



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Time to Remember. Time to Act

IOAD 2022

EMCDDA insights on drug-related deaths in Europe

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31/08/2022

HSE National Social Inclusion Office - Webinar for International Overdose Awareness Day 2022



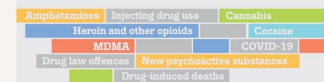
Who we are and what we do...



Data Countries Topics Best practice Publications Events News About

2022 European Drug Report

What do the latest data tell us about trends in drug use and the market? What hazardous new drugs are emerging? What substances are posing the greatest health threats? Find out the answer to all of these questions, and more, in the *European Drug Report 2022: Trends and Developments*.



European Drug Report 2022

Spotlight



European Web Survey on Drugs 2021: top-level findings, 21 EU countries and Switzerland



Lisbon Addictions is back: Registration and call for abstracts are open!



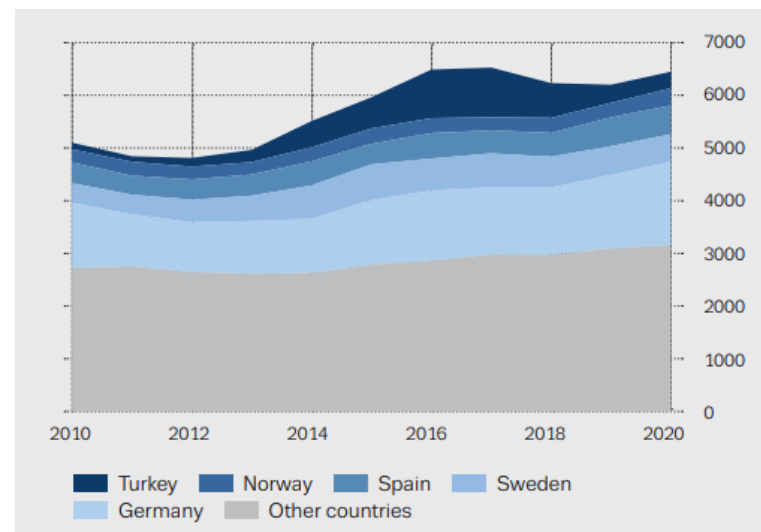
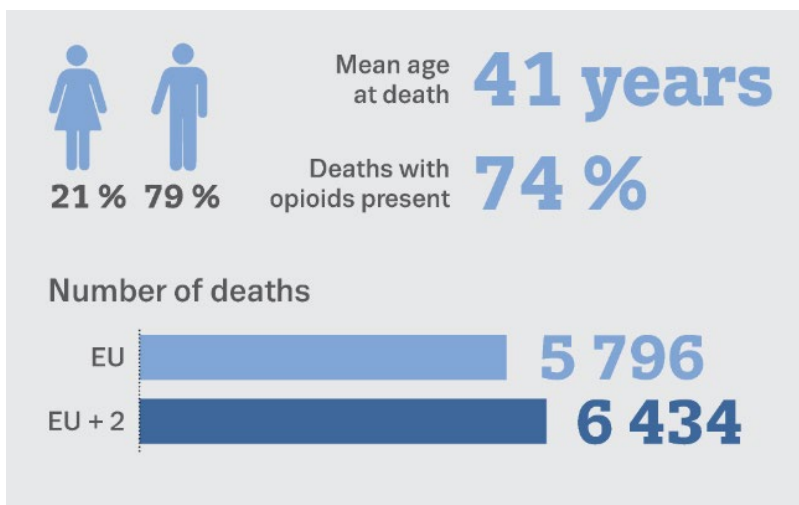
Penalties for drug law offences in Europe at a glance



Elimination barrier on viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs in EU



