



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

PROGRAMME

First international conference on
novel psychoactive substances

The ever-changing world
of psychoactive drugs

12–13 March 2012, Budapest, Hungary

Scientific organisers (ReDNet)

Dr Ornella Corazza, ReDNet Project Manager, Principal Lecturer in Mental Health and Psychiatric Practice, Postgraduate Medical School

Professor Fabrizio Schifano, ReDNet Principal Investigator, Chair in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical School, Consultant Psychiatrist (Addictions)

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In collaboration with the ReDNet research group: www.rednetproject.eu

Local scientific organisers (ReDNet)

Barbara Mervo, Researcher

Dr Zsolt Demetrovics, Head of Department, Clinical Psychology and Addiction

Department of Clinical Psychology and Addiction
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Scientific advisers (EMCDDA)

Dr Ana Gallegos, Scientific Analyst, Action on New Drugs

Paul Griffiths, Scientific Director

Dr Roumen Sedefov, Head of Unit, Supply Reduction and New Trends

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
Lisbon, Portugal

Action on New Drugs: www.emcdda.europa.eu/drug-situation/new-drugs

Overview

The 'ever-changing world of psychoactive drugs' is the focus of the First international conference on novel psychoactive substances (NPS) — a joint initiative of the European Union-funded Recreational Drugs European Network (ReDNet) project and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

This conference will be an opportunity to share scientific knowledge on the nature of new psychoactive substances and the forensic, clinical and legal challenges faced by multidisciplinary professionals today. Full conference details are available at: www.rednetproject.eu/conference. Speeches will be broadcast online at <http://virtual.feis.herts.ac.uk/broadcast>.

Themes

International experts in the field will deliver over 60 presentations around four key themes:

Clinical challenges

Analysis of the major chemical, pharmacological and clinical issues regarding novel compounds. What is the nature of these compounds? What are their effects on human health?

Novel prevention models for novel compounds

How can we develop effective prevention models in response to these emerging compounds? How can these models become valuable tools for the dissemination of information to inform policy, practice and the general public?

Legal challenges

Exploration of the major challenges posed by the rapid diffusion of novel compounds in terms of national/international legislation. How can we develop a better understanding of the complex interplay between established illicit drugs and new products? How can we contribute to novel legislative solutions?

Substance misuse and lifestyle

The exponential shift in the drugs field is a reflection of broader social processes. Do these differ from country to country? What are the emerging trends? We live in times of globalisation and rapidly developing information technology. Does this change have an impact on substance use? And if so, how?

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Programme

Monday 12 March	
From 9.00	<i>Registration</i>
Chairs: Dr Roumen Sedefov and Dr Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA, Lisbon, Portugal	
14.00	Welcome Professor Fabrizio Schifano Dr Zsolt Demetrovics Paola D'Acapito
Plenary sessions	
14.15	Paul Griffiths <i>New psychoactive substances: a paradigm shift in the drugs field?</i>
14.35	Professor Fabrizio Schifano <i>The ever-changing world of psychoactive drugs: clinical and pharmacological challenges</i>
14.55	Dr Ornella Corazza <i>Anticipating the future and responding to change: the role of ReDNet</i>
15.15	Dr Adam Winstock <i>Global drug survey — preliminary results from Europe</i>
15.35 – 16.05	<i>Break/networking</i>
16.05	Dr Ana Gallegos <i>The EU early-warning system: new drugs coming our way</i>
16.25	Claudia Rimondo <i>Best practice in drug prevention and the importance of national early-warning systems</i>
16.45	Dr Paul Dargan <i>The clinical toxicology and patterns of acute toxicity associated with novel psychoactive substances</i>
17.05	Dr Paolo Deluca <i>Forums, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and websites: marketing and promotion strategies of 'legal highs' online</i>
17.25	Professor Pasquale Policastro <i>Promoting a multidisciplinary approach to develop new drug legislation: its practical meaning for the Conventions of the Council of Europe and the EU Directives</i>
17.45	Concluding remarks

Tuesday 13 March

Chairs: Professor Fabrizio Schifano and Dr Ornella Corazza, School of Pharmacy, University of Herfordshire, UK

Plenary sessions

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| 09.20 | Professor Kálmán Szendrei
<i>Cathinone: my problem child and its children</i> |
| 09.40 | Professor Andy Parrott
<i>A brief history of MDMA (ecstasy): some lessons for mephedrone research</i> |
| 10.00 | Dr Zsolt Demetrovics
<i>How can mephedrone substitute other substances: an analysis of subjective effects</i> |
| 10.20 | Dr Volker Auwärter
<i>Spice and synthetic cannabinoids — how toxic are these new drugs?</i> |

10.40 – 11.10 *Break/networking*

11.10 – 12.50 Parallel sessions 1

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| Epidemiology of NPS (1/A) |
| Policy, legislation and cooperation (1/B) |
| Drug testing and analysis (1/C) |
| Prevention, counselling and harm reduction (1/D) |

12.50 – 13.50 *Lunch/networking*

13.50 – 14.50 Poster exhibition, film screening and networking

14.50 – 16.00 Parallel sessions 2

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| Risks and characteristics of NPS (2/A) |
| Qualitative methods in studying NPS (2/B) |
| Pharmacology and neuropsychology of NPS (2/C) |
| New approaches in the treatment of NPS use (2/D) |

16.00 **Concluding remarks**

About the ReDNet project

The Recreational Drugs European Network (ReDNet) project is a multi-site implementation project which has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Public Health Programme (Grant agreement: 2009 12 16).

ReDNet aims to improve the level of information available to young people and professionals on the effects of novel psychoactive substances and the potential health risks associated with their use.

The project also explores the potential of innovative information and communication technologies for disseminating accurate, non-judgmental, timely and evidence-based information to ReDNet's target groups.

Project partners:

- School of Pharmacy, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK
- National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, London, UK
- Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland
- Bergen Clinics Foundation, Bergen, Norway
- De Sleutel, Gent, Belgium
- Servizio Salute Regione Marche, Ancona, Italy
- Consorci Mar Parc de Salut de Barcelona, Spain
- Rhine State Hospital, University of Duisberg-Essen, Essen, Germany
- National Institute for Drug Prevention, Institute for Social Policy and Labour, Budapest, Hungary
- DrugScope, London, UK

For further information, see: www.rednetproject.eu

About the EMCDDA

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Established in 1993 and based in Lisbon, it is the central source of comprehensive information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe.

The EMCDDA collects, analyses and disseminates factual, objective, reliable and comparable information on drugs and drug addiction. In doing so, it provides its audiences with an evidence-based picture of the drug phenomenon at European level.

While the agency's main task is to collect and disseminate data on the use of substances controlled by the United Nations drug conventions, in recent years it has become increasingly active in monitoring new psychoactive substances not listed in these conventions, but which may pose comparable health and social risks to our societies.

For further information, see: www.emcdda.europa.eu/drug-situation/new-drugs

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