European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

EMCDDA/25/22

FINAL MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD (21 JUNE 2022)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The **Chair** welcomed the participants at the 65th EMCDDA Management Board meeting. The meeting was held in hybrid format (both physical in Lisbon and virtual through Webex). Simultaneous interpretation was provided online from and into English, French, and German. Members could in addition speak Czech, Italian and Danish.

The Chair informed about the new nominations since the last meeting, and welcomed the new members present at the meeting. Mr Jindřich Vobořil, from the Secretariat of the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination, was nominated as member for Czechia (excused). Ms Cecilie Kaltoft Augustinus, Head of Section at the Ministry of Health, was nominated as substitute member for Denmark (excused). Mr Burkhard Blienert, Federal Commissioner for Drugs and Addiction Policy, was nominated as member for Germany. Finland nominated Mr Ismo Tuominen, Ministerial Counsellor for Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, as substitute member (excused). Ms Erika Borgny, Senior Advisor in the Division for Public Health and Health Care of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, was nominated as member for Sweden.

Mr Carlos Coelho and Professor Meni Malliori were designated by the European Parliament as representatives on the Management Board for a mandate from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024. The Chair stressed that the mandate from Professor Malliori has been renewed.

Bulgaria was not present at the meeting, but gave its proxy vote to Portugal. Ms Marina Horn, from Office of the Federal Drug Commissioner of Germany, accompanied Mr Burkhard Blienert as observer. In the absence of its representatives, Estonia gave its proxy vote to Finland. Mr Péter Földi represented Hungary as observer. Hungary did not give any proxy vote. Mr Andreas Weinseiss, Deputy Head of the Department for tobacco and related products, alcohol, behavioural addictions and international affairs of addiction at the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, accompanied the Chair for Austria. Mr Łukasz Jędruszak represented Poland as observer. Poland gave its proxy vote to Portugal. Ms Ana Sofia Santos, Head of the Department for International Relations of SICAD, accompanied the Portuguese delegation.

In the absence of the member and substitute member, Mr Murat Sarikamişli, Head of the National Focal Point, represented Turkey at this meeting.

Ms Monique Pariat, Director General at DG Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) and Mr Laurent Muschel, Director for Security at DG HOME, members for the European Commission, were excused. Mr Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General Directeur at DG HOME and Ms Floriana Sipala, Head of the Unit on Organised Crime and Drugs Policy at DG HOME, substitute members, participated remotely in the meeting. The European Commission was further represented by Mr Peter Mihók (DG HOME) as observer. Mr Philippe Roux (DG SANTE), substitute member, was excused.

The UNODC and WHO were not represented at the meeting.

The Chair reminded the participants that the Budget and the Executive Committee met on 20 June in order to prepare the Management Board meeting.

The Chair summarised the main parts of the agenda of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

EMCDDA/01/22 rev 1
EMCDDA/02/22

<u>Decision</u>: The Management Board adopted the agenda of the meeting.

PART I: *Exchange of views*

3. Exchange of views on the drugs situation in the Ukraine

3.1. Presentation by the EMCDDA and general discussion EMCDDA/03/22

The **Head of the Public Health Unit, Ms Mounteney,** presented the preliminary findings of an EMCDDA trendspotter briefing on service responsiveness and preparedness in addressing drug-related needs of displaced Ukrainians in EU countries bordering the Ukraine. The briefing is the result of a cross-unit collaboration, in close cooperation with the Reitox national focal points (NFPs). The trendspotter methodology has been used for a rapid snapshot of a complex and rapidly evolving situation for EU Member States bordering Ukraine, highlighting factors which might be important to ensure that EU countries are responsive to needs of the current wave of refugees and prepared for the future.

Ms Mounteney gave an overview on the drugs situation in the Ukraine and the main issues emerging in bordering EU Member States in the drugs field as a consequence of the displacement of refugees.

Mr Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, reminded that Ukraine is the newest Member State of the Pompidou Group; it joined in January 2022, as its 42nd member. On 16 March, the membership of the Pompidou Group decreased again to 41, with the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to exclude the Russian Federation from the organisation. This has been a historical decision: it is the first time in the 73 years of history of the Council of Europe that article 8 of the statute, providing the possibility of excluding a member state which violates the values for which the Organization stands for, has been used. As a consequence, on 23 March the Russian Federation also ceased to be a member of the Pompidou Group.

Against this political background, the Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group made a presentation on the impact of the war in Ukraine on the drugs situation in the country and its neighbours, focusing on 3 aspects: the disruption of access to drug treatment services, which undermines the health situation of people with substance use disorders; the solidarity between Ukraine and its neighbouring countries to ensure the continuity of treatment for people who use drugs; the drug trafficking and manufacturing situation (and prospects), including lessons learned from past armed conflicts.

He concluded by stressing that the Pompidou Group, in close connection with the Ukrainian authorities, the neighbouring countries (in particular Poland, Moldova and Romania) and its international partner organisations will continue to closely monitor developments in and around Ukraine, in order to contribute to providing informed policy responses to a constantly moving situation.

PL informed that, according to Polish Border Guard, over 4 Million Ukrainians arrived to Poland (mainly women and children) since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. A citizen of Ukraine who crossed the border on 24 February at the earliest and stays in Poland is considered legal (for a period of 18 months), and who has been entered in the PESEL register (Personal ID number) on the basis of the special act of March 12 2022, is provided with numerous benefits:

- one-off cash benefit of PLN 300 (approximately EUR 65) per person. This is a kind of one-time allowance to cover the most urgent expenses for food, personal care, etc.;
- child benefit, so-called '500+' for each child, paid every month, for an amount of PLN 500 (about EUR 108);
- family care capital, nursery payments, family allowances and social assistance;
- medical benefits, drug reimbursement and the supply of medical devices on the same terms as Polish citizens;
- Ukrainian children could also continue education in Polish education system (about 200 000 of them continue education in Poland).

Free access for Ukrainians (even without a PESEL number) has been provided to opioid substitution treatment (OST) in substitution programs in located in Warsaw, Gdansk, Lublin and Poznań. The number of OST clients is about 100 persons. In most cases they are seeking for OST and/or antiretroviral therapy (ART) continuation. Ukrainians are admitted to OST treatment as a priority. Usually Harm Reduction providers (NGOs) play a management role for Ukrainians seeking for OST/ART. Warsaw Harm Reduction providers cooperate closely with Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) to provide support directly to people in need.

A free helpline for people from Ukraine operates since 21 March 2022, in Ukrainian and Russian. The helpline is aimed not only for addiction-related problems, but also to provide psychological support. The National Centre for Prevention of Addictions (NCPA) carried out a focus group survey on the situation of Ukrainian refugees, in cooperation with the EMCDDA. Representatives of health care facilities, harm reduction programs and

substitution treatment programs participated in the study. This study was aimed at a rapid assessment of need, response and domestic preparedness to provide drug-related interventions. The discussion topics were related to: 1) the current situation of Ukrainian citizens in Poland and their access to medical services; 2) the provision of drug interventions and the challenges related to their implementation in Poland (services provided to Ukrainians with drug problems; conditions of access to these services; current challenges, barriers; adaptation of services to the new situation and treatment needs, monitoring of activities addressed to Ukrainians) and 3) the analysis of the actions already implemented or planned in the future to increase the system readiness.

