emcdda

Minutes

Meeting	**51st meeting of the Scientific Committee**
Date	**19–20 November 2019**
Venue	**EMCDDA (meeting room 107)**
Present	**See participants list (Annex 1)**

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Vice-Chair, Catherine Comiskey, welcomed the Scientific Committee members and the EMCDDA staff present at the 51st Scientific Committee meeting, the last meeting of the current Committee's mandate. Excused were Anne Line Bretteville-Jensen, Henri Bergeron, Henk Garretsen as well as Matthew Hickman and Letizia Paoli, who both joined the meeting via Skype for selected agenda items. The agenda (Annex 2) was unanimously adopted with the following change: Item 2: Address by and feedback to the Director was removed from the agenda.

2. Address by and feedback to the Director

The EMCDDA Director was excused. This item was removed from the agenda.

3. Feedback from the chair on MB and other meetings

On behalf of the Chair, the Vice-Chair informed the Committee about the Chair's presentation at the Horizontal Drugs Group's Annual Dialogue on Research of 6 November (Brussels): 'Contribution from the EMCDDA Scientific Committee: Reflecting on 10 years of implementation of the Council conclusions on strengthening EU research capacity on illicit drugs (2009–19)' (Annex 3).

As a follow-up, it was suggested to address the current and upcoming EU presidency, as well as the European Commission, to underline the need for a more coordinated, systematic and inclusive approach to fund priority drug-related research topics across different EC funding programmes, especially in the context of the discussions on the new EU drug strategy.

The Chair will be represented at the next Management Board meeting, 13–14 December, by Gerhard Bühringer, who will present the Scientific Committee's formal opinion on the EMCDDA programming document 2020–22, including the 2020 work programme, and refer to the Scientific Committee's contribution to the 2019 Annual Dialogue on Research of the Horizontal Drugs Group.

4. Recent developments: follow-up to EMCDDA external evaluation and EMCDDA possible future role (including on research), EU drugs strategy external evaluation, update on futures exercise (for discussion)

Paul Griffiths updated the Scientific Committee on the follow-up to the external evaluation of the EMCDDA. The Centre is working on how to better engage with the scientific community and also reviewing the guidelines for scientific publishing (also to follow up on recommendations from a recent internal audit on publications). There is a need to continue investing in detecting new trends and developments, to monitoring polydrug use and to further develop work on the supply area. This needs to be done within the limits imposed by the current budget constraints faced by the EMCDDA. In this respect, Michael Evans-Browns gave a presentation on the **outbreak of e-cigarette**, or vaping, associated lung injury (EVALI) in the United States (Annex 4).

A stakeholder engagement exercise is currently on-going, as well as renewed contacts at high level with DG SANTE. The external evaluation also recommended avoiding duplication in efforts with the UN data system and investing in further work with third countries. In this respect, Ilze Jekabsone presented the **EU4MD project**, which intends to support national capacity building for the neighbouring countries (Annex 5).

Paul Griffiths also updated the Scientific Committee on the EMCDDA's **futures exercise**. There have been fruitful discussions in the EU-ANSA framework, where the EMCDDA leads on the Futures cluster, on the approach of EU agencies, the European Commission and the European Parliament in this respect. 'The future of addictions — new frontiers for policy, practice and science' was also the overarching theme of the European Conference Lisbon Addictions 2019. More recently, a co-creation workshop on 'Megatrends, implications and blindspots for drug monitoring in Europe' was part of the Heads of Reitox national focal points meeting. A similar exercise with the EMCDDA staff and a policy workshop are envisaged for 2020. The results of this exercise will feed into the new EMCDDA Roadmap 2025 and will be communicated to the European Commission, to inform the drafting of the post 2020 EU drugs strategy.

A public online consultation was recently launched by the European Commission on the evaluation of the current 2013–20 EU drugs strategy. The evaluation exercise should be finalised by May 2020. Scientific Committee members are encouraged to reply to the survey individually. Paul Griffiths will enquire if an interview with the Chair of the Scientific Committee is envisaged.

5. Achievements and role of the Scientific Committee over the last 6 years (for discussion)

Letizia Paoli and Matthew Hickman joined the meeting via Skype.

