Drug Policy Network South East Europe

Glossary of terms used in drug policy

December 2018

Glossary of terms used in drug policy

Concepts in the field related to drug problems, including but not limited to drug policy, addiction treatment harm reduction or such, are labelled and defined in variable ways by different professions and disciplines throughout the world. Occasionally attempts have been made to standardize usage of terms related to the matter and affect the general change by reducing misunderstanding that as a long term result has reducing of stigma and discrimination. Nevertheless major challenges remain.

The World Health Organization recommended that "Terminology in national drug control legislation and policies should be clear and unambiguous in order not to confuse the use of controlled medicines for medical and scientific purposes with misuse".

People of different backgrounds have difficulties in understanding and using proper terms related to drugs. Many of the words used to describe addiction and addicts only add to stereotypes and stigma. The language should be changed to reflect today's greater understanding. By choosing terminology that is not stigmatizing, we can begin to dismantle the negative stereotype associated with addiction.

Language used when dealing with drug issue, including slang, is constantly changing and evolving. Some terms are universal, yet others solely exist among groups of friends. It's important to stay up to date on the drug related terms, to be of help especially to those who face this issue (sometimes for the first time), including politicians, authorities, media, parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, or simply a concerned friend.

Moreover, language used by journalists can potentially cause wider harm than others, since it is used for the messaging the public. For example, instead of promoting harm reduction programs as healthy and human oriented methods, journalists and other significant actors almost always use stigmatizing and discriminating terminology. The terminology used to describe addiction has contributed to stigma which is still the biggest barrier to addiction treatment, as encountered by patients. The terms used in maybe not so much colloquial everyday life but definitely in professional language should reflect today's higher level of understanding. By choosing appropriate language, and moreover, advising people to use terminology that is not stigmatizing, we can start to reverse the labels and stereotypes associated with substance use problems.

DPNSEE initiative for 2017 is creation of a glossary of terms related to the problem of drugs that we hope will contribute to better understanding the drug problem in more empathic manner. Glossary will be an alphabetical list of terms used in a domain of drug policy, with the definitions for those terms. It will contain explanations of concepts and terms related to the field of drugs and relevant related matters. The glossary should serve firstly to member organisations in a way that will help in process of harmonization of opinions and attitudes. Secondly, this material will serve a wider range of groups of people including policy makers, stakeholders, activists, the media, police, judiciary and others.

Drug Policy Network South East Europe
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Term	Definition
Addiction	General term referring to the concept of tolerance and dependency. According to World Health Organisation addiction is the repeated use of a psychoactive substance to the extent that the user is periodically or chronically intoxicated, shows a compulsion to take the preferred substance, has great difficulty in voluntarily ceasing or modifying substance use and exhibits determination to obtain the substance by almost any means.
Agonist	A drug capable of combining with receptors to initiate biological actions. A substance that fully activates the receptor that it binds to.
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	The final stage of Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection when the body is unable to fend off disease is called Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or AIDS.
Antagonist	An agent that opposes the action of another. Substance which doesn't activate and can block the activity of agonists.
Antiretroviral therapy (ART)	Antiretroviral therapy refers to the drugs that are used in the treatment and prevention of HIV infection. They fight HIV by stopping or interfering with the reproduction of the virus in the body and reducing the amount of virus in the body.
Club (party) drugs	Drugs including MDMA (ecstasy), GHB, rohypnol, ketamine, methamphetamine and LSD are some of the club or party drugs being used by young adults at all-night dance parties such as "raves" or "trances," dance clubs and bars.
Comorbidity	Two or more disorders or illnesses occur in the same person. They can occur one after the other or at the same time. Drug addiction or alcoholism and other mental illnesses are often comorbidity.
Depenalisation	Reduction of the level of penalties associated with drug offences, usually those for personal use or possession. For example, depenalisation applies to the introduction of warnings or cautions for cannabis possession, rather than potential time in prison. Modification of the sentences provided in criminal legislation for a particular behaviour generally refers to the removal of custodial sentences.
Dependence	State where the user continues its use of the substance despite significant health, psychological, relational, familial or social problems. Dependence is a complex phenomenon which may have genetic components. Psychological dependence refers to the psychological symptoms associated with craving and physical dependence to tolerance and the adaptation of the organism to chronic use. Physical dependence starts when cells of the body cannot function without a substance or drug. Physical dependence can happen with the chronic use of many drugs (including many prescription drugs).
Detoxification	A medically supervised intervention to resolve withdrawal symptoms. Usually it is combined with some psychosocial interventions for continued care. Detoxification could be provided as an inpatient as well as in a community-based outpatient programme.
Diversion	The use of measures other than prosecution or a criminal conviction for an act that nonetheless remains against the law. Diversion can take place before a charge is formally laid, for example if the accused person agrees to undergo treatment. It can also occur at the time of sentencing, when community service or treatment may be imposed rather than incarceration.

