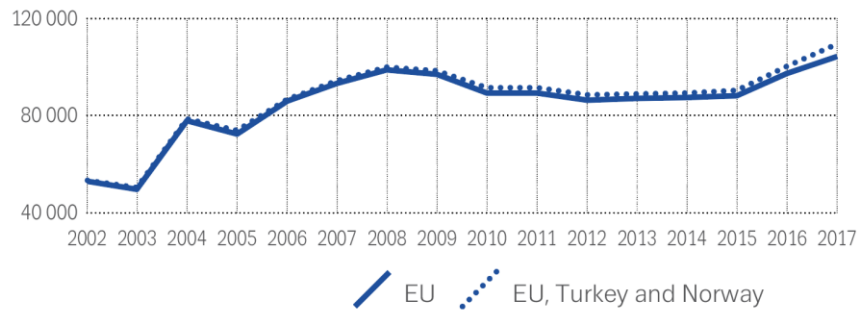
Opioids are found in **85 %** of fatal overdoses



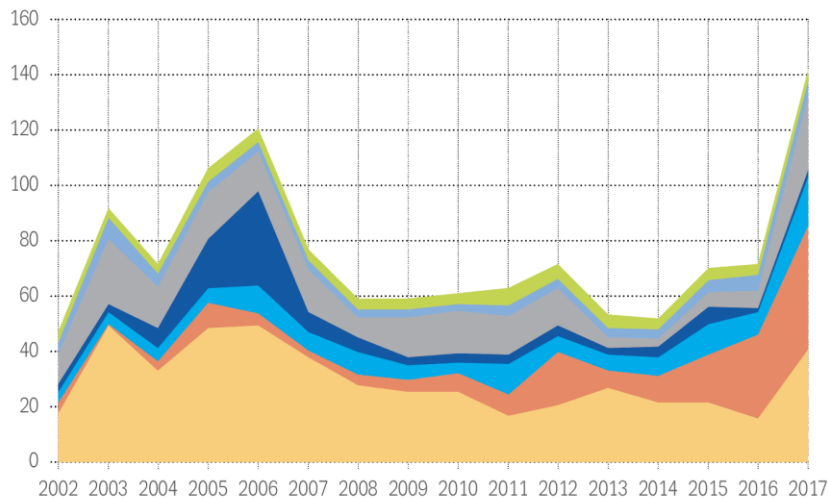
# Cocaine

## Number of powder cocaine seizures and quantity seized: trends and 2017 or most recent year

Number of seizures

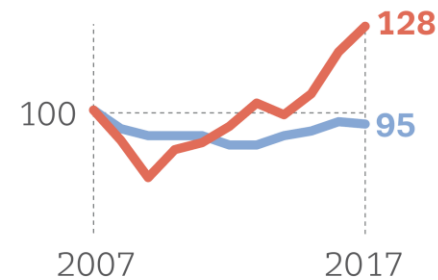


Tonnes

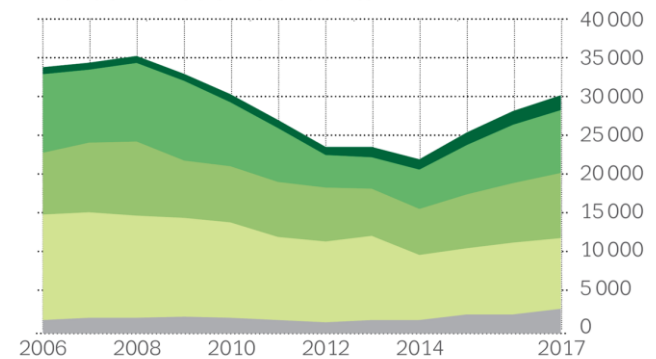


## Indexed trends

### Price and purity



### Trends in first-time entrants



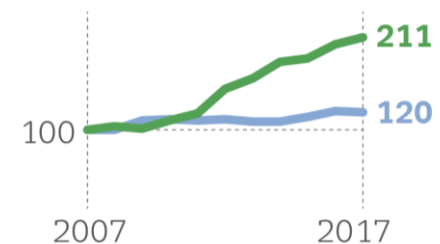
# Cannabis: increases in potency and treatment entrants