The Scientific Committee members gave feedback on their experience over the last two mandates of the Scientific Committee. It was remarked how the number and quality of EMCDDA publications increased over the past 6 years and how preparatory meetings in the framework of risk assessments evolved and helped to inform the risk assessment exercise. The importance of the EMCDDA scientific award and the immense success of the Lisbon Addictions conference were also highlighted

The members of the Scientific Committee suggested that the EMCDDA can further use them to increase the engagement with the scientific community and the Centre's visibility.

Henk Garretsen sent in his feedback via a presentation (Annex 6).

Gerhard Bühringer presented an overview and reflection of the work done by the Scientific Committee during its first 50 meetings 1995–2019 (Annex 7) and how it shaped the Committee itself and the work of the EMCDDA.

6. Update on main projects and outputs 2019

Rosemary Martin de Sousa updated the Scientific Committee members on the recent and upcoming EMCDDA publications and outputs. She also highlighted web developments and multilingual projects (Annex 8).

Nicola Singleton presented the 2019 European Drug Markets Report (Annex 9) in advance to its launch the following week, and updated the Scientific Committee on the on-going preparations for the 2020 Responses Guide.

7. Scientific award: the 2020 edition (for decision)

Maria Moreira gave positive feedback on the model followed for 2018 award winners, who presented their paper at Lisbon Addictions 2019. A suggestion for the 2020 edition would be to keep the same bi-annual model (which has less impact on budget and human resources) while possibly adjusting the concept to Lisbon Addictions 2021 theme 'Global addictions'. The EMCDDA will draft a discussion paper for the next Scientific Committee to consider.

8. Follow-up points (for information)

8.1 Feedback on Lisbon Addictions 2019

Maria Moreira gave feedback on Lisbon Addictions 2019, which counted close to 1300 participants coming from 73 countries and all continents. The 2019 edition was challenging: the co-production approach was successful but implied more coordination efforts, the app-based programme brought some technical problems and therefore the programme was published very late, the Big Debates were another major innovation of the programme. In general, the conference is perceived to have outstanding value, not only for the scientific programme but also as a networking opportunity.

8.2 Selection of the Scientific Committee 2020–2022 and extended Scientific Committee

Maria Moreira updated the Scientific Committee on the selection and appointment procedure following the publication of a call for expressions of interest for membership in the EMCDDA Scientific Committee 2020–22 (2019/S 074-174262). The pre-selection panel is finalising its recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Management Board. The final decision and appointment of the Scientific Committee for the 2020–22 mandate will be made during the EMCDDA Management Board meeting of 13 December.

Michael Evans-Brown explained the parallel process following the publication of a call for expression of interest for inclusion on a list of experts to be used by the Director of the EMCDDA to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of risk assessment (2019/S 074-174263). A proposal was drafted by the pre-selection panel and this list will also be approved by the EMCDDA Management Board meeting of 13 December.

9. AOB

Dates next meeting

Suggested dates for 2020 are 11 to 13 March (52nd meeting) and 11 to 13 November (53rd meeting). Dates will need to be confirmed after the formal appointment of the Scientific Committee for the 2020–22 mandate.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Participants list

Annex 2 – Agenda (SciCom/01.1/51)

Annex 3 – Presentation ‘Contribution from the EMCDDA Scientific Committee: Reflecting on 10 years of implementation of the Council conclusions on strengthening EU research capacity on illicit drugs (2009–19)’ (Catherine Comiskey)

Annex 4 – Presentation ‘Outbreak of E-cigarette, or vaping, associated lung injury’ (Michael Evans-Browns)

Annex 5 – Presentation ‘EU4MD project’ (Ilze Jekabsone)

Annex 6 – Presentation ‘Scientific committee: thoughts on past and future’ (Henk Garretsen)

Annex 7 – Presentation ‘EMCDDA Scientific Committee 1995–2019, 50 meetings from first attempts to sophisticated routine’ (Gerhard Bühringer)

Annex 8 – Presentation ‘Update on publications and outputs’ (Rosemary Martin de Sousa)

Annex 9 – Presentation ‘Responses Guide 2020 Update’ (Nicola Singleton)