Characteristics and trends in overdose deaths in Europe*

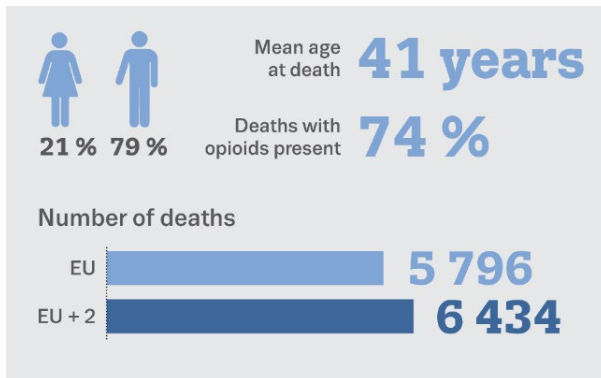


Source EDR 2022

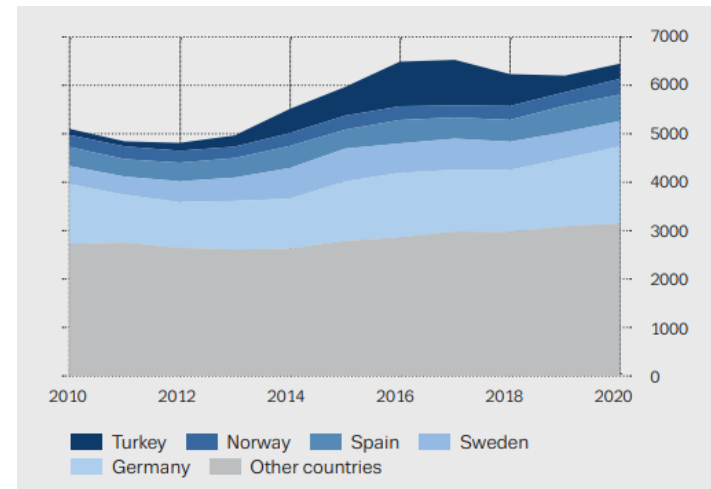


**Reference: EMCDDA DRD European protocol. European common definition of overdose (poisoning deaths with illicit drug implicated). This is more specific than some national definitions.*

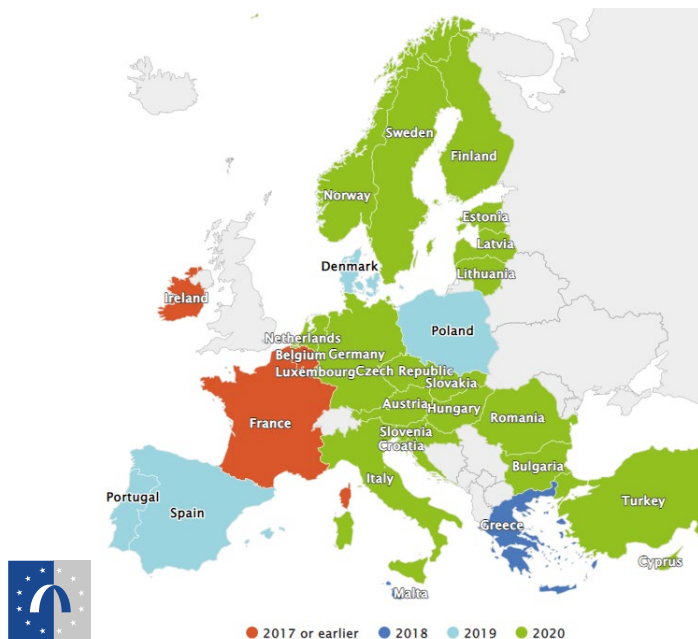
Characteristics and trends in overdose deaths in Europe*



