

Agenda

The OPTIMUS Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Outcomes Consensus — Lisbon Addictions Conference 2024 [Side Event](#)¹ v. 21.10.2024

Chair	Venue	Date and time
Lucas Wiessing	Centro de Congressos de Lisboa, Room: Terrace ² Praça das Indústrias 1, Lisbon, Portugal	22 October 2024, 13.00-18.00 (Lisbon time)
Online facilitators Bettina Kehr Mette Kienhorst		

Hybrid event: both at the Conference venue and live online via Zoom

Use this link <https://shorturl.at/au17V> to attend the online meeting

WIFI at the venue: network: Addictions Side events password: sidexpertise

Background

The OPTIMUS international expert group (<https://shorturl.at/4VrZt>) aims to foster international consensus on how to evaluate the outcomes of opioid agonist maintenance treatment (OMT). The group has developed guidance and an OMT outcomes monitoring tool, a questionnaire, which is currently being tested. Interested colleagues and service users are welcomed to attend this open meeting and/or to join our international group and help us test the guidance and outcomes questionnaire in their country.

Meeting objectives

To discuss the results so far of the OPTIMUS outcomes questionnaire. To discuss the first results of clinical testing of the questionnaire. To plan further steps - if possible including further (national or international) validity studies.

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

COMPLIMENTARY PRE-MEETING LUNCH BUFFET AT THE VENUE

12:00 – 12:50

Please arrive promptly and be seated before 13:00. Food is not permitted in the meeting room.

¹ <https://shorturl.at/LZVih>

² Enter the main entrance of the building, take the stairs straight ahead and then the Terrace room is to your right



Session 1. Chairs: Patrizia Carrieri and Lucas Wiessing

THE OPTIMUS OMT OUTCOMES MONITORING CONSENSUS 13.00 – 14.30

Welcome by the EUDA Director: Alexis Goosdeel 13.00 – 13.10

OPTIMUS objectives, results achieved: Lucas Wiessing 13.10 – 13.25

Principles, Evidence and Structure of the OPTIMUS Guidance:
Patrizia Carrieri, Perrine Roux and Lucas Wiessing 13.25 – 13.40

Users' perspectives on interventions and assessment designs:
Paulo Seabra 13.40 – 13.55

**Peers as Political Heroes - collaborative work between Peers,
Doctors, and technology:** Star Fiorotto 13.55 – 14.10

Discussion 14.10 – 14.30

BREAK 14.30-15.00

Session 2. Chairs: Dimos Fotopoulos, Emilis Subata and Lucas Wiessing

USING THE OPTIMUS GUIDANCE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE 15.00 – 16.00

Functionality and use of OPTIMUS Guidance in Clinical Practice:
Dimos Fotopoulos 15.00 – 15.20

5-minute snapshots on experience in clinical practice:

The experience in Cyprus: Andreas Krashias 15.20 – 15.25

The experience in Georgia: Darejan Javakhishvili 15.25 – 15.30

The experience in Lithuania: Emilis Subata 15.30 – 15.35

The experience in Palestine⁽³⁾: Saed Belbaisi and Mohammed
Takataka 15.35 – 15.40

Discussion 15.40 – 16.00

BREAK 16.00-16.30

³ This designation does not entail any recognition of Palestine as a state and is without prejudice to positions on the recognition of Palestine as a state.



Session 3. Chairs: Sonam Prakashini Banka-Cullen, David McDonagh and Lucas Wiessing

HACKATHON WORKSHOP - THE JOURNEY OF OPTIMUS AND FUTURE STEPS 16.30 – 18.00

Introduction to the session methodology and challenges: 16.30 – 16.45
Sonam P. Banka-Cullen and David McDonagh

Group work: All participants 16.45 – 17.15

Group presentations: All participants 17.15 – 17.35

Collate action points for next steps: All participants 17.35 – 17.50

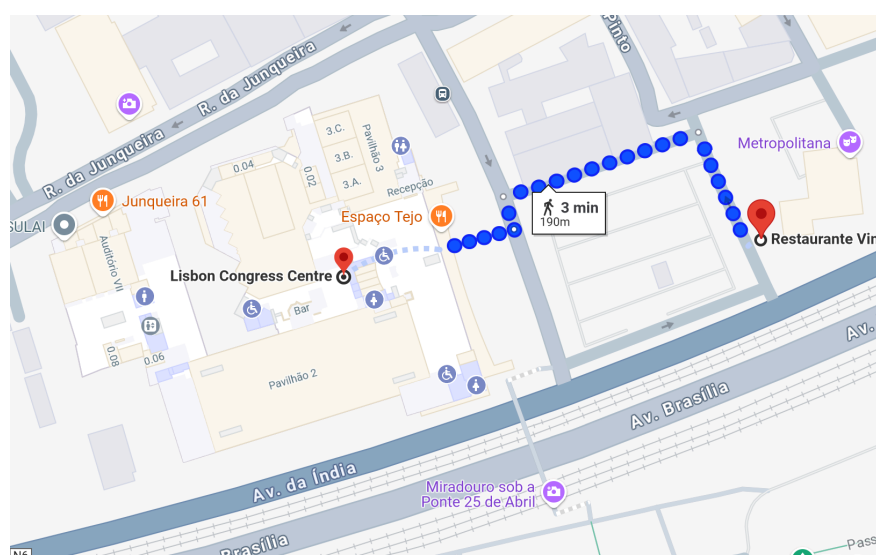
Session close: Sonam Banka-Cullen, David McDonagh, Lucas Wiessing 17.50 – 17.55