NCPA commissioned in May a research project entitled 'Study of the well-being of people, in particular mothers and children, residing in Poland as a result of hostilities in Ukraine'. The project aims at identifying factors influencing the quality of life of Ukrainian children and youth in a situation of refugee status due to the war, in order to plan preventive measures. Another project currently implemented by NCPA relates to activities in the field of selective prevention, aimed at immigrants from Ukraine residing in Poland, in particular mothers and their children at risk of developing risky behaviour patterns, including the use of psychoactive substances. The activities focus on supporting adaptation processes to the life in Poland in groups of children, adolescents and their parents, in particular mothers/guardians, who will reduce the risk of developing maladaptive behaviour patterns, including the use of psychoactive substances. It also includes counselling refugees (mainly mothers with children) in life, work, education in kindergarten, school, housing, health care and leisure, recognizing early symptoms of acute stress reactions or PTSD, referring to appropriate specialists if necessary.

NCPA conducts on an ongoing basis consultation at regional level with experts in the field of information on drugs and drug addiction from all voivodships in Poland (with particular emphasis on the Lubelskie Voivodeship bordering with Ukraine) on both current aid and a long-term strategy of assistance to refugees in the field of prevention, treatment and reduction of harms. Similar consultations are conducted with our partner NGOs from different regions of Poland. Marshall offices support financially NGOs activities aimed at refugees.

The following challenges can be noted: language barrier, lack of knowledge of the Polish system among Ukrainians, and information sharing with those in need on the health system capacity and financing.

Mr Onidi, representative of the European Commission, thanked the Chair for having included an exchange of views on this important topic, resulting from an unprecedented situation, in the agenda. He also thanked Ms Mounteney and her team for the quality of the presentation on the EMCDDA trendspotter briefing. It is essential to provide objective facts and analysis, which lies at the very heart of the EMCDDA's work, and will be very helpful in the coming months.

The intervention from the PL representative demonstrated what happens also similarly in other bordering countries, such as Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, Romania, and highlighted critical elements that have to be addressed. Mr Onidi reminded that the EU has set up rapidly a solidary platform with all EU Member States, which meets on a monthly basis with international actors and Agencies. Beyond providing technical support and expertise, specific efforts also should be accelerated to try to integrate in existing networks some of the countries around the EU, such as Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and the Western Balkan countries, beyond the cooperation through Working Arrangements. Mr Onidi suggested inviting a Ukrainian representative to provide a first-hand report on the situation in the country at the next EMCDDA Management Board meeting.

Ms Sipala, representative of the European Commission, stressed that Ukraine shows a very high prevalence rate. According to WHO and UNODC data, 22% of injecting drug users in Ukraine are infected with HIV, and 55% with Hepatitis C. There is a clear need to protect these groups to ensure continuity of care, in Ukraine and in the bordering Member States. DG HOME set up, together with DG SANTE, possibilities to look for support at European level through civil protection mechanisms, in the case of need for additional medicine or OST treatment. Furthermore, an EU-funded project is conducted by the EU Delegation in Kiev together with the Ukrainian Ministry for Health, to inform the population via a dedicated website about the existence of treatment and the conditions under which this treatment can be provided. In terms of supply reduction, the possible consequences on trafficking routes have to be closely monitored by the EMCDDA and Europol.

CZ thanked the EMCDDA and Ms Mounteney for the study. Many activities are ongoing in the CZ to help refugees: regional centres provide information assistance, counselling for accommodation and health care. A website and leaflets have been published with contact details for drug users, including treatment, harm reduction services and free of charge services. The NFP set up a questionnaire to monitor the number of clients from Ukraine asking for treatment and care, and 50-60 entrances have been identified. The low availability of methadone substitution treatment, for which the waiting time in Czechia is approximately 2-3 months, represents a challenge. It is the aim of the CZ to increase this capacity. Another risk is the spread of infectious diseases. Information on testing and intensive testing are provided. The present situation confirmed the low capacity of staff in drug services, and discussions are ongoing with the government for additional funding. The situation and developments in Ukraine will be regularly discussed during the CZ Presidency.

The situation in Ukraine also had a big impact on **IE**, which received 35 500 Ukrainian refugees (0.07% of the general population of Ireland). IE is happy to contribute to the European response, and stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, but the situation is challenging and has exacerbated some problematic issues linked to health care and accommodation. A very small number of people (less than 10) have required treatment from drug and alcohol services. The issue of drug use is very much associated with stigma in the Ukraine, which represents a constraint for identifying drug users. In addition, the impact of the war is generating massive trauma for people, which might trigger addictive behaviours. It is necessary to anticipate a possible knock-on effect in terms of drugs and alcohol and use.

Ms Malliori, representative of the European Parliament, congratulated the EMCDDA for its work. She underlined that post-traumatic stress is known to incentivize in particular women to start using drugs, while men turn more to alcohol use. It is important to consider the issue of future new drug users.

PT informed that the Programme Committee of the Lisbon Addictions Conference will invite an expert from Ukraine to make an intervention in the closing session to speak on the drugs situation in the country.

The **Director** added that a session has been organised at the last Reitox meeting on the very good and rapid trendspotter briefing prepared by the Public Health Unit, in collaboration with the NFPs. The NFPs of some of the Baltic States expressed the interest to follow the same methodology. The EMCDDA mentioned in a briefing shared on 23 March with the European Commission and the Council that there will be an impact on drug trafficking routes, and changes can already be seen in Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece, but the EMCDDA needs to develop a monitoring system for this issue. Representatives of Ukraine and the neighbouring countries have been invited to participate in the extended Reitox meeting in May. The EMCDDA should explore after the summer with some of the NFPs what kind of awareness raising actions could be organised around the issue of trauma triggering substance use and abuse. The EMCDDA was in contact with the Ukrainian authorities to negotiate a new Working Arrangement, due to institutional changes. Should the Management Board wish to invite an expert to a meeting, the invitation should be forwarded in the context of this Working Arrangement.

The **Chair** thanked all participants for their contributions and the support provided by the various Member States, and in particular the CZ Presidency for including this topic as a regular agenda point. The Chair also thanked the European Commission for its proposal to invite a representative from Ukraine to the next Management Board meeting, and to PT for its initiative.

4. State of play of the negotiations on the EC proposal for a new Regulation on the EU Drugs Agency

Ms d'Arrigo, member for **France** on the EMCDDA Management Board and Chair of the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, presented the revised text of the EC proposal for a new Regulation on the EU Drugs Agency (EUDA), as adopted by the Ministers at the Council.