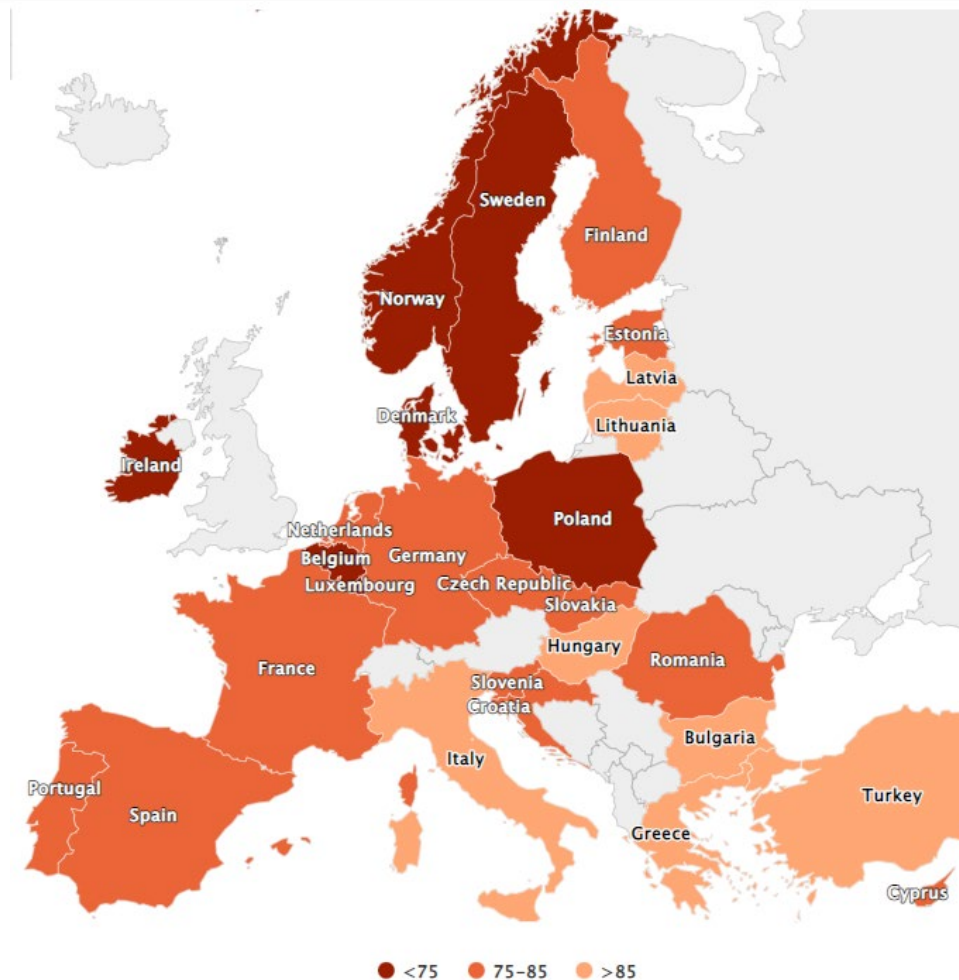
Last year with available drug-related data, EU27, Norway and Turkey, 2022



Limitation in the timeliness of the data available on drug related-deaths in some countries



Proportion of men among overdose deaths in Europe in 2020



Overall 79% of males

But various national situations

Higher proportion of females in some countries

Where information is available, overdoses in women involve more often

- prescription drugs
- A suicidal intent

→ implications for responses

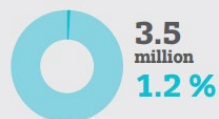
Drug-induced deaths with stimulants involved

- While most deaths involve opioids
- 473 **cocaine-related deaths** in 2020 (13.5 %) – (estimates based on 20 countries who reported post mortem toxicology findings)
- Likely underestimated
- Background
 - high and increasing availability of cocaine across Europe
 - crack cocaine use is spreading among vulnerable populations

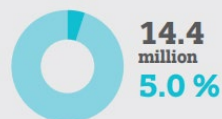
Cocaine

Adults (15–64)

Last year use



Lifetime use



Young adults (15–34)

Last year use



National estimates of use in last year



Long-term trends point to an estimated 7 000 clients entering drug treatment for crack problems in Europe in 2020, triple the number reported in 2016, suggesting growing use, with Belgium, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy and Portugal all reporting notable increases. Germany reports that crack use is now present in cities where it was rarely used before. A French study estimated that the number of people using crack in France increased from 10 000 in 2010 to 42 800 in 2019. Low-threshold harm

