



# ABSTRACT TEMPLATE

## STRUCTURED SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS

### Allegato 5

#### Structured session/workshop section

<b>Title</b>	Assessing the impact of laws and policies regulating illicit drugs on health and society: some insights
<b>Chair</b>	Peter H. Reuter
<b>Chair's e-mail</b>	preuter@umd.edu
<b>Aim</b>	<p>The goal of drug control laws and policies must be the health and well-being of humanity. Therefore, the scientific, especially quantitative, approach must be used to evaluate current laws and policies.</p> <p>The proposed session highlights some important topics that illustrate tools for scientific evaluation of various aspects of drug laws and policies. Some approaches have already been used in pilot form others will find development and application in the future.</p>

#### Presentation section

<b>Presentation 1</b>	Drug laws indicators through the leximetric approach and relationship with effectiveness: the example of Italy in the period 1991-2018
<b>Authors</b>	Francesca De Marinis <sup>1</sup> and <u>Carla Rossi</u> <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> Trainee magistrate, Naples, Italy, <sup>2</sup> Center for Statistical and Social Studies, Rome, Italy
<b>Presenter's e-mail</b>	prof.carla.rossi@gmail.com
<b>Introduction/ issues <u>OR</u> Introduction and aims</b>	<p>The leximetric approach is a quantitative method that can be applied, like a policy index, to measure laws and policy goals in advance. It can be used to compare laws and policies in the same state over the years or in different states at the same time.</p> <p>Leximetric measures can be developed, with interdisciplinary collaboration, by assessing the levels of repression that current laws provide.</p>
<b>Method/ approach <u>OR</u> Design and methods</b>	<p>The methodology is applied for the first time to the laws on illicit substances in Italy. The subjects are the three different "antidrug" laws in force in Italy in the period 1991-2018.</p> <p>First, the variable that can express the degree of severity of these laws is chosen, then a scale is defined to explain how each score can be assigned (decimal or binary system), and finally, the laws are measured using the chosen variable and the adopted scale.</p>

**Key findings**  
**OR Results**

The adequacy of the leximetric scores (a priori evaluation) can be assessed by comparing them with socio-health and economic indicators that measure the consequences of law enforcement (a posteriori evaluation).  
Indicators for the period 1991-2018 are considered. Time series of classic and new indicators are used for evaluation of drug laws and policies and compared with leximetric scores. Interesting and encouraging results are available.

**Discussions**  
**AND**  
**conclusions**

It would be very important to apply the method more widely to compare laws in different countries. A first attempt has been made within an ERANID project, but it should be expanded both methodologically and with applications to socio-health and economic data.

**Presentation 2**

Hospitalization risk profile of opioids users

**Authors**

Valerio Manno <sup>1</sup>, Alice Maraschini <sup>1</sup>, Susanna Conti <sup>2</sup>, [Giada Minelli](#)<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Statistical Service, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Società Italiana di Statistica Medica e Epidemiologia Clinica (SISMEC), Milan, Italy

**Presenter's e-mail**

giada.minelli@iss.it

**Introduction/ issues OR Introduction and aims**

Drug use associated health problems are a complex phenomenon changing over time. Some studies regarding drug-related diseases were conducted, mainly based on Emergency Rooms Data; other investigations regarded diseases related only to injecting drug use (i.e. HIV, B and C Hepatitis). This study is based on an exhaustive nationwide source on hospitalizations in Italy: the National Hospital Discharge Database (NHDB). The hospitalization risk profile of opioid user was studied, in terms of hospitalization rates and observed comorbidities; age and gender differences were considered.

**Method/ approach OR Design and methods**

The NHDB collects data regarding all patients discharged from any Italian hospital, recording for each patient demographic and clinical data. Cases analysed in the study: all the patients diagnosed with conditions related to opioid use during the study period 2005-2019. To perform a more detailed analysis, opioids users using also other substances ("poly-users") were studied too.

**Key findings OR Results**

Main findings: i) Pathologies with the highest risk of hospitalization among opioid users: infectious diseases (i.e. infectious intestinal diseases, HIV, viral diseases with rash, chlamydia and other viral pathologies). ii) Risks are greater in women than in men. iii) In women, excesses of risk were also observed for Ischaemic heart diseases, cerebrovascular and respiratory diseases (this excess is also present in men), diseases of the digestive and of the urinary system.