The EC proposal was adopted on 12 January 2022. After four HDG meetings, the Member State delegations arrived at a consensus on a revised document on the general approach on the EUDA Regulation. After the COREPER on 25 May 2022, the revised text on the general approach was adopted by the JHA Council on 9 June 2022. The European Parliament will now have to adopt an opinion. The Council had a fruitful meeting with MEP Isabel Santos (Portugal, S&D Group), member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the EP and rapporteur for the new Regulation for an EU Drugs Agency. The trilogues will take place before the end of the year, under CZ Presidency.

The legal basis for the EUDA is kept unchanged (article 168 of the TFEU – Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). The revised document clarifies the definition of polydrug use, and highlights more the balanced approach (references to prevention, treatment, risk and harm reduction, social reintegration, gender, human rights). It reinforces the Agency's capacity to identify threats and emerging trends both for health and security, and proposes a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories. The draft Regulation includes a new European system for rapid notifications and reinforces the role of the NFPs. The Agency should provide increased support to the Member States, and its clear role in international cooperation should help promoting the global model of a balanced approach and sharing best practice. The role of the Management Board is also strengthened.

Ms d'Arrigo expressed her gratitude to all Member States for their constructive cooperation, which showed a commitment to the real added value of Agency, and the ambition to strengthen its role and resources to better meet future challenges. The negotiations could only be concluded thanks to this common goal. The FR Presidency welcomed the rapidity of the process. Ms d'Arrigo thanked the European Commission for its flexibility and constructive support, as well as for the budgetary means. Finally, Ms d'Arrigo thanked also the general Secretariat and the Legal Service of the Council for their work.

On behalf of the Management Board and as representative of Austria, the **Chair** thanked the FR Presidency and Ms d'Arrigo as Chair of the HDG for having achieved a consensus and fulfilled a common objective in a record period of time. The Chair further thanked the European Commission for its flexibility.

Mr Onidi, representative of the European Commission, thanked Ms d'Arrigo for the full success of the negotiations on the new Regulation at the Council, with which the European Commission is very pleased. The European Commission adopted a very good proposal on the EUDA, which resulted from the conclusions of the last external evaluation of the Agency, which were adopted by the Management Board. The next challenge is the debate at the EP. A first discussion with the rapporteur MEP Santos was fruitful, and the Management Board can rely on the support of its two members representing the EP, Mr Coelho and Ms Malliori. The CZ Presidency will embark in the trilogues as soon as the EP has adopted an opinion on the draft Regulation, hopefully by the end of the year. The European Commission stressed that the necessary resources for the new mandate have already been earmarked. The European Commission noted that the Director has already started the preparatory work for the entry into force of the new Regulation, and would welcome some information on this aspect.

Ms Yiasemi, Spokesperson of the Reitox national focal points, thanked the FR Presidency for its excellent work. The Reitox network fully appreciates the reinforcement of its role and scientific independence, but has some concerns about the additional tasks and the co-financing. The NFPs have proved to be able to adapt to rapidly changing situations (COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine), and consider the new Regulation as an opportunity for establishing new working methods as a network.

TR informed that the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the European Union addressed a letter on 30 May 2022 to the Director-General of DG HOME concerning the EC proposal for a Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency.

Turkey underlined its good cooperation with the EU for more than 20 years, in the framework of the EMCDDA. Turkey is pleased about the proposal by the European Commission to revise the mandate of the EMCDDA, which includes a broad and balanced approach of all aspects of the drug phenomena, and in particular security issues. On the other hand, notwithstanding the EU's legislative cycle in which non-EU countries do not actively take part, the new mandate will be binding for EU and non-EU Member States, and will inevitably have administrative, financial and legal impacts on the Turkish NFP in line with the Participation Agreement. Turkey regretted not to have been informed about the content of the proposed mandate except the public hearing on 12 January 2022, and is not aware of the latest version of the draft Regulation.

The increase of the EU subvention to the Agency would cause a significant increase of Turkey's annual contribution to the budget of the EMCDDA/EUDA, which may hinder Turkey's participation in the work of the Agency. Turkey expects its NFP to be provided with co-financing in line with the Participation Agreement, the EMCDDA Regulation and the new Regulation. Turkey attaches great importance to its cooperation with the EMCDDA, since drugs and addiction are a global problem that requires a global response.

NO also stressed its long history of good and fruitful cooperation with the EMCDDA, and looks forward to continue it within the framework of the new mandate. NO supports the main lines of the new Regulation and welcomes overall the political determination, increased financial support and a strengthened EMCDDA/EUDA, which will reinforce the Agency as a leading authority on illicit drugs in Europe and internationally. NO finds it positive that the input from the external evaluation is considered in a practical manner.

As a non-EU Member State, NO knows its role and accepts the limitations this entail. However, being locked out of the ongoing discussions and progress makes it difficult to prepare and adapt to the changes likely to come. These changes will most probably have significant economic and practical consequences for Norway's membership in the EMCDDA/EUDA and is challenging and might even be problematic to meet, at least in a short-term perspective. As such processes and budgets are operated in a very long-termed picture and hard to adjust from one day or month to another. Regarding the annual financial contribution from NO, it is necessary to have a closer account of the impact of the new mandate on its annual financial contribution to the Agency: will it increase, and if so, by how much and from when? How will the annual contribution be computed? NO wondered if, following the expansion of the Agency, increased funding and the revision of the mandate, new tasks, and, consequently, a larger workload, are expected to fall upon the individual NFPs. Will the new mandate imply a strengthening of the functions of NFPs? If so, there is a clear need for both information and time in order to adapt to the coming changes.

It is understandable that non-EU Member States – like TR and NO – do not have full access or codetermination to internal EU-processes. However, as they have a mutual and binding cooperation with financial implications, they wish for an understanding and willingness from the EU to discuss non-EU Member States needs to be at least

continuously updated during processes with far-reaching practical and economic impact and consequences, as it is the case for the new mandate.

Ms Sipala, representative of the European Commission, informed that a reply to the letter from the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of TR to the EU has been sent, explaining that the negotiations in an ordinary legislative procedure are only open to EU Member States. The European Commission reiterated its high esteem of the cooperation with TR and NO, also in the Management Board. Ms Sipala reminded that the external evaluation of the Agency, which brought alive the EC proposal for a new Regulation, was discussed in the Management Board. The European Commission thanked both members for having brought up the legal and budgetary issues, which need to be further discussed.

The **Chair** emphasised the importance of the EMCDDA cooperation with non-EU countries. The issues raised will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders in a suitable manner.

The **Director** thanked all Member States for their unanimous support to the new Regulation. He also thanked the European Commission for its proposal, and the representatives of the EP for their participation in a meeting with the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs on 14 June.