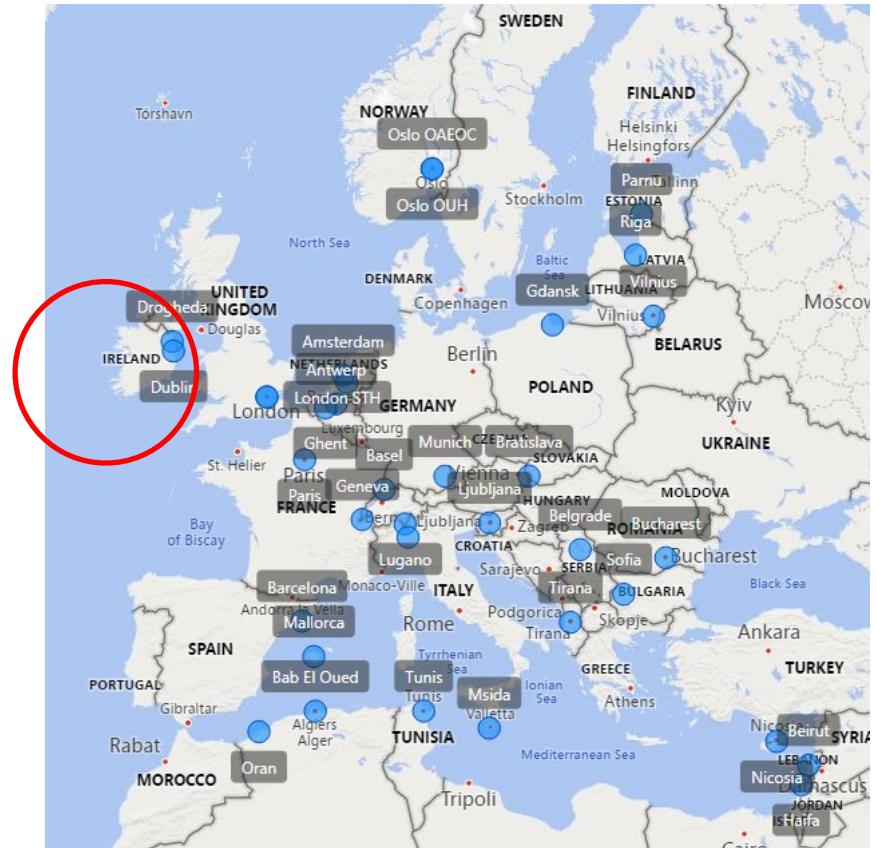


Acute drug-toxicity presentations at hospital emergency services



Source: Euro-DEN Plus network

- A network of hospital emergency services to monitor acute drug-toxicity presentations
- 35 reporting hospitals in 26 countries in 2021
- Dublin and Drogheda are among the 16 initial hospitals (starting in 2013)