- 1 % of adults are daily users
- 18 % of 15–24 year olds used cannabis in the last year
- The average potency of cannabis has been increasing

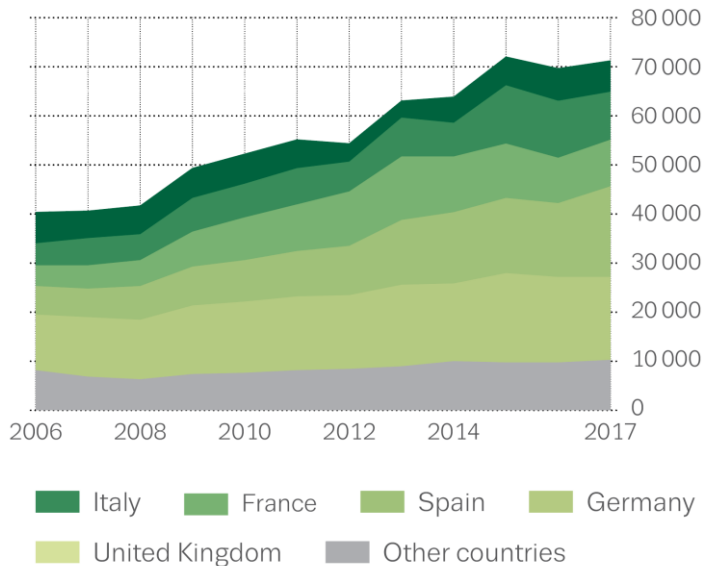
## Cannabis resin

### Indexed trends

Price and potency



### Trends in first-time entrants

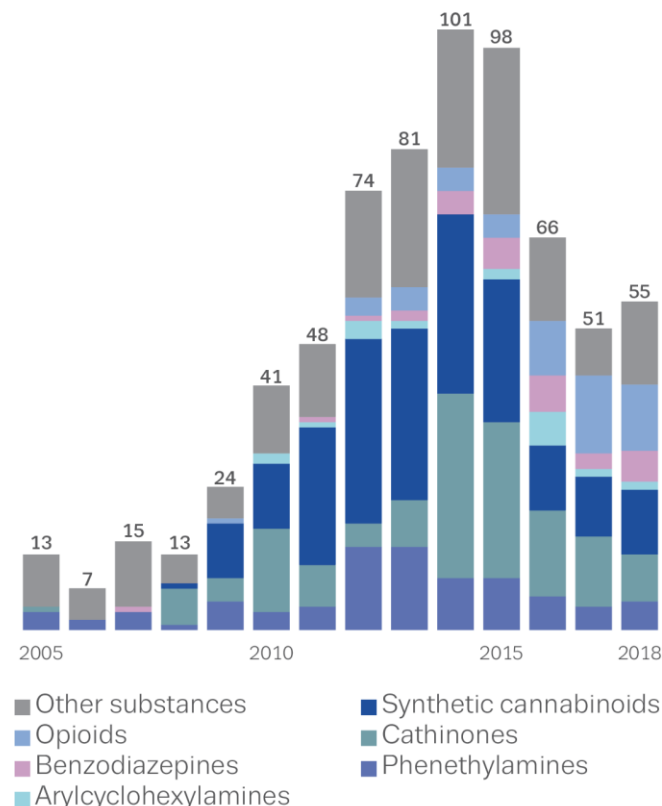


- Cannabis is the drug most often reported as the main reason for entering treatment for new entrants to specialised treatment services

# NPS: diversity of substances in a complex market

- 55 substances were detected **for the first time** in 2018
- 390 of the 730 substances monitored by the EWS were detected in 2017
- Seizures of NPS are dominated by synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones
- Synthetic opioids now playing a bigger role: 49 new synthetic opioids monitored by the EWS, fentanyl derivatives are now the majority
- Synthetic opioids targeted at people with problematic drug use patterns