The Director informed that the Agency started preparing for the implementation of the new Regulation. The internal consultation for the Single Programming Document (SPD) for 2024–26 has been launched. The preliminary draft will be submitted to the Management Board in December 2022, and the consultation draft will be forwarded to the European Commission in January 2023. The Director will meet with the senior management for a debriefing on the new Regulation, exchanging views on the operationalisation of the new tasks and upgrading of existing tasks. The activities will be integrated in the existing planning tools, there will be no new Roadmap. Also, the EMCDDA has to reflect on the procurements to be launched in 2023. A first overview will be submitted to the Management Board for its meeting in December 2022.

The EMCDDA has initiated the process for the recruitment of a new Head of the Human Resources Sector, based on the expertise of a human resources consultant, and on experience of other EU Agencies. Over the next three years, several senior staff members will go for retirement. The EMCDDA needs to establish profiles to replace them for publication beginning of 2023, and recruitment in 2024.

The new Regulation will imply many decisions to be taken by the Management Board, including the Reitox co-financing. A timeline with milestones will be presented to the Management Board together with the implementation plan.

5. International cooperation:

5.1. Oral introduction by the Director on strategic highlights of EMCDDA international cooperation

The **Director** highlighted some strategic developments in the area of international cooperation. The EMCDDA/IPA7 project, financed under the EC Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), comes to an end 31 December 2022. Due to particularly problematic cooperation issues it was decided with DG NEAR to temporarily suspend the technical cooperation with Montenegro under the current IPA7 project with effect from 9 May. The conditions for resuming the technical cooperation activities with Montenegro are linked to the willingness and capacity of Montenegro to positively mark progress in the area of drugs information cooperation. The final conference of the IPA 7 project, mainly aimed at the EU institutions, is currently under preparation.

The EU4MD and EMCDA4GE projects are running as planned. The closing event of the EU4MD project is planned on 21 November 2022.

Further to the guidelines on contacts/engagement with Russia and Belarus, set by the clearing house (Secretariat General of the European Commission/EEAS - European External Action Service), which apply to the EC, the EEAS services, and the EU Agencies, all Commission services (EU Agencies included) had to suspend with immediate effect any ongoing or planned bilateral engagement with representatives of Russian public bodies and state-owned enterprises, including at technical/expert level. The EMCDDA Management Board decided on 5 April 2022, by written procedure, to suspend any cooperation with Russia, including through the Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 2007.

- Candidate and potential candidate countries

5.2. The EMCDDA/IPA 7 project (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) **EMCDDA/04/22**

No comments were made.

- European Neighbourhood Countries

5.3. 'EU4 Monitoring Drugs' project **EMCDDA/05/22**

No comments were made.

5.4. EMCDDA technical cooperation project with Georgia **EMCDDA/06/22**

No comments were made.

- Other non-EU countries

5.5. Suspension of the cooperation between the EMCDDA and the European Federation

No comments were made.

5.6. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and DEVIDA (Peru) **EMCDDA/07/22**

The **Director** reminded that on 6 January 2022, the Ambassador of Peru to the European Union, Mr Gonzalo Gutiérrez, formally requested the EMCDDA the signature of a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA). DEVIDA is the institution in charge of designing and conducting the anti-drug policy in Peru. Formalising the cooperation with some Latin American and Caribbean countries is interest for the EMCDDA, in particular in the contact of the cocaine threat.

EL supported the proposal.

Decision: The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement with the organisation DEVIDA of Peru.

5.7. COP III Project (COPOLAD – Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU on Drugs Policies) **EMCDDA/08/22**

No comments were made.

- Other EU Agencies

5.8. Working Arrangement with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) **EMCDDA/09/22**

The **Director** reminded that since November 2008, the EMCDDA and the European Police College (CEPOL) have worked together closely in the area of training and capacity building of the law enforcement community. The Working Arrangement between EMCDDA and CEPOL aims to reinforce the capacity to deliver training and strengthen the drugs-related aspects of law enforcement training and learning curricula, thereby contributing to reducing the supply of drugs in Europe. The European Commission adopted a favourable opinion on 22 April 2022.

Decision: The Management Board agreed with the Working Arrangement on cooperation between the EMCDDA and CEPOL, and mandated the Director to sign the Working Arrangement.

PART III: *Items for decision and information*

6. Joint EMCDDA-Europol EU Drug Markets Report 2022

6.1. Presentation by the EMCDDA on the modules on cocaine and methamphetamine

The Head of the Risks to public safety and security unit, Dr Sedefov, presented the main findings of the modules on cocaine and methamphetamine of the latest joint EMCDDA-Europol EU Drug Markets Report (EDMR).

The EMCDDA and Europol have adopted a modular approach for the EDMR package. This involves the creation of an 'ecosystem of outputs', including a streamlined, top-level main report focusing on recommendations, supported by various digital elements; and topical modules (reports), focusing on important policy issues.

While the full report is now scheduled for launch in the second half of 2023, drug modules are being published, commencing with cocaine and methamphetamine in May 2022, to be followed by amphetamine, cannabis, heroin, MDMA and NPS in 2023. While the EDMR 2023 package breaks the original tri-annual cycle of the main product, this timing is considered an improvement for the European Commission and Member States' strategic assessment. It places the analysis in a better position to serve the evaluation of the EU 2021–25 EU Drug Strategy and Action Plan.

The situation concerning cocaine and methamphetamines is extremely dynamic. Both substances are linked to drug production in Europe, representing threats and challenges in terms of security, precursors as well as and serious threats for public health and safety.

The report notes a growing consumer market for cocaine in Europe. The availability and affordability of cocaine is at an all-time high. The 2020 EU retail market estimate is conservatively estimated to EUR 10.5 billion (range EUR 7.7 to EUR 12.8 billion, excluding the UK which is a major increase comparing to the previous estimate in 2017), second only to cannabis. High-risk criminal networks dominate the cocaine trade in the EU and generate billions of euros. Europe's role in international cocaine production, including precursors, and trafficking is changing, and Latin American and European criminal networks are partners in trafficking and production. Record quantities have been seized every year since 2017, particularly at sea ports. Large quantities of cocaine base and coca paste are now processed into cocaine hydrochloride within Europe. This creates a risk that more harmful smokable products may become available to European consumers in future. The report notes the corruption and intimidation of port workers and the operation of key enablers of smuggling through ports. However, the report also notes that corruption may be present in other sectors of the European society. Serious violence related to the cocaine market seems to be increasing and going beyond the drug market players.

With regards to methamphetamine, Europe's user market is relatively small but is expanding. Crystal methamphetamine appears on the EU drug market. The potential spread of the smokable crystal form of methamphetamine is a real concern in terms of health consequences including acute toxicity, psychotic episodes, polydrug use, and death. Seizures of methamphetamines are increasing but small by world standards. Mexicans are involved in trafficking to Europe, and industrial-scale production has emerged in Europe. Dutch and Mexican collaboration drives large-scale methamphetamine production in Europe. Controlling precursor availability is challenging. Crime as a service provides essential logistics support for production and trafficking. There are health, safety and environmental risks linked to the production of methamphetamines.