**Discussions AND conclusions**

This nationwide study provides relevant information in terms of public health, giving indications to public services about the burden of diseases to keep under observation in the opioid users.

**Presentation 3**

Using Supply Indicators in the Evaluation of Drug Supply Reduction – Challenges and Opportunities



<b>Authors</b>	<p><u>Nicola Singleton</u><sup>1</sup>, Andrew Cunningham<sup>2</sup>, Teodora Groshkova<sup>2</sup>, Luis Royuela<sup>2</sup>, Roumen Sedefov<sup>2</sup>, Paul Griffiths<sup>2</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Visiting researcher, National Addiction Centre, IoPPN, King's College London, UK. <sup>2</sup> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Lisbon, Portugal.</p>
<b>Presenter's e-mail</b>	NicolaSingleton22@gmail.com
<b>Introduction/ issues <u>OR</u> Introduction and aims</b>	Supply reduction interventions are seen as standard components of illicit drug policies. Evaluating them requires not only understanding drug markets and the associated crime, but also measures of the activities undertaken to tackle them. A wide range of indicators are needed but the illicit nature of the drug market limits the data available and makes interpretation challenging.
<b>Method/ approach <u>OR</u> Design and methods</b>	This presentation provides examples of the limitations and challenges in using supply indicators for evaluation before discussing options for improvements. It is based on the long-term work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), in collaboration with a wide range of international experts, to improve the collection, analysis and reporting of supply-related data within the European Union and other partner countries.
<b>Key findings <u>OR</u> Results</b>	Addressing the wide variety of data limitations identified and the variety of uses of data in the evaluation process requires a long-term, structured programme. The EMCDDA supply indicator work utilises a conceptual framework that groups indicators within three broad thematic areas: drug markets, drivers and facilitators; drug-related crime, harms and other consequences; and drug supply reduction and responses. Within each area, priorities for improvement can be identified and three possible types of action considered: improving the quality of existing data; extending the range and scope of data collected; and enhancing analysis.
<b>Discussions <u>AND</u> conclusions</b>	The structured approach described may have wider application with the potential to provide a richer picture of drug markets, and aid efforts to evaluate drug supply reduction policies and lead to incremental improvement over time.

<b>Presentation 4</b>	Estimating the size of the of illicit drug market – a critical review
<b>Authors</b>	<p><u>Robin Udrisard</u><sup>1</sup> and Frank Zobel<sup>2</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup>Addiction Suisse, Lausanne, Switzerland, <sup>2</sup>Addiction Suisse, Lausanne, Switzerland</p>
<b>Presenter's e-mail</b>	udrisardr@addictionsuisse.ch
<b>Introduction/ issues <u>OR</u> Introduction and aims</b>	Estimates of the drug market are frequently cited. However, both the veracity of the figures produced, and the methods used for their construction are often unclear. This presentation will critically review what methods have been used by studies in this area and make some recommendations for future work in this area.



<b>Method/ approach <u>OR</u> Design and methods</b>	<p>This presentation will be based on around three sources. First a literature review of studies that have produce a market size estimate using both supply and demand side approaches. Second some innovative work conducted in Switzerland that has explored how multiple sources, including the analysis of wastewater residues, can inform a market size estimate. Third, a short consultation with experts who have been involved in drug market estimates at the national or international levels.</p>
<b>Key findings <u>OR</u> Results</b>	<p>Despite estimates of the drug market often appearing in the media there are remarkably few robust studies available to inform a discussion on this topic. The studies that are available tend to have been conducted in only a few countries (particularly the USA and UK) and not all drugs are given equal attention. Two main approaches have been used, top-down supply side approaches and bottom-up demand side approaches. Supply side approaches are difficult to scientifically evolute as they depend on assumptions that are difficult to validate. The assumptions used in demand side approaches bring with them considerable uncertainty, but it may be possible to reduce this through future work. More recently some new data sources have come available that may have the potential to inform future studies in this area.</p>
<b>Discussions <u>AND</u> conclusions</b>	<p>All approaches in this area have limitations and bring with them uncertainty. The discussion will consider the relative merits of different approaches and what lessons can be learnt from recent Swiss work in this area.</p>