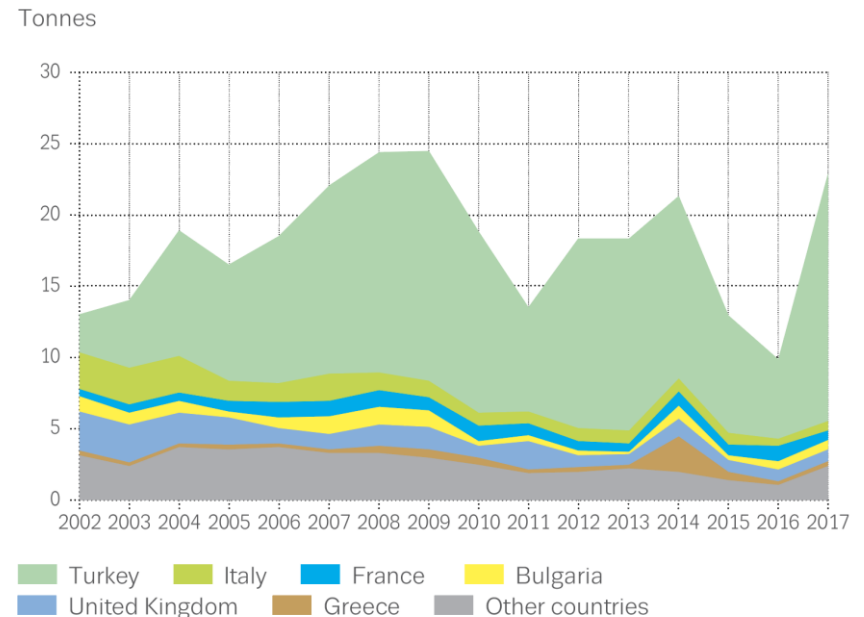
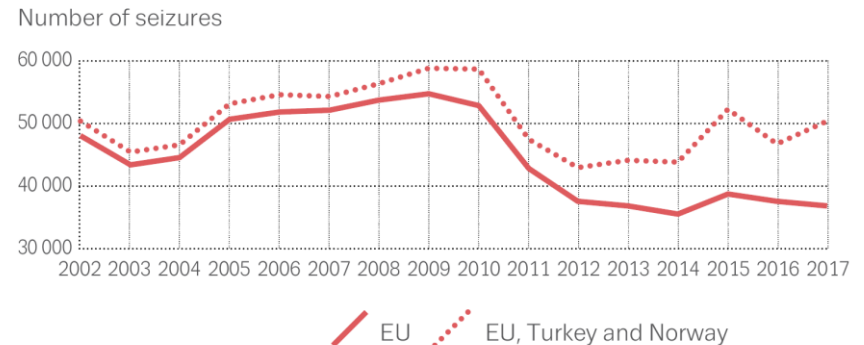
Number and categories of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU Early Warning System for the first time, 2005-18



# Heroin: indications of market changes

- 5.4 tonnes of heroin seized, 81 tonnes of the heroin precursor chemical acetic anhydride
- Laboratories detected in the EU producing heroin from morphine using this precursor
- Heroin purity remains high and retail price relatively low

Number of heroin seizures and quantity seized: trends and 2017 or most recent year





# Drug related health problems

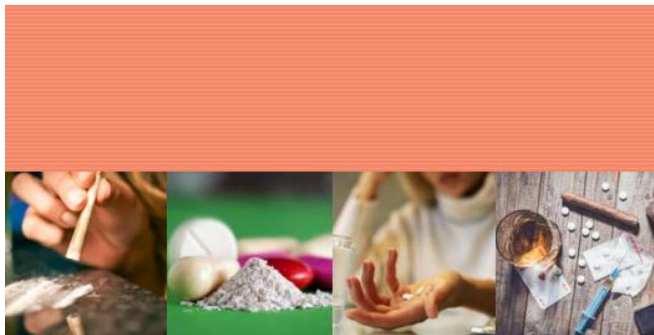
## CHAPTER 2 Problems arising from particular types or patterns of drug use

This chapter considers problems from the perspective of particular patterns of drug use and the specific substances that are of concern in many EU countries. In each case an overview of the most important aspects of the problem is provided along with a review of the interventions that might be appropriate to respond to them. This is accompanied by a short summary of the evidence available on effectiveness, a review of the responses that are currently in use across Europe and consideration of some of the related implications for policy and practice. Links are also provided to more detailed information on the topics covered.