These developments imply that the EMCDDA should invest in improving national and EU-level analysis through even better integration of operational and strategic information. Its capacity to rapidly identify and follow up on existing and emerging health and security threats needs to be strengthened. It is necessary to systematically monitor illicit laboratories and market-related violence and corruption. It would be helpful to invest in innovative approaches such as chemical profiling, satellite imagery and artificial intelligence. Finally, the understanding and awareness of the environmental impacts of production has to be enhanced.

TR reported on seizures of liquid methamphetamines in cities bordering Iran and in Istanbul, which amounted to more than 6 tonnes in the first half of 2022. Also, a variety of precursors have been seized in the last two years.

In **FR** methamphetamine use is not yet widespread, but a massive increase of cocaine availability can be observed. The purity of cocaine is higher and the prices relatively cheaper, drug trafficking is more present, and new population groups use stimulant drugs. Dr Prisse informed that, as a result of a fact-finding visit to California, this was the situation in this American State 10 to 15 years ago. Nowadays, the use of traditionally produced cocaine is replaced by synthetic stimulants, and especially methamphetamine, which are introduced by Mexican cartels through South California, and also linked to the availability of fentanyl derivatives, and in particular fentanyl, on the market. In addition to the increased availability of cocaine powder, the increased consumption of psycho-stimulants, which are easy to produce within the Member States, by users independently of their age, social status and life environment, represents a worrying trend for the future.

The use of methamphetamine is also a growing issue in **ES**, even if there is still little evidence documenting the phenomenon. It is likely that the stimulant market is undergoing changes. Methamphetamine is a very disrupting drug, and addiction treatment networks are not well prepared. More coordination is needed, in particular outside

the big cities. Emergency rooms deal with psychotic episodes, but not with their causes. It is necessary to act faster, and learn from the experience of other countries.

The level of methamphetamine use has been high for a long time in **CZ**, but in recent years, methamphetamine use is growing like in other EU Member States. It is important to share best practice in supply and demand, treatment and production of this substance. The CZ Presidency will include the discussion on methamphetamines at the Council (COSI – Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security – and Horizontal Drug Group meetings).

Ms Malliori, representative of the European Parliament, stated that the treatment services in the EU Member States are not prepared for stimulant users. Fast track trainings should be organised to tackle this new epidemic. It is important to tackle the consequences for mental health, including co-morbidity.

Ms Sipala, representative of the European Commission, thanked Dr Sedefov and his team for the two modules of the EDMR, which provide a more in-depth overview of the situation and threats linked to cocaine and methamphetamine. The European Commission is very worried about the situation linked to both substances. The modules have been very useful for the preparation of the first bilateral EU dialogue with Colombia of 17 June in Bogotá, which was chaired by the European Commission. Colombia was represented at a very high-level, including Ministries, army, navy and police. Representatives of Europol, MAOC-N and the EEAS also attended the event. Exchange of best practice with the EMCDDA and operational cooperation with Europol and MAOC-N were recommended as conclusions, and the dialogue with Colombia will continue.

The EDMR highlights the increased cooperation between organised crime and drug trafficking in Europe. The EU Member States and Europol play an important role in implementing actions to tackle the high-risk criminal networks. It is a very promising path that Member States work closely together with the Agencies. The European Commission adopted on 25 May a proposal for a Directive on asset recovery and confiscation to strengthen the capabilities of Member States to confiscate assets derived from drug trafficking and a wider set of crimes. The European Commission hopes that the Member States will strongly support the proposal, and will continue providing updated information on this issue.

7. Activity reports

7.1. Report on the activities of the Chair — EMCDDA/11/22

No comments were made.

7.2. Report from the Budget Committee — EMCDDA/12/22

The Chair of the Budget Committee was exceptionally unable to attend the meeting in Lisbon and chaired the Budget Committee of 20 June online. The next Budget Committee meeting will take place on 27 October 2022.

7.3. Report on the external activities of the Director — EMCDDA/13/22

No comments were made.

PART IV: *Items for decision and information*

8. Presentations by EU Presidencies

8.1. Presentation on the conclusions of the French Presidency — EMCDDA/14/22

Ms d'Arrigo, who chaired the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) of the Council during the **FR** Presidency of the EU, presented the main conclusions of the first half of the year.

The first priority in the field of drugs concerned the Council negotiations on the European Commission proposal for a new Regulation on the EU Drugs Agency. Ms d'Arrigo provided detailed information on this issue under agenda item 4. The other main thematic priorities focused on the following topics: 'Drugs in the digital era: fighting against trafficking, information, prevention and care', the reduction of cocaine supply and demand in the EU, the environmental impact of drugs and the situation in Ukraine. The UNODC World Drug Report 2022 will highlight this issue in one of its parts, co-financed by France and Germany.

The HDG prepared EU dialogues with third countries, such as the US, Brazil and a first dialogue with Colombia. The HDG further prepared a technical committee and a High-Level EU-CELAC meeting. The national drug

coordinators meeting took place on 8 April 2022 in Paris on 'Drugs in the digital era: fighting against trafficking, information, prevention and care', and was chaired by Dr Prisse, President of the MILDECA (Mission Interministérielle de Lutte contre les drogues et les conduites addictives).

The FR Presidency prepared the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) which took place in Vienna in the week of 14–18 March 2022. The international context was marked from March 2022 on by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which generated a strong European cooperation and mobilisation of international allies. Ms d'Arrigo stressed the importance of providing support to drug users in Ukraine and in the neighbouring countries. The FR Presidency organised a debate on the first observations on the situation in Ukraine with UNAIDS, WHO, the EMCDDA and several neighbouring countries. The EU adopted a common position on the scheduling of several substances in the UN Conventions. A Slovenian and French resolution on behalf of the EU on early prevention was adopted at the CND.

The FR Presidency attached particular importance to ensuring the overall coordination of drug policy issues of the EU, and to have a global overview of the work carried out in this area in all preparatory bodies of the Council (COSI – Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security, LEWP – Law Enforcement Working Party, WPCU – Working Party on Customs Union) through presentations at the HDG meetings. Furthermore, recent drug-related legislative or political developments at national level (Malta, Estonia, France, Croatia, Sweden and Portugal) were presented at the HDG. The FR Presidency also organised regular meetings with civil society.

Ms d'Arrigo thanked all Member States and the EU institutions for all their support offered to the FR Presidency.

On behalf of the Management Board, the **Chair** congratulated the FR Presidency on its excellent and successful work, the very important achievements reached in a difficult period of time and thanked Ms d'Arrigo for her efforts and excellent collaboration.

8.2. Presentation of the programme for the Czech Presidency **EMCDDA/15/22**

Ms Horackova presented the priorities of the **CZ** Presidency in the second half of 2022.