Closing comments from EUDA management: Marica Ferri 17.55 – 18.00

Meeting Close: Lucas Wiessing 18.00

COCKTAIL / LIGHT WALKING DINNER

VENUE: [VINYL RESTAURANT](#) TIME: 18.15 – 19.45



OPTIMUS* group (<https://shorturl.at/4VrZt>), guidance (<https://shorturl.at/Fm3aG>), outcomes questionnaire (<https://shorturl.at/Songs>) *Opioid Treatment outcomes Interview for Maintenance medication USers

EUDA event team: Alexis Goosdeel, Bettina Kehr, Lucas Wiessing, Marica Ferri, Marisa Gomes, Mette Kienhorst



List of Speakers



Mr **Alexis Goosdeel** joined the EMCDDA in 1999 as a project manager in the area of EU enlargement and international relations. From 2005, he headed the agency's Reitox and international cooperation unit. In this capacity, he played a central role in: coordinating a network of 30 national drug monitoring centres; preparing EU candidate and potential candidate countries for membership of the EMCDDA; developing cooperation with neighbouring countries to the EU; and nurturing relations with countries beyond the Union (Central Asia, Russia, Latin America). Much of his 35-year career working in the field of public health at national, European and international level. He holds a Master's degree in clinical psychology and a special diploma in advanced management. He is proficient in six languages: French (mother tongue); English, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese and Dutch. He was born on 7 November 1959 in Brussels. On 2nd July 2024 he became

the Executive Director of the European Union Drugs Agency.



Andreas Krasias has a Mental Health Nursing Diploma, a BSc in Mental Health Nursing and a MSc in Health Management. He has 11 years of experience in the Limassol Psychiatric clinic, 3 years of experience in a Rehabilitation Unit "Anosi" and 9 years in the "Sosivio" Harm Reduction Program. Andreas is also a Board Member of the Cyprus Nurses and Midwifery Association (CYNMA) and the Cyprus representative in Horatio.



Dr **David McDonagh** has over thirty years of experience as a senior business and sales manager working in a demanding sales and marketing driven environment. He has achieved received numerous personal awards during his business career and returned to education ten years ago. Dr McDonagh is currently working as a post doctorate research fellow in the Institute of Population Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin. Dave is a graduate of the Marketing Institute of Ireland, has a BA(Hons) in Psychology, and PhD in Psychology focusing on people in opiate substitute treatment. Over the past seven years, Dave has worked as a field researcher with Professor Comiskey, conducting a range of



sensitive interviews involving questions on relating to drug use, and associated risk factors among people who use opiates and other drugs.



Dimos Fotopoulos is an addiction psychiatrist at the State Health Services Organisation (SHSO) coordinating opioid agonist treatment (OAT) in Cyprus. He has over 20 years' experience in the addiction field in clinical (as director of various therapeutic programs) and administrative positions (as vice president of the Greek Organization Against Drugs - OKANA and as a member of the board of National Addictions Authority of Cyprus -NAAC).



Dr. Emilis Subata is an expert in the field of addiction medicine and psychiatry. He has dedicated his career to improving the quality of care for individuals suffering from addiction. Dr. Subata served as the Director of the National Centre for Addictive Disorders in Vilnius, Lithuania, and currently holds the position of the Advisor. His research includes evaluating the effectiveness and quality of opioid maintenance treatment in various settings. He has collaborated with organizations such as the World Health Organization and UNODC in promoting quality assurance and accessibility of opioid maintenance treatment in Baltic countries, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



Jana D. Javakhishvili, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychology and Director of the Institute of Addiction Studies at [Ilia State University](#), Tbilisi, Georgia. Her research focuses on exploring mental health issues (including addictions) in populations affected by war and political oppression, as well as on strategies for drug demand reduction. She is actively involved in projects led by the Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry ([FGIP](#)), which are dedicated to enhancing human rights-based mental health care, including services for those in need of drug prevention, treatment, and harm reduction, in various countries affected by oppressive political regimes and armed conflicts. She is the Past President of the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies ([ESTSS](#)). Currently, she serves as a trustee of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma Europe ([DCE](#)), and is a member of the board of directors of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies ([ISTSS](#)). She also serves on the editorial boards of the *European Journal of Psychotraumatology* ([EJPT](#)) and the *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation* ([JTD](#)).