The drug problems covered in this chapter are:

- problems associated with cannabis use;
- opioid dependence;
- opioid-related deaths;
- viral hepatitis, HIV and other infections associated with injecting use;
- problems associated with stimulant use;
- new psychoactive substances;
- misuse of medicines;
- polydrug use.

- Substance used
- Purity and content
- Route of administration
- Individual vulnerability
- Chronic problems and acute harm
- Social consequences



## Health and social responses to drug problems

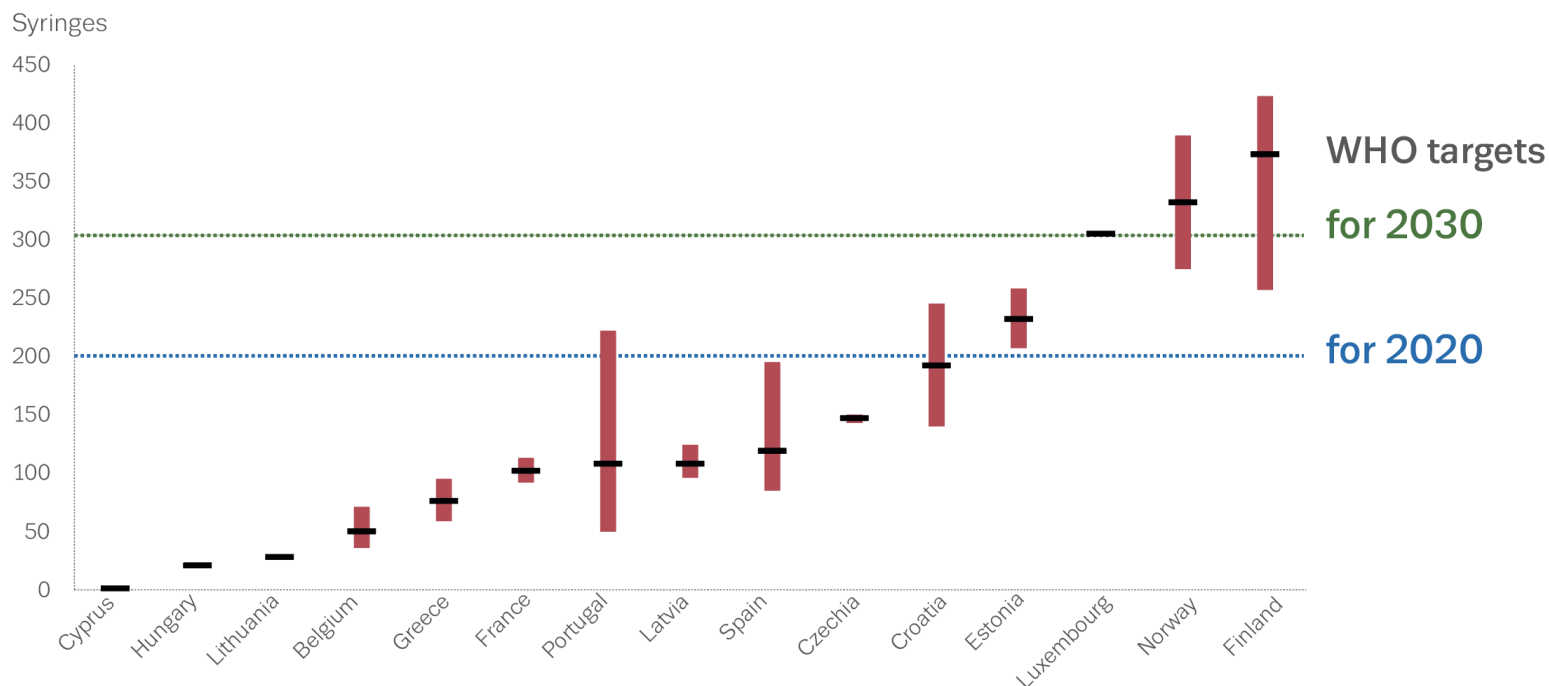
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# HCV: enhancing access to prevention, testing and treatment

