



Minutes

Meeting	53rd Scientific Committee meeting
Date	05.05.2021
Venue	Teleconference (Webex)
Present	See participants list (Annex 1)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair, Catherine Comiskey opened the 53rd Scientific Committee meeting and welcomed the Scientific Committee members, particularly Tomi Lintonen, who has joined the Committee on 1 January 2021. Lies Gremeaux (Spokesperson of the Reitox network) participated as an observer. The agenda (Annex 2) ⁽¹⁾ was unanimously adopted. Item 3 'Presentation of the Business Model project' was moved to before item 9 'Feedback to the Director'.

2. Feedback from the Chair on relevant meetings (for information)

The Chair provided feedback on the meetings she attended as representative of the Scientific Committee since the last Scientific Committee meeting in November: 1) the Annual Dialogue on Research (ADR) in November 2020, where she presented (Annex 3), the Scientific Committee's regular contribution (Annex 4); and 2) the 62nd Management Board meeting (MB) in December 2020 (Annex 5), where she presented the Scientific Committee's formal opinion on the EMCDDA Single Programming Document 2021-23.

4. Single programming document 2022-24 (for discussion)

The Scientific Director, Paul Griffiths, outlined the main aspects of the draft Single Programming Document (SPD) 2022-24 (Annex 6). In his presentation (Annex 7) he emphasised the role of the Scientific Committee in providing their formal opinion and the importance of clear and focused contributions. He also thanked the members of the Scientific Committee who had already sent their comments on the document.

The Committee members then split in two groups covering the two main areas of the draft SPD 2022-24, Health and Security and Safety (including the Early Warning System on new psychoactive substances) for a more in-depth discussion around the document.

The Health break-out session was facilitated by the Head of the Public Health unit, Jane Mounteney. Liesbeth Vandam, Head of the Support to Policy sector and Marica Ferri, Head of the Support to Practice sector, also joined the session. The group highlighted:

⁽¹⁾ All meeting documents and presentations referred to in these minutes are available on the [Scientific Committee extranet](#).

- the enormous effort made by the agency in response to the pandemic;
- the impressive adaptability and rapid turnaround;
- The new publications and thematic summaries, e.g. Responses Guide mini-guides.

The group also discussed:

- the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on the quality of data;
- difficulties on balancing individual and public health;
- mental health and socio-economic problems;
- increasing problems and harms linked to stimulant use and potential increased problems linked to misuse of medicines;
- issues linked to migration and drugs;
- the importance of improving treatment outcomes monitoring;
- supporting countries with monitoring criminalisation and decriminalisation policy approaches;
- increased options for EU-wide rapid analysis based on mixed methods and multiple data sources;
- cooperation with civil society groups and user organisations;
- further EMCDDA staff development/training opportunities to keep up with rapid changes;
- current opportunities presented by e-health, online, digital services and OSI and internet monitoring.

The Security and Safety break-out session was facilitated by the Head of the Risks to Public Safety and Security unit, Roumen Sedefov. Ana Gallegos, Head of the Action on New Drugs sector, and Andrew Cunningham, Head of the Markets, Crime and Supply Reduction sector, also joined the session. Roumen Sedefov highlighted that work in this area also covers public health – the core of the Early Warning System (EWS) on new psychoactive substances.

Given the current scenario of limited financial resources, the group discussed the possibility of focusing the work more around key products and activities such as the EU Drug Markets Report, the EWS, and core monitoring around drug-related homicides and drug production.

The discussion also covered changes in the cannabis legal frameworks and innovation in the cannabis market and links between drug production in Europe and international organised crime groups.

The group also agreed on the need to further develop measurable indicators at European level, if appropriate financial resources are allocated to this work.

After the breakout sessions, members returned to plenary where the rapporteurs from each break-out session (Fabrizio Faggiano for Health and Kim Moeller for Security and Safety) shared their respective feedback.

On the basis of the inputs provided, a draft formal opinion on the EMCDDA SPD 2022-24 will be prepared and circulated for discussion and adoption by written procedure. The Scientific Committee's formal opinion on the EMCDDA SPD 2022-24 will be forwarded to the Management Board in November 2021.