<b>Presentation 5</b>	<p>Estimating the costs of the criminal justice system</p>
<b>Authors</b>	<p>Luca Di Censi<sup>1</sup>, <u>Francesco Fabi</u><sup>2</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup>Human Foundation Do &amp; Think Tank per l’Innovazione Sociale, Rome, Italy, <sup>2</sup>Centre for Statistical and Social Studies, Rome, Italy</p>
<b>Presenter’s e-mail</b>	<p>frfabi76@gmail.com</p>
<b>Introduction/ issues <u>OR</u> Introduction and aims</b>	<p>Globally, there is ample evidence and research on the importance of estimating the costs of crime to society.</p> <p>It is of particular interest to assess the economic costs of illicit drug control policy to criminal justice systems. The cost estimation is effected in order to shed light on the domestic distribution of resources for drug control i.e. to understand how a country apportiones the different budget quotas dedicated to drug control in the criminal justice chain, i.e. policing, justice and prison.</p>
<b>Method/ approach <u>OR</u> Design and methods</b>	<p>We use the same estimation method developed in the ALICE RAP project in 2015 and estimate costs for 4 countries in 2010 and 2018. Also, the Sources of the data to be used are the same, but Italy is added to the countries analysed in ALICE RAP also because in 2010 and 2018 has two different laws in force. The countries considered are Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Spain which show both differences and commonalities in terms of geographic location, economic development, and criminal justice system organization in relation to drug control.</p>

**Key findings****OR Results**

Italy has the highest overall cost of drug control for the criminal justice system, followed by Spain, Poland and Portugal spends significantly less than the other three countries. Details will be shown with tables and graphs.

**Discussions****AND****conclusions**

It would be important to make cost estimates for other countries and for multiple years to follow the evolution of the impact of drug policies on the extent of drug supply and the cost on society and evaluate the possible changes.

**Discussion Section (optional)****Title****Chair**

Peter H. Reuter

**Chair's e-mail**

preuter@umd.edu

## Abstract second presentation

<b>Title</b>	<b>New indicators for assessing the health and social consequences of poly-drug use: analyses of data of adolescents to improve prevention interventions</b>
<b>Authors</b>	Francesco Fabi and <a href="#">Carla Rossi</a>
	Center for Statistical and Social Studies, Rome, Italy
<b>Background</b>	<p>Poly-drug use is steadily increasing.</p> <p>The classical indicators, prevalence, incidence..., are not adequate to quantitatively assess the socio-health damages of poly-drug use.</p> <p>New indicators have been proposed and applied to specific datasets to analyze socio-health consequences of polyuse related to various populations.</p>
<b>Methods</b>	<p>Each drug user is characterized by two scores: the overall frequency of use, denoted by FUS, and the poly-drug use score, denoted by PDS, a two-dimensional vector indicator. The components of PDS are calculated as a weighted average of the harm scores for each substance used, with weights given by FUS.</p> <p>To analyze adolescent users, indicators have been applied to European School survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD) data and to ESPAD-Italy data. ESPAD is conducted every 4 years concerning students aged 16; ESPAD-Italy yearly includes subjects aged 15-19.</p> <p>The new indicators applied on ESPAD data allow to analyse countries' policies, the application to ESPAD-Italy data primarily characterize high-risk consumers and assess the correlation with social aspects, to design more effective prevention interventions.</p> <p>Using ESPAD-Italy survey information related also to personal behaviour, it was shown that high values of poly-drug use indicators are linked to specific behaviours related to interest in school, relationship with parents and use of leisure time.</p>
<b>Results</b>	<p>The results, in Tables and figures, will be shown to allow evaluating the policies of the various countries on the basis of ESPAD data, and specifically in Italy using ESPAD-Italy data, to assess the link between drug use and personal behaviour among adolescents with the school drop-out in order to design proper prevention policies to be used for 15 years old students.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>Unfortunately, data of 15-year-old students is not available in international ESPAD data. So, to compare Italy with other countries, only data from the Spanish school survey are available. This is an ongoing project.</p>



ORGANISERS

---



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