- HCV antibody prevalence rates in 8 of the 14 countries with national data are in excess of 50 %
- Barriers to testing and uptake of treatment
- Low-threshold services are an important access point to testing

Coverage of specialised syringe programmes: number of syringes provided per estimated person who injects drugs



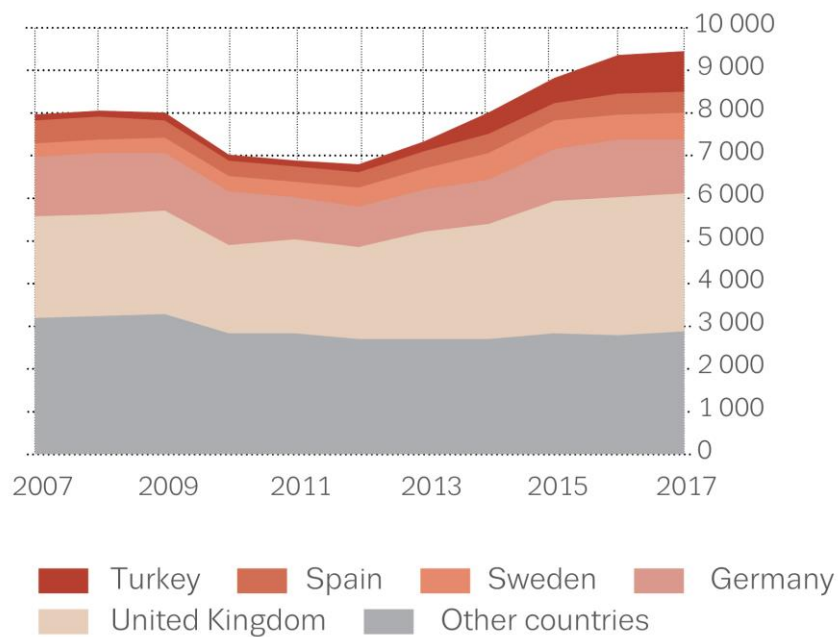
NB: Data displayed as point estimates and uncertainty intervals. Targets defined in the WHO global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016-2021.



# Fatal overdoses: opioids present in majority of deaths

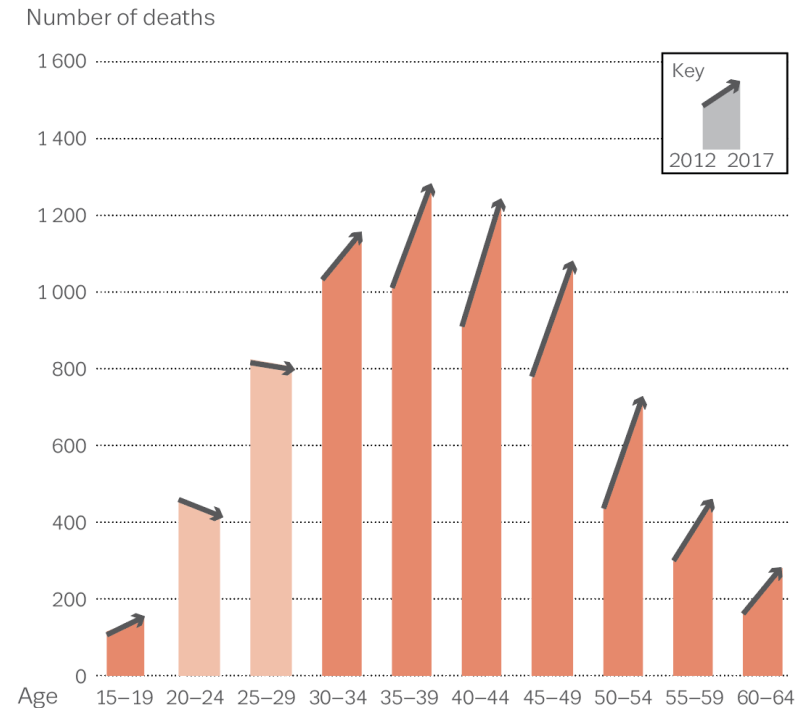
## 9 461 deaths in 2017 (EU, Turkey and Norway)

