



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

European Drug Report

2016

What drugs are causing the most harm and concern today? What are the most recent developments in drug prevention, treatment and policy? What are the latest trends in drug supply to Europe? These are just some of the questions explored in the EMCDDA's *European Drug Report 2016: Trends and Developments*.

This annual overview of the European drug situation provides a comprehensive analysis of the latest trends in drug supply and the market; drug use prevalence and trends; and drug-related health problems and responses to them. This year's report is enriched by new national surveys and analyses as well as city-level data from wastewater monitoring and hospital emergency rooms across Europe.

The report is accompanied by a *Statistical Bulletin*, containing the full European dataset underpinning the report, and by *Perspectives on Drugs*, online interactive windows on key aspects of the drugs problem. *Country Overviews* complete the picture, providing national-level data and analyses.

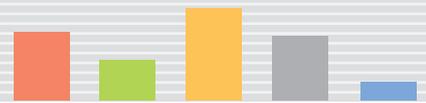
This multilingual, multimedia package offers easy access to evidence-based information on drugs across the 28 EU Member States, Turkey and Norway. The interlinked set of products provides an essential resource for informing European policies and responses and enhancing understanding of a drugs problem in constant evolution.

European Drug Report 2016: Trends and Developments
Available in 24 languages at emcdda.europa.eu/edr2016

EUROPEAN DRUG REPORT PACKAGE 2016

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





Perspectives on drugs (PODs)

The EMCDDA releases alongside the *European Drug Report 2016: Trends and Developments* four new additions to its *Perspectives on Drugs* (PODs) series. Outlined below are highlights from these online interactive windows on key aspects of the European drug situation.

Comorbidity of substance use and mental health disorders in Europe

The co-occurrence of substance use and mental health disorders — otherwise known as ‘comorbidity’ or ‘dual diagnosis’ — is an issue which has been on the EMCDDA’s radar for over a decade. As concern around comorbidity grows, this POD shines a spotlight on the issue, exploring implications for drug treatment and care. Psychiatric comorbidity is highly prevalent among substance users and treating the condition is challenging due to its complex nature. Quality standards and clinical guidelines recommend screening and referral to services able to address both disorders. Adequately detecting and treating comorbidity will be a major challenge for policymakers, professionals and clinicians working in the drugs field in the years to come.

Strategies to prevent diversion of opioid substitution treatment medications

The use of substitution drugs for the treatment of heroin dependence represents a key evidence-based response to heroin problems in Europe. The diversion of these medicines from their intended use in drug treatment to non-medical use and sale on illicit drug markets, however, is a cause for concern. The use of diverted substances has been associated with various harms, including fatal and non-fatal overdoses. This analysis summarises the context of opioid substitution treatment (OST) in Europe, how OST medications are diverted and the measures currently in place to address the phenomenon. Responses to reduce the risks of diversion of these medications from treatment settings include the application of clinical standards and guidelines for appropriate dosing and educational activities to ensure quality of care.

Changes in Europe’s cannabis resin market

Since the early 2000s, the dramatic increase in cannabis production inside Europe has led to a shift in the market, with domestically grown herbal cannabis (marijuana) displacing imported (mainly Moroccan) cannabis resin (hashish) in many countries. Nevertheless, the European cannabis resin market remains one of the world’s largest and most profitable today, with an estimated 641 tonnes consumed annually. This POD describes how the supplies of cannabis resin to Europe are changing in response to competition from domestically grown cannabis and other market developments. Morocco remains the largest source of the cannabis resin available in Europe and a number of significant changes to Moroccan resin production are reported. These include the cultivation of new hybrid crops, which yield three to five times more hashish than traditional kif plants and which are leading to the emergence of a new, more potent type of hashish from the Rif region. There is also evidence of resin now being produced inside Europe, using equipment that can be bought online and in specialised shops.

Cocaine trafficking to Europe

Cocaine is produced in South America and trafficked to Europe by both air and sea. This POD provides an insight into the European cocaine market, the wide range of trafficking routes used to bring the drug to Europe and the variety of methods used by organised crime groups (OCG) to transport their products. The analysis shows how OCGs are quick to identify and exploit new opportunities that facilitate trafficking. This includes taking advantage of new technology to facilitate access to maritime containers loaded with cocaine. OCGs also shift transit routes and storage points in response to successful law-enforcement activity, often to areas of instability and weak governance.