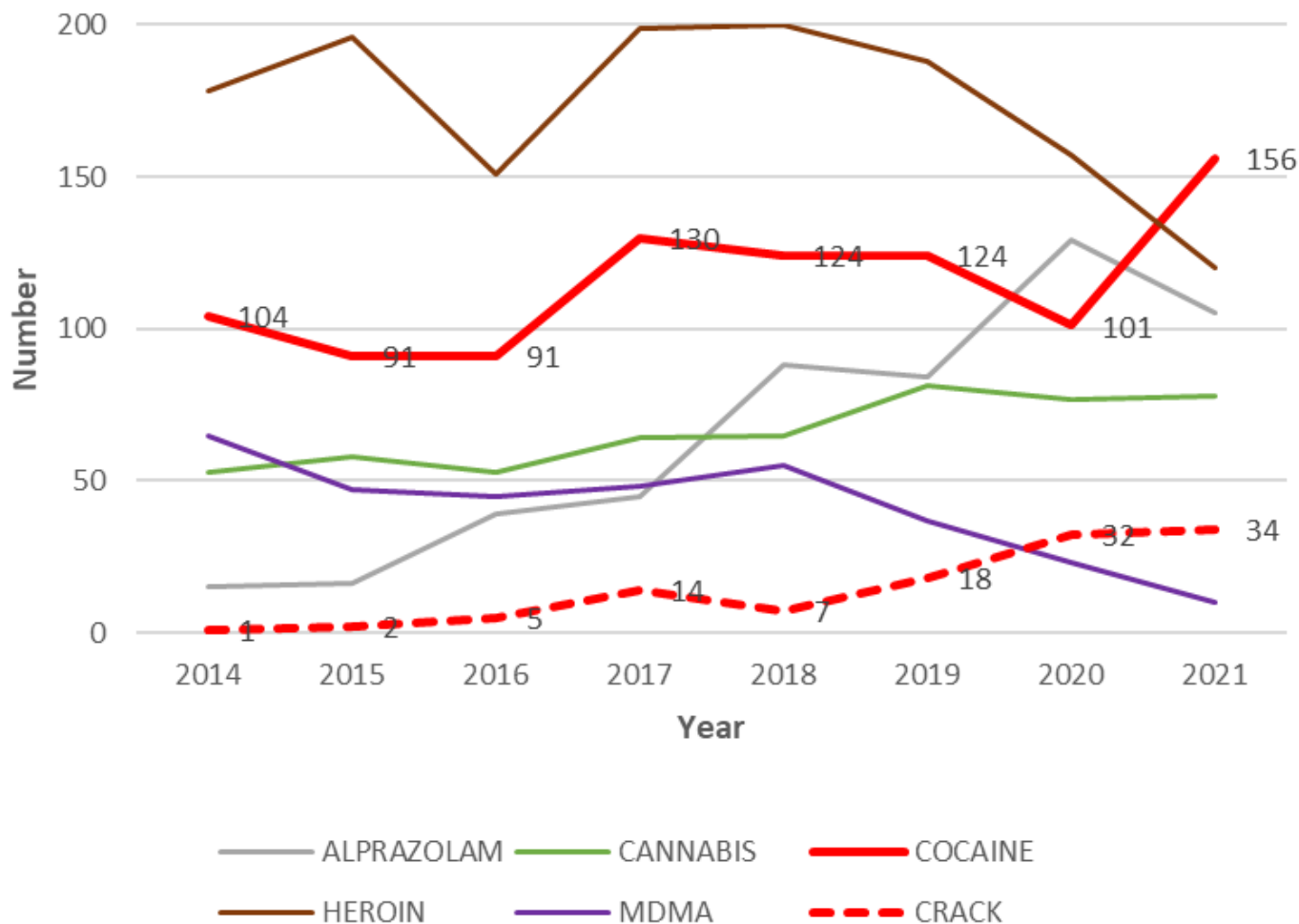


Source: EMCDDA and Euro-DEN network.



Lead Euro-DEN researchers: **Dr Adrian Moughty** for Dublin and **Dr Niall O'Connor** for Drogheda, and Ciara Daly; Alan Blake; Stuart O'Flanagan; Carla Hopper; Andy Neil; Ryan Boyd Moffatt; Aaron Donnelly (Dublin) and Gerard Markey; Sarah Jane Yeung, Radhika Sopirala, Thomas MacMahon (Drogheda)

Acute drug-related toxicity presentations at Drogheda and Dublin hospital emergency services, by selected drugs, Euro-DEN Plus, 2014-2021



