



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

European Web Survey on Drugs: patterns of use

Project Overview

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Aims & objectives

- 1. Develop and test potential of web survey tool**
 - Feasibility for NFPs and EMCDDA
 - Recruitment strategies
- 2. Validity & reliability study – mainly CZ**
- 3. Collect data on amounts of drugs used to improve market size estimates**
- 4. Consider possible future applications**



Basic approach for pilot

- Shorter version of the questionnaire used by Trimbos/RAND Europe/ICPR for Further Insights study
- Focus on frequency and amounts used for cannabis, cocaine, MDMA, amphetamines
- Eligibility criteria = age 18+ and used one of these drugs in past year
- Translation and sampling strategy development undertaken by NFPs with guidance documents from EMCDDA
- Survey hosted by EMCDDA using Limesurvey
- Cleaning programmes & basic derived variables developed at EMCDDA for comparability
- Participant countries to get own datasets & participate in cross-national analysis



Countries involved in pilot & state of play

| Country | Stage | Approximate sample achieved to date | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| | | Cannabis | Cocaine | MDMA | Amphetamines |
| Czech Republic* | Completed | 468 (513) | 145 (155) | 204 (223) | 115 (126) |
| Croatia | Completed | 3722 (3865) | 882 (921) | 1425 (1475) | 1064 (1096) |
| France | Completed | 2200 (2333) | 853 (919) | 1098 (1171) | 634 (687) |
| Switzerland** | Completed | 1025 (1205) | 370 (432) | 424 (562) | 292 (400) |
| The Netherlands | On-going | 364 (395) | 254 (270) | 416 (447) | 262 (285) |
| United Kingdom | On-going | 248 (317) | 129 (148) | 158 (185) | 35 (44) |

Note: Further cleaning to be done which will reduce the sample sizes a bit more.

* Czech Republic also did follow-up surveys on sample for test-retest reliability not included here.

** Switzerland also included a module on heroin and responses to this not included here.



Some emerging findings

- Approach looks v. promising – quick & relatively low cost
- Good collaborative working – interest & enthusiasm
- Acceptable to users – positive comments + open to follow-up
- Value of European branding & central web page
- Current recruitment strategies => recreational users
- Trade-offs eg wide reach vs ineligible participants
- Data cleaning takes a lot of time – more attention to routing and range controls needed
- Importance of clarity about what these surveys can & can't tell us – who we are reaching.
- The power of Facebook!



Likely next steps

Patterns of use survey

- **Analysis & reporting**
 - EMCDDA reports
 - academic papers
- **Modify questionnaire based on lessons learned**
- **Amend guidance documents**
- **Second round of countries?**

Further developments

- **Additional modules**
 - Availability, price & purity?
 - Heroin module
- **Targeting more problematic users**



And now for the NFP perspective ...

Some possible issues for discussion

The European web survey as a service to NFPs

- How would it be most useful to NFPs, eg NFP vs EMCDDA roles
- Can pilot participant countries suggest improvements?
- Are other countries interested in participating in Round 2 of the patterns of use study?
- What are the challenges or barriers to participation in such a survey?
- What other topics might be addressed in this way?






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Thank you

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