Term	Definition
Drug	Any psychoactive substance, i.e. a substance that, if taken in sufficient dose, can alter mental and physiological processes. Examples of drugs include alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances (i.e. those whose production, sale, or use is forbidden or limited under international and national drug control laws and treaties), volatile substances (gases, fumes from glues, aerosols and similar products), over-the-counter and prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances (e.g. "legal highs"). Drugs are also known as substances or compounds; illegal drugs are also known as controlled or illicit drugs. Note: Food is excluded from this definition.
Drug abuse prevention	Drug abuse prevention programs are intended for young people and vulnerable groups. There is a multitude of effective substance abuse prevention interventions that may have different areas of focus and can be implemented in a variety of settings (school, family, community). These programs should incorporate monitoring and evaluation components. Drug abuse prevention is also known as substance abuse prevention.
Drug-induced deaths	Defined by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) as those of "people who die directly due to use of illegal substances, although these often occur in combination with other substances such as alcohol or psychoactive medicines. These deaths generally occur shortly after the consumption of the substance". These deaths are also known as overdoses or poisonings.
Drug demand reduction	A general term used in international drug control conventions to describe activities that aim to reduce consumer demand for (illegal) drugs. Drug demand reduction includes drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation approaches. It differs from supply reduction which aims to limit the production and distribution of (illegal) drugs through law enforcement. In practice, drug demand reduction and supply reduction complement each other to form comprehensive drugs policies.
Drug policy	Contemporary drug policy constitutes a broad range of administrative actions that comprise 1. Programmes to prevent the initiation of drug use by non-users; 2. Health and social service programmes intended to help heavy drug users change their behaviour or reduce the consequences of their drug use; 3. Laws, regulation as and initiatives to control the supply of illegal drugs (as well as the supply of diverted prescription drugs used for non-medical purposes).
Drug prevention	Any activity that is (at least partially) aimed at preventing or reducing drug use and/or its negative consequences in the general population or subpopulations, including preventing or delaying the initiation of drug use, promoting cessation of use, reducing the frequency and/or quantity of use, preventing the progression to hazardous or harmful use patterns and/or preventing or reducing negative consequences of use. Prevention activities can be carried out with different target populations (e.g. school pupils, young offenders), in different settings (e.g. community, school, family), using different methods and contents (e.g. information provision, life skills training) and range from one-off to long-term activities. Some activities address drugs directly, while other activities promote health in general and encourage people to make healthy choices, thereby indirectly preventing or reducing drug use. Depending on how the target population is defined, the following types can be distinguished: universal prevention; selective prevention; indicated prevention; tiered prevention. A previously used typology distinguished primary, secondary and tertiary prevention; however, the categorisation by target population has superseded this typology. Drug prevention is also known as substance abuse prevention.

Term	Definition
Drug treatment	Treatment comprising all structured interventions, specific pharmacological and/or psychosocial techniques aimed at reducing or abstaining from the use of illegal drugs. In the EMCDDA Treatment Demand Indicator Protocol (version 3.0, 2012), the following definition is provided: an activity (activities) that directly targets people who have problems with their drug use and aims at achieving defined aims with regard to the alleviation and/or elimination of these problems, provided by experienced or accredited professionals, in the framework of recognised medical, psychological or social assistance practice. This activity often takes place at specialised facilities for drug users, but may also take place in general services offering medical/psychological help to people with drug problems.
Drug use	The consumption of a drug for purposes other than prescribed medical treatment or scientific investigation. Drug use can be abstinent, infrequent (experimentation), occasional (e.g. less than weekly) or regular (e.g. at least once per week). According to the World Health Organisation, hazardous use describes a use pattern that increases the risk of harmful physical, mental and social consequences for users and their social environment (e.g. family, community), while harmful use describes a use pattern that is already damaging the mental or physical health of users and may have social consequences. Drug use is also known as drug/substance misuse/abuse. However, terms such as "misuse" or "abuse" can be considered judgemental if used to describe drug use in general; they are more suitable for referring to harmful use only.
Ethical dug prevention	Drug prevention work that is characterised by an ethical and lawful conduct of the provider and orientation towards participants" rights, autonomy and needs (e.g. positive outcomes without harms). In general, ethics provide guidance on how people ought to act and how to make decisions on what is "right" and "wrong".
Evidence based (evidence informed)	Decision making processes related to policy or practice having included a conscientious review and judicious integration of the best available research evidence, professional expertise and practical wisdom. When the term "evidence-informed" or "evidence-based" is used, it should always be accompanied by a clear description of the nature of the evidence it speaks to.
Evidence-based drug prevention	Drug prevention work that is based upon a systematic analysis of the best available evidence, making use of the evidence and ensuring correspondence with the evidence.
Hallucinogens	A diverse group of drugs that alter perceptions, thoughts and feelings. They cause hallucination, or sensations and images that seem real thought they are not. Hallucinogenic drugs include LSD, PCP, mescaline and psilocybin (magic mushrooms). Another name for this group of drugs is psychedelic drugs.
Harm reduction (Harm minimization)	Harm reduction refers to policies, programs and practices that aim to mitigate the negative health, social and economic consequences of using legal and illegal psychoactive drugs, without necessarily reducing drug use.
Hepatitis C (HCV)	Hepatitis C is an inflammation of the liver and it can lead to cirrhosis of the liver (resulting in loss of liver function). It can also lead to liver cancer. HCV can spread through sharing needles and other drug equipment and also through risky sexual behaviours.