Insights from syringe residues monitoring

Figure 4: Dublin distribution of syringes/needles

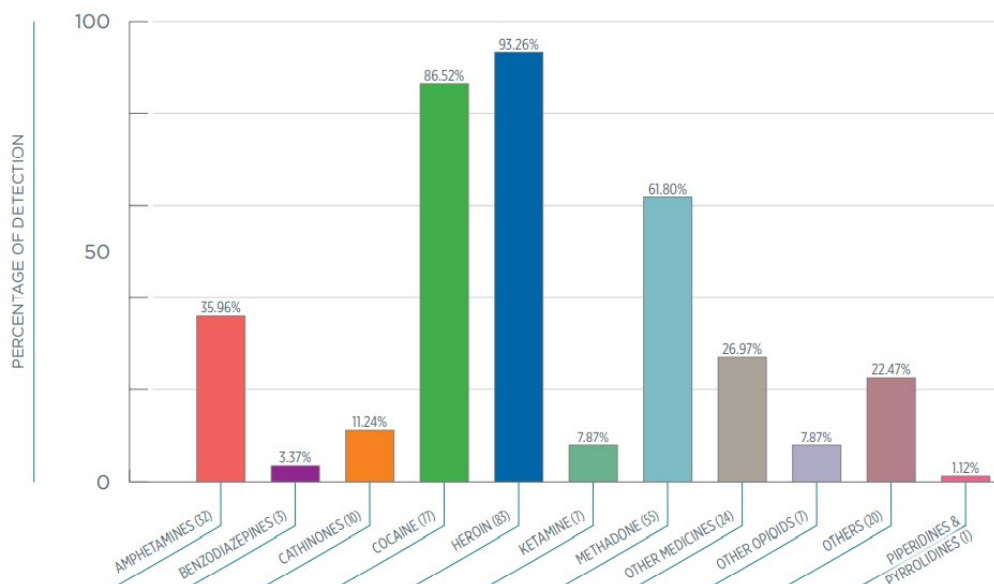
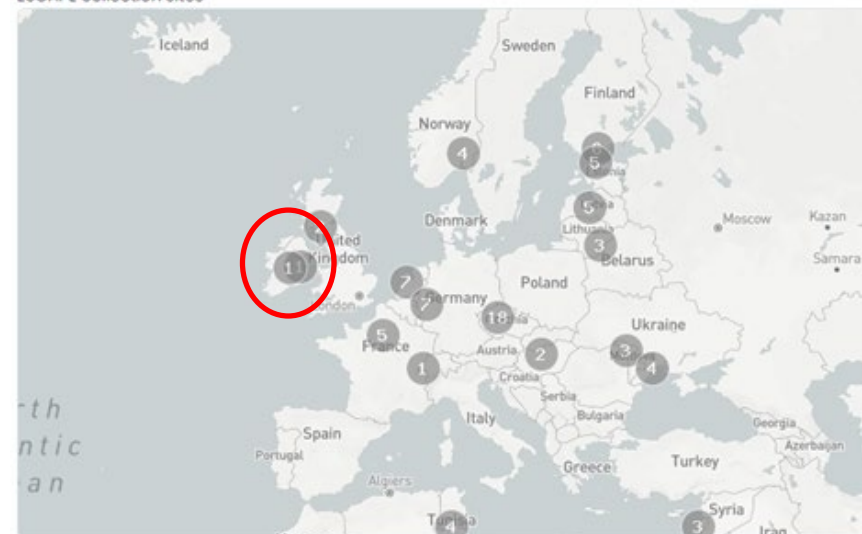


Figure 4 shows the Distribution (%) of syringes/needles (N=89) by detected drug category and psychoactive substance (excluding metabolites and adulterants) in Dublin in September 2021

- The pilot confirmed the re-emergence of cocaine injecting in Ireland with significant levels detected in both the Dublin (86.5%) and Midlands Regions (89.1%) as part of a poly substance pattern
- New trends were identified that require further monitoring in Ireland such as the presence of synthetic cathinone 3-methylmethcathinone (3-MMC), methamphetamine and the possible injecting of flurazepam in the Midlands Region

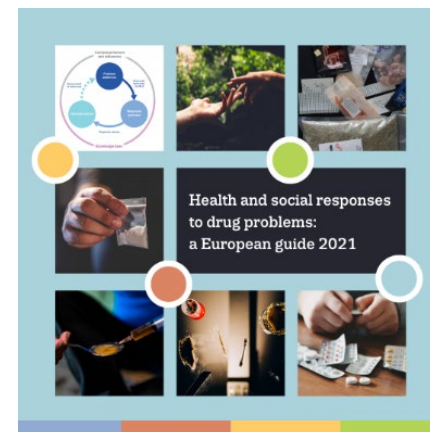
1st Syringe Analysis Pilot Project
conducted in September 2021.
155 used syringes from 3 services

ESCAPE collection sites



Conclusions

- Risk behaviours, substance use and harms are becoming more complex and are no longer limited to opioids.
- We now need to integrate interventions into a **more pragmatic** and **holistic** approach
- Complete, triangulated and timely data is needed to inform policy making
- Evidence-based treatment and harm reduction measures exist and they need to be scaled up and their impact monitored.
- Time to act!



Miniguides considering problems from the perspective of particular patterns of drug use and the specific substances that are of concern in many EU countries.



Cannabis responses miniguide



Medicines responses miniguide



NPS responses miniguide



Opioids responses miniguide



Polydrug use responses miniguide



Stimulants responses miniguide

Harms

Miniguides considering responses to particular drug-related harms that are of concern in many EU countries.



Infectious diseases responses miniguide



Opioid-related deaths responses miniguide



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

#EuropeanDrugReport2022

#HealthierEurope #MoreSecureEurope



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Acknowledgements: Peter Heudtlass, EMCDDA, Reitox National Focal Points and drug-related deaths national experts