On 6 January 2022, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the Policy Statement, which confirms that 'in addressing the issue of addiction, we will apply a policy based on a scientifically proven and balanced concept of risk prevention and harm reduction, while ensuring sufficient funding for both prevention programmes and services and the regulation of addictive substances corresponding to their degree of harmfulness.'

The key to the incoming CZ Presidency is support for drug policies based on human rights and evidence-based approach. The discussion will focus on the promotion of proportionate sentencing and the implementation of effective criminal justice responses, including the principle of proportionality, alternatives to coercive sanctions and the decriminalization of drug use and drug possession for personal use. The aim is to support EU Member States to find a balance between the criminal justice and public health responses to the drug problem and provide and apply, where appropriate and in accordance with national legal frameworks, the principle of an adequate, proportionate and effective response to drug-related offences. At the same time, the CZ Presidency will support public health, especially harm reduction approach, to ensure the availability of and access to health and social services, and the rights of people with addictions and the rights of people who use drugs. The aim of the discussions is to share and exchange best practices, but also barriers to the promotion of this issue, highlight its benefits and continue to implement the EU Drugs Strategy and its Action Plan. The ambition of the CZ Presidency is to submit the set of recommendations in order to support human rights- and evidence-based drugs policies promoting proportionate sentencing and the rights of people who use drugs.

The CZ Presidency will promote the strengthening of international cooperation through dialogues with third countries, regions and other partners (Central Asia, China, US, EU-CELAC, Dublin Group), and discuss the crisis in Ukraine and its impact on drug situation in the region and the EU. During the CND thematic sessions on the implementation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration in September 2022, the CZ Presidency will aim to actively promote a human rights approach in drug policies and to support a common EU approach in this area and its unity in international fora.

The CZ Presidency will support the cooperation with civil society in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of drug policies and measures, and continue to implement a balanced EU approach between public health and law enforcement through discussions on trends in methamphetamine, both on the supply and demand side.

The CZ Presidency will continue negotiations on a new Regulation on the EU Drugs Agency with the European

Parliament in accordance with the common approach of the Council of the EU approved on 10 June 2022. It will regularly inform EU Member States on the state of play and closely cooperate with them during these negotiations.

The National Drug Coordinators meeting will take place on 7 and 8 September 2022 in Prague, and focus on cannabis policies.

The Chair of the HDG will be the national drug coordinator of the Czech Republic, Mr Jindřich Vobořil, and the Vice-Chair Ms Katerina Horackova. The team will also include colleagues from the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the Permanent Representation in Brussels, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as a number of experts in the field.

Mr Onidi, representative of the European Commission, congratulated the FR Presidency for its collaboration and the adoption of a revised text of the European Commission proposal for a new Regulation on the EU Drugs Agency. He further expressed the full support to the incoming CZ Presidency.

On behalf of the Management Board, the **Chair** wished CZ good luck for its Presidency, and assured CZ of the full support from the Member States and the EMCDDA.

9. Eurobarometer survey on the impact of drugs on communities in the EU

No comments were made on the summary prepared by the European Commission.

10. Budget and financial issues:

10.1. EMCDDA 2021 final accounts: opinion of the Management Board EMCDDA/17/22

The **Director** presented a review of the performance of the EMCDDA in 2021 based on the General Report of Activities, as well as the highlights of the budgetary and financial execution.

In 2021, the EMCDDA built on the investments made in 2020 with the 'Business Mobility' Project, which allowed the Agency to boost the digital transformation process and equip all staff with up-to-date mobile work stations. This has been done in record time and supported the work programme's safer and easier implementation. The Director thanked the ICT team and Finances sector for their dedication. But the lack of human contact, the online and on-screen fatigue, the blurred boundaries between private and professional life and between home and office, and the permanent pressure from increased expectations impacted all staff members. Nevertheless, the 'EMCDDA Team' continued to deliver results, innovate, prepare for the future, and invest time and energy in building a proposal for a new Business Model. The results are, in summary, that the EMCDDA has managed to reach a better work programme implementation (as confirmed by a higher achievement of 1, L2 and L3 objectives), a more robust budget execution (execution rate for commitment appropriations of 100% and 0 EUR uncommitted), and has met all additional requests from key stakeholders, especially the European Commission.

The EMCDDA has innovated as never before:

- bringing a new modular approach for its main products such as the European Health and Responses Guide and the European Drug markets Report;
- going fully digital for the launch of the EDR and its new information package;
- changing the EMCDDA's marketing mix and approach of social media;
- developing new projects and activities like the new PLATO e-learning platform.

The EMCDDA has been capable of building the framework a new Business Model and directly associating more than 50% of the staff in the various activities around the Innovation Fora. In 2022 the EMCDDA will start implementing the new Business Model and prepare for the future mandate of the EMCDDA while delivering on the objectives and results of the 2022 work programme. All EMCDDA staff will be involved in this change by engaging even more with the key customers and stakeholders and ensuring the highest possible integration of all these efforts into a single, coherent and sustainable implementation plan.

Overall, 81% of the 233 results included in the 2021 programme were achieved. This shows that the planning and prioritisation system put in place at the EMCDDA is efficient, despite very challenging conditions. The Management Plan counted 342 activities, of which 15% were linked to technical assistance projects. The EMCDDA is half way through the Strategy 2025, and will start carrying out the new Business Implementation Plan, while the new Regulation should enter into force in 2024. The EMCDDA has increased its digital maturity in the areas of data collection, product development, launch and accessibility, online training and ICT

infrastructure and service delivery. It has also strengthened the customer centricity, enabled by the new Business Model, as well as internal communication and cross-unit collaboration.

The EMCDDA reached a record budget performance, with an execution rate for commitment appropriations of 100%, and a rate of cancellation of (unused) payment appropriations of 0.62%. As a result of this execution 0 EUR were uncommitted in 2021. The budget execution is extremely important for the Agency. It is highlighted by the members of the EP, and justifies the need for a new mandate. The staff establishment reached 96% staff establishment (KPI 95%).

All KPIs are reached, the Agency works at full speed, but this has a cost. Less staff training has taken place, and the workload has risen in all areas. 2020 could be characterised by the word 'resilience', while 2021 was a year of 'transformation'. The Director expressed his gratitude to all staff for their commitment.

The **Chair of the Budget Committee** stressed that the EMCDDA received a 'clean report' from the external auditor and the European Court of Auditors on the EMCDDA 2021 final accounts. This is the third time in a row that the EMCDDA has received a 'clean report' from the European Court of Auditors, i.e. without any specific observations. The Management Board is requested to adopt its opinion on the EMCDDA 2021 final accounts by 1 July as stipulated in the EMCDDA Financial Regulation.

The **Chair** congratulated the Director and all staff for the collective effort which allowed to reach an excellent overall performance and outstanding budgetary execution.

Ms Malliori, representative of the European Parliament, expressed her admiration for the Director and the EMCDDA staff. The EMCDDA is there, everywhere, for everything and for everyone.