5. Discussion around EMCDDA mandate (for discussion)

The Scientific Director updated the Scientific Committee on the ongoing developments around the revision of the EMCDDA mandate. Several members of the Scientific Committee shared their views on this important initiative, which will shape the work of the EMCDDA for years to come. The Committee decided to draft a position paper on this topic. The Vice-Chair will lead on this task. The importance of polydrug use and the wider definition and implications of this for the mandate was also discussed.

The spokesperson of the Reitox network informed the Scientific Committee that the network had drafted a common position on the revision of the EMCDDA's mandate (Annex 8).

6. The Reitox network (for information)

The Head of the Reitox and External Partners unit (Gonçalo Felgueiras) and the spokesperson of the Reitox network (Lies Gremeaux) introduced the work of the Reitox national focal points and their contribution to the work of the EMCDDA, as main partners and information providers, as well as the capacity of national focal points for other scientific activities (Annex 9). The Scientific Committee will consider options for further collaboration between the Committee and the Reitox network.

7. Update on EMCDDA prevention activities (for information)

Jane Mounteney, the Head of the Public Health unit, updated the Scientific Committee on EMCDDA prevention activities (Annex 10).

8. Short follow-up points (for information)

8.1. Lisbon Addictions 2022

Maria Moreira updated the Scientific Committee on the Lisbon Addictions 2022 (Annex 11), emphasising the approach, timeline and co-producers for the scientific programme of the conference. Members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee have already been or will soon be contacted to join the Scientific Committee of Lisbon Addictions 2022.

8.2. Pilot project for a new Scientific Committee extranet

Maria Moreira presented the Humhub platform, a more interactive tool which will be piloted as the new Scientific Committee's extranet. An initial pilot phase is planned to start in autumn and the Scientific Committee members will be invited to test it.

3. Presentation of the Business Model project (for information)

The Director, Alexis Goosdeel, briefed the Scientific Committee on the ongoing development of a new customer centric business model around the concept of digital transformation for the EMCDDA. He presented the rationale and ongoing work and outlined the next steps (Annex 12). An update presentation for information will take place at the next Management Board meeting in June, and the implementation plan will be submitted to the Management Board in December for approval. The members of the Scientific Committee expressed their general support to the approach presented by the Director and their willingness to be involved in the process.

9. Feedback to the Director (for discussion)

The Chair updated the Director on the discussions and outcomes of the meeting.

10. Any other business (AOB)

The date previously agreed by the Scientific Committee for its 54th meeting (17 to 19 November 2021) may overlap with an ISSDP conference. The EMCDDA will follow up with ISSDP on this and come back to the Committee with a confirmation on these dates or a suggestion for different dates.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Annexes

- Annex 1 — Participants' list
- Annex 2 — Agenda (SciCom/01.1/53)
- Annex 3 — Scientific Committee contribution to the Annual Dialogue on Research (ADR) of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) (SciCom/02.1/53)
- Annex 4 — The Scientific Committee's contribution to the 2020 ADR (Chair's presentation at the ADR 2020) (SciCom/02.2/53)
- Annex 5 — Minutes of the 62nd Management Board meeting (SciCom/02.3/53)
- Annex 6 — EMCDDA Single Programming Document 2022-24 - consultation version (SciCom/04.1/53)
- Annex 7 — Presentation on the Programming Document 2022-2024 (presentation by Paul Griffiths)
- Annex 8 — Common position by the REITOX network on the revision of the EMCDDA's mandate
- Annex 9 — The Reitox network: introduction for the Scientific Committee (presentation by Lies Gremeaux)
- Annex 10 — Developing capacity building on prevention in the EU (presentation by Jane Mounteney)
- Annex 11 — Lisbon Addictions 2022: feedback to EMCDDA Scientific Committee (presentation by Maria Moreira)
- Annex 12 — Towards a new business model for the EMCDDA (presentation by Alexis Goosdeel)