Trends in overdose deaths

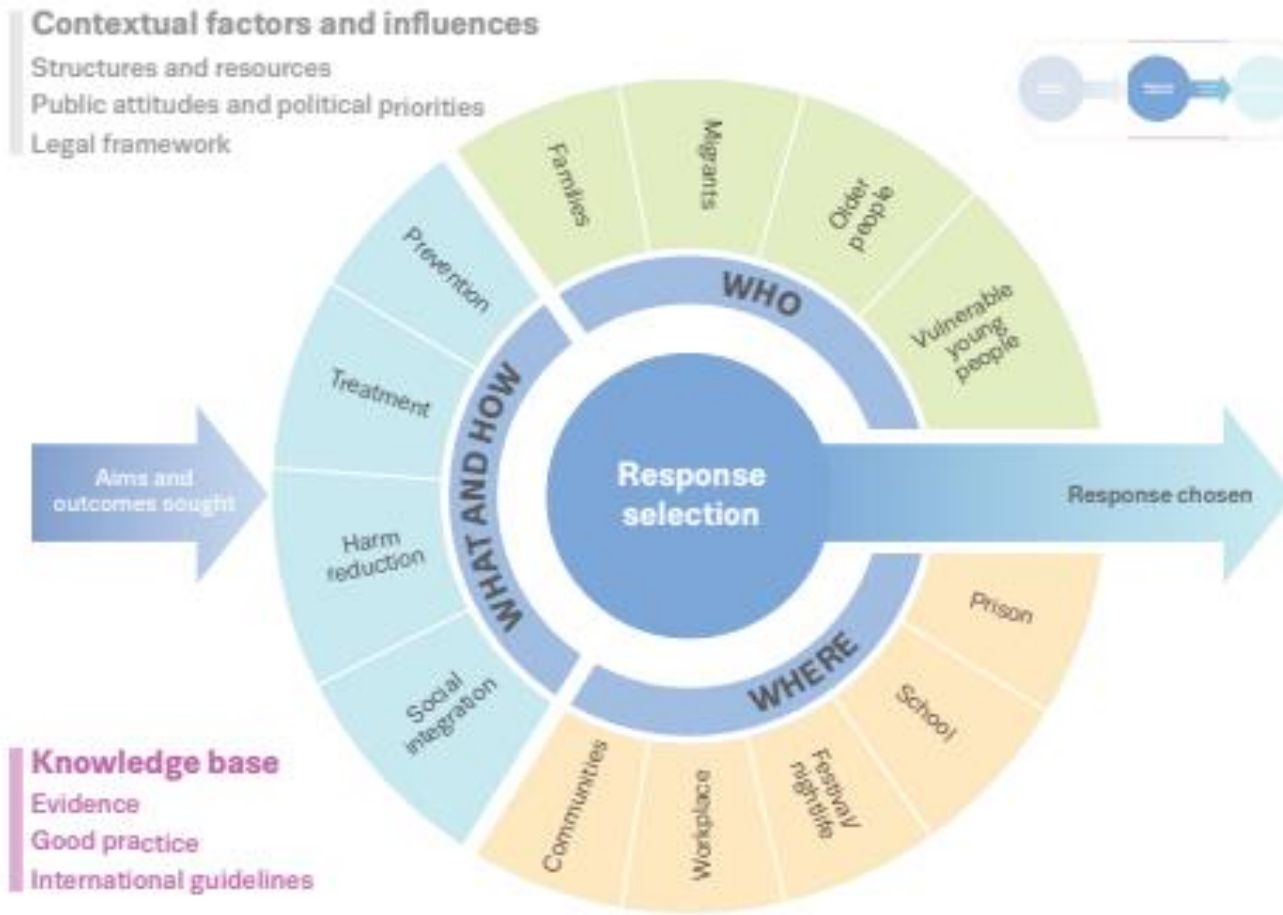


## From 2012–17 overdose deaths increased in older groups

Number of drug-induced deaths reported in the European Union in 2012 and 2017, or most recent year, by age band



# Responses to drug problems



European Monitoring Centre  
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Health and social  
responses to  
drug problems