Mr Onidi, representative of the European Commission, congratulated the EMCDDA on its exemplary budget execution and the 'clean report' from the European Court of Auditors, which is not the case in all Agencies. The European Commission welcomes the developments of the agency, and in particular the concrete steps towards digitalisation, and the change towards a new Business Model. 2022 could be defined as the year of 'acceleration'. Mr Onidi asked the Director to pass on the appreciation of the European Commission to all EMCDDA staff.

FR observed that various indicators show the extremely high performance of the Agency in 2021. However, the increased workload and tension at the level of human resources raise the question whether working arrangements with third countries, like the one with Peru, can be justified in this context.

The **Director** explained that cooperation with a couple of Latin American countries, such as Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Mexico, is vital for a more structured information channel, and that the Risks to public safety and security unit had confirmed the interest of formalising the cooperation with Peru. Regarding the concern expressed by FR on the workload and tension at human resources level, the EMCDDA will sign a contract with the Italian-Latin American International Organization (IILA) aiming at contributing to the implementation of the COPOLAD III cooperation programme (COPOLAD – Cooperation programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on drugs policies), that will enable the EMCDDA to hire staff for that purpose.

NL congratulated the Director for the excellent presentation. Mr Sannes noted that it is important to point out that the past two years have been difficult for staff, and suggested that the Director could provide an update on human resources related issues and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the well-being of staff.

Decision: The Management Board adopted a favourable opinion on the EMCDDA final accounts for the financial year 2021.

10.2. Information on procurements for non-administrative activities of a value Greater than EUR 60 000 to implement the 2022 work programme **EMCDDA/12/21**

The **Director** informed that at present there is no procurement for non-administrative activities of a value greater than EUR 60 000 to implement the 2022 work programme.

10.3. EMCDDA's budget for 2023: oral update on the state of play by the European Commission

Mr Onidi, representative of the European Commission, informed that the Commission adopted its proposal for the EU draft budget for 2023 on 8 June 2022. In this context, the amount proposed for the EU 2023 subsidy to the EMCDDA reflects the 2022 amount plus a 2% increase, according to the 2021–27 Multi-annual Financial

Framework (MFF), and an additional 2% increase to consider the high inflation rate. As a consequence, the EU subsidy to the EMCDDA for 2023 amounts to about EUR 17 640 000.

However, the Agency might ask the European Commission for a possible budget 'top-up' of maximum EUR 700 000 for the agency in 2023. The EMCDDA will have to put forward convincing arguments demonstrating that the implementation of core tasks will be undermined if the budget is not increased.

11. EMCDDA Scientific Committee

11.1. Renewal of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee EMCDDA/19/22

The mandate of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee and the validity of the current reserve list expire at the end of 2022. A majority of current members have indicated their interest in continuing to serve as a member of the Scientific Committee, except for four members.

In accordance with the Procedures and arrangements for the selection and appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee of the EMCDDA, the Management Board may decide to renew the appointment for a new three-year term, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee. However, the Management Board takes into consideration the possible entry into force and applicability of the Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency (Commission proposal COM(2002)18 of 12 January 2022) which extends the mandate of the Agency and requires that the specialist fields of the members of the Scientific Committee cover the most relevant fields linked to the objectives of the Agency. Therefore, in order to avoid a period of time where the specialist fields of the Scientific Committee would not cover the full spectrum of the mandate of the Agency, it is preferable to limit the renewal of the appointment only until the new Regulation is applicable.

Decision: The Management Board decided to renew the members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee until the new Regulation of the Agency (COM(2002)18) becomes applicable and to extend the validity of the reserve list for the same period.

In December 2022, the Executive Committee will nominate four new members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, for the same period mentioned above.

11.2. Renewal of the list of experts to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances EMCDDA/20/22

In accordance with Article 5c of the EMCDDA Regulation, for the purposes of the risk assessment of a new psychoactive substance, the Scientific Committee may be extended as deemed necessary by the EMCDDA Director, acting on the advice of the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, by including experts representing the scientific fields relevant for ensuring a balanced assessment of the risks posed by the new psychoactive substance. The Director shall designate those experts from a list of experts that has been approved by the Management Board.

The existing list of experts approved by the Management Board at its 60th meeting in December 2019 will expire on 31 December 2022. In accordance with Article 5 of Annex IV of the Rules of procedure of the EMCDDA Management Board, the Management Board may decide to extend the validity of the existing list of experts for a further three years upon recommendation by the Executive Committee. However, the Management Board takes into consideration the possible entry into force and applicability of the Regulation on the European Union Drugs Agency (Commission proposal COM(2002)18 of 12 January 2022) which extends the mandate of the Agency.

Following a request from the EMCDDA, the experts from the existing approved list have indicated their interest in continuing to be on the list, except for three experts. In addition, as a result of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, two experts no longer meet the eligibility requirements to be included on the list based on their nationality. Despite these changes, the list of experts still covers sufficiently the scientific fields relevant to ensure a balanced assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances.

Decision: The Management Board extended the validity of the existing approved list of experts to be used by the EMCDDA Director to extend the Scientific Committee for purposes of ensuring a balanced assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances until the new Regulation of the Agency (COM(2002)18) becomes applicable.

12. Performance

12.1. State of implementation of the recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) EMCDDA/21/22

The **Director** explained that the Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the European Commission performs internal audits per topics or areas of work to identify potential risks and measures taken by the Agency to mitigate these risks. The Director informs the Management Board regularly on the implementation of the recommendations from the IAS.

The Director reminded that the relations between the EMCDDA and the IAS have significantly improved over the past years, thanks to commitment and transparency from the Agency. However, the IAS is currently performing a multi-entity audit on coordination and working arrangements between DG HOME and its EU decentralised Agencies, such as the EMCDDA, which was not included in the IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2020–22. The objective of the audit is to assess the adequacy of the design and the effective and efficient implementation of the coordination arrangements between DG HOME and its EU decentralised Agencies. This audit generates a significant additional workload to several staff members and the audit procedures often seem to tackle, merely, internal procedures and workflows rather than the relations and interaction with DG HOME. This comes in addition to the 2021 IAS audit on HR management and to the forthcoming audit on international cooperation.

The **Chair** encouraged the Director to express concerns whenever appropriate, while keeping the added value of the internal audit control system in mind.

13. Prevention and management of conflicts of interest

13.1. Assessment of the implementation of the EMCDDA Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest for Management Board members, substitutes and observers EMCDDA/22/22

The **Director** informed that the declarations submitted by the new members of the Management Board until 17 June 2022 show no existing conflicts of interest. If one day a discussion is held about the criteria for the Reitox co-financing system at a Management Board meeting, the representatives of NFPs will not be in a position to participate in the discussion, after an assessment by the Management Board.

