



Global threats with local impacts require international collaborative responses

Organiser: European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA)

Date: 11 March 2026

Time: 13:00–14:00 (CET)

Location: Vienna International Centre, meeting room M6 (in person only)

Drug-related risks and harms are felt locally in our communities, but the drug trafficking networks driving them operate globally, across digital and physical platforms. Given the scale and complexity of this challenge, local authorities cannot protect their citizens alone.

When new substances suddenly appear on the market — such as highly potent synthetic opioids — the consequences can be immediate and severe, with rapid increases in overdoses and deaths. Drug-related preparedness means being ready to detect threats early, prevent escalation and act fast when harm occurs.

This side event will explore how strengthened international cooperation, and partnership with civil society, can reinforce public health and security responses at global, national and local level. Because in an interconnected world, keeping our communities safe depends on solidarity, coordination and joint commitment.

Join us to discuss practical solutions for stronger drug-related preparedness

This session will explore:

Local impacts of global drug markets

Preparedness for emerging drug threats

Early warning and rapid response

Public health and security coordination

International cooperation in practice

Shared responsibility for safer communities

Programme

Chair

Giovanna Campello, Chief, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Speakers

Professor Thomas Clausen, Chief Scientist, European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA).

Anja Busse, Team Lead, Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours, Mental Health and Substance Use Unit, World Health Organization.

Oriol Esculies, Vice-chair, Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD).

Maryse Chureau, Advisor, Strategy and External Relations Unit, Europol.

Closing remarks

Torbjørn Brekke, Specialist Director, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Norway.

Refreshments provided.