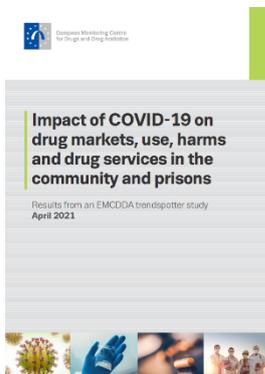




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Information on Freely Accessible Documents, Forwarded via CCJ-News, by Hans-J. Kerner, May 2021



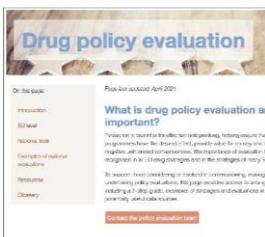
[Impact of COVID-19 on drug markets, use, harms and drug services in the community and prisons](#)

(April 2021) Since early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the way we live. As with all areas of life, drug consumption, related harms and drug markets have also been impacted, as have the services established to respond to drug-related problems. During the first weeks of the pandemic, the EMCDDA instigated two rapid assessment studies to identify the initial impact and implications of COVID-19. This current study is a follow-up to the two previous assessments and aims to revisit the initial findings and identify any signs of further developments in this area. The results provide a first glimpse into new developments emerging both during and in response to the pandemic, and which could have important implications for the future.



[Methamphetamine developments in South Asia: the situation in Iran and the implications for the EU and its neighbours](#)

(April 2021) Iran is a key transshipment point for illicit drugs along the Balkan and Southern trafficking routes and this report examines the threats posed by its potential emergence as a transshipment point for Afghan methamphetamine ('shisheh'). The study is based on interviews with Iranian drug treatment practitioners, law-enforcement officers, UN officials and key informants involved in drug supply, in combination with an analysis of more than 70 Iranian newspaper articles and several Turkish, Kurdish, and Australian news articles to outline the scale of methamphetamine trafficking from Iran.



[Drug policy evaluation](#)

(April 2021) Evaluation is essential for effective policymaking, helping to ensure that policies and programmes have the desired effect, provide value for money and do not have negative unintended consequences. The importance of evaluation has been recognised in all EU drug strategies and in the strategies of many Member States. To support those considering or involved in commissioning, managing or undertaking policy evaluations, this web page provides access to a range of materials, including a 7-step guide, examples of strategies and evaluations in Europe and potentially useful data sources.



[Risk assessment reports on new psychoactive substances 4F-MDMB-BICA and MDMB-4en-PINACA](#)

(March 2021) These reports present the summary findings and the conclusion of two risk assessments carried out by the Scientific Committee of the EMCDDA on 4F-MDMB-BICA and MDMB-4en-PINACA. The reports are intended for policymakers and decision-makers in the EU institutions.



[EMCDDA trendspotter briefing: Impact of COVID-19 on drug use and drug services in Western Balkans](#)

(March 2021) The Western Balkans registered the main waves of COVID-19 infections later than most EU countries, but containment strategies were implemented at the same time and with equal force as in the rest of Europe. This report provides the main results of studies conducted using the trendspotter methodology to explore the impact of the pandemic and associated measures on drug services and people who use drugs in the Western Balkan region.



[An analysis of drugs in used syringes from sentinel European cities: results from the ESCAPE project](#)

(February 2021) This report presents new findings from the ESCAPE (European Syringe Collection and Analysis Project Enterprise) network, based on the chemical analysis of the contents of used syringes across sentinel sites in Europe. Syringes were collected in 2018 and 2019 from the bins of

street automatic injection-kit dispensers and at harm reduction services in eight European cities: Amsterdam, Budapest, Cologne, Helsinki, Lausanne, Oslo, Paris and Vilnius.



[Balancing access to opioid substitution treatment \(OST\) with preventing the diversion of opioid substitution medications in Europe: challenges and implications](#)

(February 2021) This report reviews how opioid substitution treatment (OST) is implemented in European countries and examines the public health consequences of the diversion and misuse of prescription OST medications. It looks at how OST medications are diverted to the illicit market, the motivations behind diversion and misuse, and considers the measures to prevent diversion and how they must ensure that the treatment remains available and accessible for those who need it.

Also published

- [Low-THC cannabis products in Europe](#) (French, German and Spanish translation)
- [Single programming document 2021–2023](#)
- [European Syringe Collection and Analysis Enterprise \(ESCAPE\) – generic protocol](#)