Decision: The Management Board took note of the outcome of the screening conducted by the EMCDDA Director that has revealed that for the moment there is no conflict of interest.

14. Any other business

14.1. Fourth European Conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies, Lisbon 23–25 November 2022: presentation by the Portuguese delegation EMCDDA/23/22

Dr Goulão updated the Management Board members about the next European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies – Lisbon Addictions 2022, which will take place from 23 to 25 November 2022 in Lisbon. The overarching theme for 2022 is 'Global Addictions'.

Once more, the Conference is being jointly organised by the Portuguese General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD), the EMCDDA, the journal Addiction/Society for the Study of Addiction (SSA), and the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE).

This year 973 submissions (in comparison with 632 submissions for Lisbon Addictions 2019) were received for oral presentations, short communications, posters, structured sessions and workshops. Lisbon Addictions 2022 will offer three days of high-level content, along with networking opportunities. For this edition, the co-production approach was taken one step further by working with co-producers from the onset, in order to develop a rich and innovative programme. Co-producers will be taking full responsibility for the content of thematic tracks around selected topics and for organising coherent packages of major sessions and topical parallel tracks. INTER-glam project (Intercontinental Perspectives on Global addictions and Drugs Markets), a project funded by the European Commission, is a co-producer of Lisbon Addictions 2022. The aim of this project is to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders to explore global perspectives and trends that shape drugs markets and addictions.

SICAD confirmed that the registration fee of EMCDDA Management Board members wishing to participate in the Conference will be waived.

12.1. Planning of meetings for 2023 **EMCDDA/24/22**

Decision: The Management Board endorsed the planning of meetings for 2023.

The Chair thanked the Director and the EMCDDA staff, for the preparation of the meeting, and the Board members for their contributions. Mr Pietsch also expressed his thanks to the FR Presidency for its excellent achievements, and wished the CZ Presidency every success.

The Chair thanked the interpreters for their work, and hoped that the repeated problems encountered with the interpretation during the meeting will be analysed to prevent any disruptions for future meetings.

The next meeting will take place on 15–16 December 2022.

Franz Pietsch
Chair of the Management Board

Annexes:
I List of participants
II List of decisions and conclusions
III List of action points

Copy: Members, substitutes and observers of the Management Board

ANNEX I

65th meeting of the EMCDDA Management Board

Lisbon, 21 June 2022

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Belgium	Mr Claude GILLARD
Czechia	Ms Katerina HORACKOVA
Denmark	Mr Lars PETERSEN
Germany	Mr Burkhard BLIENERT
	Ms Marina HORN
Ireland	Mr Jim WALSH
Greece	Mr Christos KOUIMTSIDIS
Spain	Mr Joan R. VILLALBÍ HERETER
	Ms Elena ALVAREZ MARTÍN
France	Ms Laura d'ARRIGO
	Mr Nicolas PRISSE
Croatia	Ms Sanja MIKULIĆ
Italy	Mr Flavio SINISCALCHI
Cyprus	Mr Stelios SERGIDES
Latvia	Mr Dzintars MOZGIS
Lithuania	Ms Gražina BELIAN
Luxembourg	Mr Xavier POOS
Malta	Mr Richard MUSCAT
	Ms Marilyn CLARK
The Netherlands	Mr Victor SANNES
Austria	Mr Franz PIETSCH
	Mr Andreas WEINSEISS
Poland	Mr Łukasz JĘDRUSZAK
Portugal	Mr João GOULÃO

	Mr Manuel CARDOSO
	Ms Sofia SANTOS
Romania	Mr Catalin NEGOI-NITĂ
Slovenia	Mr Jože HREN
Slovakia	Ms Eva DEBNÁROVÁ
Finland	Ms Elina KOTOVIRTA
Sweden	Ms Erika BORGNY
Norway	Mr Torbjørn BREKKE
Türkiye	Mr Murat SARIKAMIŞLI
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Mr Olivier ONIDI (DG HOME)
	Ms Floriana SIPALA (DG HOME)
	Mr Péter MIHOK (DG HOME)
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	Mr Carlos COELHO
	Ms Meni MALLIORI
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	Ms Catherine COMISKEY
REITOX	Ms Ioanna YIASEMI
POMPIDOU GROUP OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE	Mr Denis HUBER
EMCDDA	Mr Alexis GOOSDEEL
	Mr Fabian PEREYRA
	Ms Monika BLUM

ANNEX II

LIST OF DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda — EMCDDA/01/22 rev 1

The Management Board adopted the agenda of the meeting.

5. International cooperation

5.6. Mandate for negotiating a Working Arrangement between the EMCDDA and DEVIDA (Peru) — EMCDDA/07/22

The Management Board mandated the Director to negotiate a Working Arrangement with the organisation DEVIDA of Peru.

5.8. Working arrangement with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) — EMCDDA/09/22

The Management Board agreed with the Working Arrangement on cooperation between the EMCDDA and CEPOL, and mandated the Director to sign the Working Arrangement.

10. Budget and financial issues

10.1. EMCDDA 2021 final accounts: opinion of the Management Board — EMCDDA/17/22

The Management Board adopted a favourable opinion on the EMCDDA final accounts for the financial year 2021.

11. EMCDDA Scientific Committee

11.1. Renewal of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee — EMCDDA/19/22

The Management Board decided to renew the members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee until the new Regulation of the Agency (COM(2002)18) becomes applicable and to extend the validity of the reserve list for the same period.

In December 2022, the Executive Committee will nominate four new members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, for the same period mentioned above.

11.2. Renewal of the list of experts to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances — EMCDDA/20/22

The Management Board extended the validity of the existing approved list of experts to be used by the EMCDDA Director to extend the Scientific Committee for purposes of ensuring a balanced assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances until the new Regulation of the Agency (COM(2002)18) becomes applicable.

13. Prevention and management of conflicts of interest

13.1. Assessment of the implementation of the EMCDDA Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest for Management Board members, substitutes and observers — EMCDDA/22/22

The Management Board took note of the outcome of the screening conducted by the EMCDDA Director that has revealed that for the moment there is no conflict of interest.

14. Any other business

14.2. Planning of meetings for 2023 EMCDDA/23/22

The Management Board endorsed the planning of meetings for 2023.

ANNEX III

LIST OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda point	Action to take	Responsable	Date
3.	Continue discussion on the drug situation in Ukraine and impact on bordering countries	EMCDDA	December 2022
4.	Information to be provided by the EC on the impact of the new Regulation for non-EU countries, members of the EMCDDA	EC	2022
5.6.	Negotiate a draft Working Arrangement with DEVIDA (Peru)	EMCDDA	2022
5.8.	Signa Working Arrangement with CEPOL	EMCDDA	2022
10.1.	Forward the opinion of the Management Board on the EMCDDA final accounts 2021 to the European Court of Auditors	EMCDDA	1 July 2022
12.1.	Implement all outstanding recommendations from the IAS	EMCDDA	2022