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# Prevention

- Environmental to indicated prevention
- Target groups
- Settings/ contexts

**Best practice**

Policy and practice briefings

**Implementation tools (Xchange, HNT, EDDRA, EIB)**

Xchange prevention registry

Evidence database

Standards and guidelines

## Xchange prevention registry

### About the Xchange prevention registry

Xchange is an **online registry of evidence-based prevention programmes**. It is currently in pilot phase. Use the options below to find prevention programmes. [Read more](#)  
[Xchange here](#)

### Search for programmes



by age group



by settings





[Reset search form](#)

**Health and social responses to drug problems**  
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Types or patterns of substance use

Needs of particular groups

Responding in particular settings

Health and social responses to drug problems: a European

List of programmes

Programme title	Date added	Countries where evaluated	Xchange rating
Coping Power/Utrecht Coping Power - an indicated programme for children with disruptive behaviour	18.10.2017	Italy, Netherlands, USA	<b>Beneficial</b>
EFFEKT/Örebro/PAS - To increase parents' attitudes, norm-setting and monitoring about alcohol	17.10.2017	Netherlands, Sweden	<b>Beneficial</b>
Unplugged - a Comprehensive Social Influence programme for schools: life skills training with correction of normative beliefs	18.10.2017	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Sweden	<b>Beneficial</b>
School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) - life skills training to reduce alcohol use and harms	18.10.2017	United Kingdom	<b>Beneficial</b>
Good Behaviour Game - group-contingent positive reinforcement of children's prosocial behaviour	18.10.2017	Belgium, Netherlands, USA	<b>Likely to be beneficial</b>
Sobre Canyes i Petes - skills training for preventing regular cannabis use, with a family component	18.10.2017	Spain	<b>Likely to be beneficial</b>
Be Smart — Don't Start - a competition of school classes to remain smoke free for six months	18.10.2017	Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland	<b>Likely to be partially beneficial</b>
Multisystemic Therapy (MST) - intensive family- and community-based intervention for antisocial behaviour in juvenile offenders	18.10.2017	Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA	<b>Likely to be partially beneficial</b>
European Smoking Prevention Framework Approach (ESFA / PASE.bcn) - addressing young people, parents, school environment and out-of-school situations	18.10.2017	Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom	<b>Likely to be partially beneficial</b>
Strengthening Families 10-14 - family protection and resilience-building processes for adolescents and their parents	18.10.2017	Germany, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA	<b>Evidence of ineffectiveness</b>



# Treatment

## Approaches:

- Pharmacological interventions (OST)
- Behavioural and psychosocial interventions
- Residential rehabilitation
- Self-help and mutual aid groups
- Recovery/reintegration support services

## Reitox Map of Addiction Care in Europe:

[www.reitox.eu](http://www.reitox.eu)

Reitox network

Reitox Map of Addiction Care in Europe

The **Reitox Map of Addiction Care in Europe** was established as an initiative of the Reitox network, the network of national centres in **Reitox countries** collecting and reporting the data on drug situation at the national level. The network is coordinated by the [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction \(EMCDDA\)](#), an EU decentralised agency located in Lisbon.

This Reitox Map of Addiction Care in Europe (Reitox Facility Locator) is European "gateway" to national sources and contacts, aimed to provide information for **professionals and clients in situations where addicology services clients are travelling or moving abroad and are looking for (continuity of) addiction care.**

Further information from other resources:

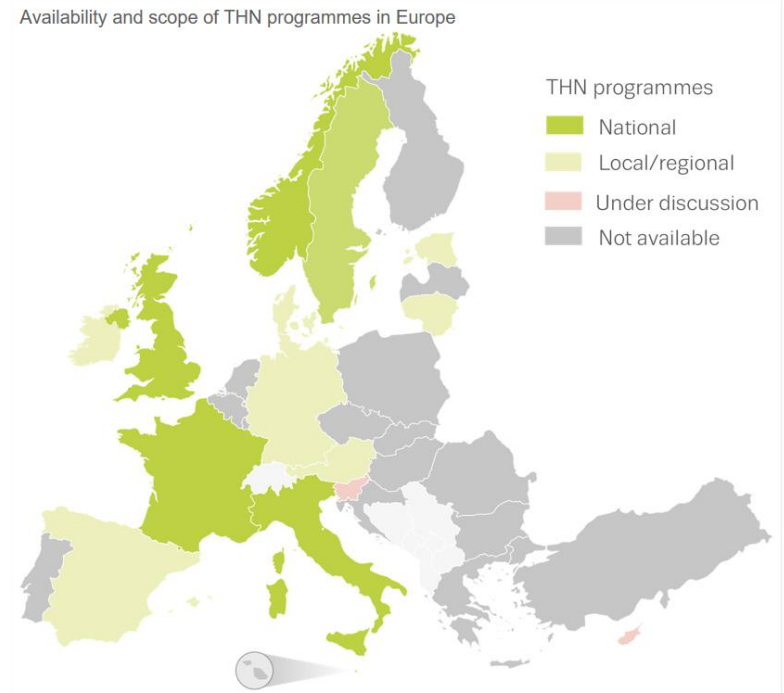
- [Information for Travelling Internationally with Medicines Containing Controlled Substances](#)
- [General Information for Travellers Carrying Medicines Containing Controlled Substances](#)
- [Regulations by Country](#)
- [Methadone Worldwide Travel Guide](#)
- [Coordinating and Information Resource Center for International Travel](#)

*Note: For consequences of illegal consumption of drugs, see [Penalties for drug law offences in European countries](#).*



# Harm reduction

- **Reducing the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis:** *Needle and syringe provision, testing, vaccination, HCV-treatment, OST*
- **Reducing opioid-related deaths:** *Take-home naloxone programmes, OST, drug consumption rooms, heroin assisted treatment*
- **Responding to drug problems in nightlife settings:** *on-site drug-checking services*
- **Responding to NPS:** *EWS*

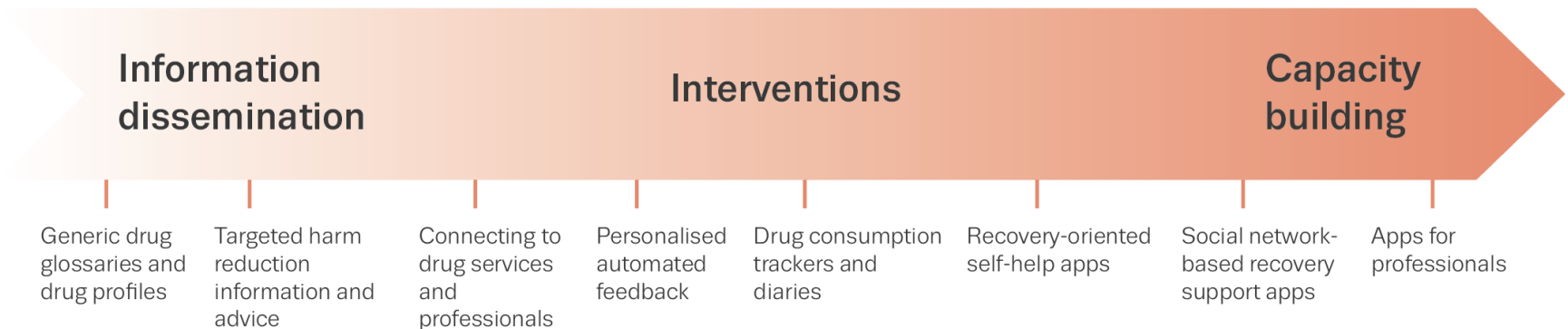


[www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/topic-overviews/take-home-naloxone\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/topic-overviews/take-home-naloxone_en)



# M-health: new tools for responding to drug problems

Spectrum of m-health apps based on their primary objectives



- **Digital prevention and treatment interventions are being delivered via m-health apps**
- **Multiple functions provided (e.g. geo-location to find needle and syringe exchanges)**
- **Challenges: evaluation, quality standards and data protection**







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# emcdda.europa.eu/edr2019


#EDR2019

#HealthierEurope #MoreSecureEurope

Video: [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/european-drug-report-2019-highlights\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/european-drug-report-2019-highlights_en)

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