FIFTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION
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EUROPEAN DRUG REPORT
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European drug report package

A comprehensive analysis on the drugs problem in Europe

Trends and developments
providing a top-level analysis of key developments

Statistical bulletin
containing full data arrays, explanatory graphics and methodological information

Country overviews
national data and analysis at your fingertips

Perspectives on drugs
interactive windows on key issues
After 30+ years with heroin centre stage in Europe — there are now signs of a decline

The use of other ‘old drugs’ is overall stable but with some new developments

New psychoactive substances are on the increase
Cannabis use in Europe

77 million adults ever used cannabis

15.4 million young adults used last year
3 million daily cannabis users

General population surveys: prevalence of daily, or almost daily, cannabis use among young adults (15-34)

Young males over represented
Cannabis – rising treatment demand

Second most frequently reported drug – all treatment clients
Cannabis treatment: range of approaches

Internet-based, brief interventions, family therapy, etc.

Evaluations on the increase
Cannabis market changes: from resin to herb

Predominant cannabis type, resin or herb, among number of seizures in 2001 and 2011
Opioids

Europe’s biggest drug problem

1.4 million problem opioid users
Heroin use – signs of a decline

Fewer new clients entering treatment

Ageing treatment cohort

Less heroin injecting
Overdose deaths decreasing

Overdose deaths:
From 7,700 (2009) to 6,500 (2011)
Drop in drug law offences

Reported offences related to drug supply in Europe, trends and breakdown by drug (main drugs)

Index (2006=100)

- Cannabis
- Heroin
- Cocaine
- Amphetamines
- Ecstasy

Heroin
Heroin: signs of a decline

Lowest quantities seized for a decade

Number of seizures

Tonnes

Turkey  Other countries  United Kingdom  France  Italy
Heroin replaced by…

- Stimulants
- New drugs
- Other opioids
- etc.

Fentanyl
Disruption in decline in new HIV diagnoses

2011 HIV outbreaks in Greece and Romania continued into 2012

NB: Newly diagnosed HIV infections among injecting drug users in countries reporting the highest rates in 2011 (source: ECDC).
Hepatitis C – a hidden epidemic

Prevalence between 18–80% in IDUs
1.2 million in drug treatment in Europe

Substitution treatment is first choice for opioid users

Other forms of treatment available in all countries
Substitution treatment – increasing provision

730 000 in opioid substitution treatment

Coverage for around 50% of POUs

Predominant opioid substitution medication by number of clients

- Methadone
- Buprenorphine
- Methadone = buprenorphine
- No data

NB: Buprenorphine includes the buprenorphine–naloxone combination.
Substitution treatment in prisons

Available in most countries, but restrictions exist.
Stimulants

2.5 million young Europeans used cocaine in the last year
1.8 million used ecstasy
1.7 million used amphetamines
Stimulants: increasingly complex market

Predominant stimulant drug by last year prevalence among 15-34 year olds
Cocaine decline (high-prevalence countries)

- Recent surveys
- Treatment presentations
- Hospital emergencies
- Deaths
Cocaine: changes in trafficking?

Diversification in trafficking routes
Signs of more methamphetamine

**Amphetamine**

**Methamphetamine**

Number of seizures

Tonnes

- Other countries
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- France
- Poland
- Turkey
- Belgium
- Turkey
- Norway
- Lithuania
- Sweden
- Latvia
Synthetic drug production: precursors and pre-precursors

As one chemical comes under scrutiny, producers will simply switch to an alternative
Ecstasy: making a comeback?

MDMA rebound
New drugs

Around 280 new drugs monitored by the EWS
73 new substances in 2012

Number and main groups of new psychoactive substances notified to the EU Early warning system, 2005–2012

30 synthetic cannabinoids in 2012
A challenge for drug control policies

Controlling NPS

Use these buttons to filter by year of innovation
In summary

Drug use remains high by historical standards, but some positive changes apparent:

- Record treatment levels, declines in new heroin use and erosion in injecting
- Stable or declining trends for most ‘old’ drugs

BUT

- ‘New’ problems are emerging linked to ‘new’ psychoactive substances
- Concern unemployment and service cuts could lead to re-emergence of ‘old’ problems