Lucas Wiessing is a Principal Scientist in public health at the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) in Lisbon. He co-ordinates international studies on drug use and drug-related consequences and interventions across the European Union – including on HIV and viral hepatitis in injecting drug users, harm reduction and drug treatment. He is a national from the Netherlands, holds a PhD in public health (with distinction), speaks six languages and plays flute and tenor saxophone professionally. Lucas has over 150 scientific publications and he collaborates with many leading experts and organisations in his field.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lucas_Wiessing



Marica Ferri is an experienced public health expert and leader, currently serving as the Head of Sector Support to Practice at the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) since 2017. She leads a team of senior staff focused on prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and social reintegration, among other key areas. Marica has played a pivotal role in shaping scientific publications and educational initiatives like the European Drugs Schools. With a background that includes senior editorial roles and contributions to systematic reviews, she is recognized for her contributions to evidence-based public health interventions across Europe. Marica holds a PhD in Public International Health and has earned an Executive Master in Management of International Organizations from Bocconi School of Management.



Dr. Mohammed Takataka

Chief resident at the Palestinian National Rehabilitation Centre
Focal point for the Palestinian National Drug prevention Committee
Palestinian Ministry of Health



Patrizia Carrieri is a researcher in epidemiology and public health at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) at the SESSTIM in Marseille, France and is the leader of a research team focusing on social inequities in cancer prevention and care. For several years she has been coordinating a line of research on access to prevention and care for people who use drugs, evaluating the impact of buprenorphine treatment on individual and public health outcomes and a trial evaluating the interest of methadone in primary care. Today her research targets people at risk or living with a liver disease (e.g. people with unhealthy alcohol use, migrants, people with obesity).



Prof. **Paulo Seabra**, PhD in Nursing from Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) in 2015. Pós Doc certificated study by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto (FMUP). Master in Mental and Psychiatric Health Nursing from UCP in 2009. Nurse since 1992. Family Therapist by the Portuguese Society of Family Therapy since 2010. Since 2000 working in the field of mental health and addiction. Founding member of the Portuguese Chapter of the International Nursing Society on Addiction (IntNSA) (2019) and Board Member of the International Nursing Society on Addictions (2020-2024). Researcher in the Nursing Research, Innovation and Development Centre of Lisbon. Several articles published on addiction behaviour and adolescents' development related with risk factors. Reviewer for national and international journals. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8296-1021> ; Ciência Vitae: [Paulo Rosário Carvalho Seabra \(0F17-FF1F-E4FF\) | CIÊNCIAVITAE \(cienciavitae.pt\)](#) ; Research Gate: [\(11\) Paulo Seabra \(researchgate.net\)](#)



Dr **Saed A.S Belbaisi** is a medical doctor with MD in community mental health, MD in public health and, high Addictology Diploma. He is also the Director of the Opioid Substitution Therapy Unit at the Palestinian Ministry of Health.



Dr **Sonam Prakashini Banka-Cullen** is a psychologist and data analyst with expertise in leading innovative, transdisciplinary research projects. Her work spans both academia and community settings, focusing on addiction research, sustainability, health, and education. As a creative methodologist, Sonam has developed innovative approaches for data gathering, particularly in complex environments such as schools and community services. She has successfully secured national and international funding for initiatives aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by vulnerable communities, ensuring that research outcomes lead to meaningful, community-focused solutions.



Star Fiorotto – Harm Reduction Professional. Dynamic facilitator with an extensive record of innovation and impact across a wide range of sectors with lived experience. Connecting Peers/PWUD to you. Justice Oriented, Peer-Led, Non- abstinence- based, Harm-Reductionist. Cultivating transformative, collaborative, and inclusive work in educational, scientific, and medical environments, President- Board of Director Frontline Baddies, President of Keepin6 Consulting
-Settler on Turtle Island (North America),
-HBA Human Rights & Global Justice (Trent University Canada)



Online facilitators



Bettina Kehr, (Germany), is a Learning Designer at the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) in Lisbon, Portugal. With over 20 years of experience in Learning & Development across both the public and private sectors, she has designed, delivered, and evaluated training programs for organisations in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Americas. Bettina holds a Master's in Instructional Design and Educational Technology, along with certifications in Project Management, Human Resource Management, and Coaching. Her expertise lies in creating customised learning solutions using innovative tools and methods that align with organisational goals and foster individual growth.



Mette Kienhorst (The Netherlands) is a trainee of the Support to Practice Sector at the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) in Lisbon, Portugal. She has an international background in NGO and humanitarian field work and research with marginalised youth, HIV Aids patients, and refugees. She brings experience in policy analysis at the European Commission. Mette holds a Master's degree in International Development Sociology, along with certifications in Health Care Ethics and European and International Law.