Term	Definition
Heroin-assisted treatment (HAT)	Heroin-assisted treatment is a therapeutic option that has been added to the range of opioid substitution treatment (OST) in a growing number of countries in the past two decades, as its evidence base has grown more extensive and secure. It involves the provision of diamorphine to patients, usually those who have not gained benefit from more traditional OST employing methadone, etc. Diamorphine doses are given under clinical supervision in a safe and clean medical setting and the medication elements are combined with intensive psychosocial support mechanisms. HAT is currently provided with positive outcomes in several countries, including Switzerland, Germany, the UK, Denmark, Spain, Canada and the Netherlands.
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infects cells of the immune system, destroying or impairing their function. Infection with the virus results in progressive deterioration of the immune system, leading to "immune deficiency". The immune system is considered deficient when it can no longer fulfil its role of fighting infection and disease. Infections associated with severe immunodeficiency are known as "opportunistic infections", because they take advantage of a weakened immune system. People injecting drugs and sharing needles or other drug equipment increase risk acquiring or transmitting viral infections because this virus spreads through the blood.
Human rights-based approach	Human rights-based approach is framework for the process of human development. It is based on international human rights standards and directed to protecting and promoting human rights. This approach is focused on those who are marginalized, excluded or discriminated against. When dealing with drug policy, the human rights-based approach ensures that the basic human rights have to be respected when designing a policy.
Iatrogenic effect	Iatrogenic effects are negative outcomes for patients which have been caused by an intervention. Such effects of drug prevention interventions could be, for example, increased drug use, harms for participants, etc. Iatrogenesis can concern main outcomes, such as drug use, or increased incidence of other unwanted behaviours ("side effects"). An iatrogenic effect is different from no effect ("ineffective") as this would mean that there were neither positive nor negative outcomes.
Illicit drugs	"Illicit" contains the moral connotation of being bad and use of this term tends to suggest that people who consume substances are bad people. This term should not be used as tends to stigmatize people who consume substances.
Incidence	The number of new cases of a particular disease over a period of time (usually a year) and in relation to the population in which it occurs.
Incidence rates	Incidence rates are the number of new cases in a given time period divided by the number of people at risk in the population at the beginning of the study. Incidence rates are usually reported on the basis of every 100.000 people per year. New cases of a communicable disease such as hepatitis are presented as an incidence rate, which may be age-specific or crude.
Indicated prevention	Indicated prevention interventions identify individuals who are experiencing early signs of substance abuse and other related problem behaviours associated with substance abuse and target them with special programs. The individuals identified at this stage, though experimenting, have not reached the point where clinical diagnosis of substance abuse can be made. Indicated prevention approaches are used for individuals who may or may not be abusing substances but who exhibit risk factors such as school failure, interpersonal social problems, delinquency, and other antisocial behaviours, and psychological problems such as depression and suicidal behaviour, which increases their chances of developing a drug abuse problem.

Term	Definition
Injection drug use (IDU)	A process in which one or more psychoactive substance is injected directly into a body using a needle and syringe. Some of frequently used injection drugs are cocaine and heroin.
Legalisation	1. The process of ending prohibitions on the production, distribution and use of a drug for other than medical or scientific uses. In the drug policy context "legalisation" is generally used to refer to a policy position advocating "legal regulation" or "legally regulated drug markets" for currently prohibited drugs. 2. Non-specific term that refers in a general sense to removal of criminal sanctions for possession, production, distribution and sale of substances. Includes a number of measures such as decriminalization, depenalization and other regulatory measures. Due to its non-specific nature use of this term is discouraged in favour of use of the more specific terms. Defacto legalisation, i.e. prohibition with an expediency principle - laws are not enforced at select stages. De jure legalisation, i.e. explicit laws that permit use. 3. Legislation refers to making drug use, possession, production and distribution legal. Unlike decriminalisation, legalisation would repeal all penalties, criminal and civil, for use, possession, production and distribution of a substance. However, legalisation would most likely still require other types of controls and regulations put in place (e.g. restrictions to licensed proprietors and age restrictions on sales). Legislating under a regulatory system would control the production, marketing, sale and use of substances. No such provision currently exists in relation to "street-drugs" (as opposed to alcohol or tobacco which are regulated products).
Legal high	A substance with psychoactive properties (capable of altering mood and/or perception), whose production, distribution, possession and consumption is not subject to drug-related legislation in a given jurisdiction or set of jurisdictions.
Mandatory treatment	Compulsory provision of treatment under a compulsory treatment order. In some countries the criminal justice system can apply legal pressure to encourage offenders to participate in drug abuse treatment, alcohol mandatory treatment, or forced treatment for people with mental illness. This treatment may have both positive and negative effects on patient outcomes. Mandatory treatment is also known as, for example, compulsory treatment or forced treatment.
Methadone (MTD)	A long-acting synthetic opioid medication that is effective in treating pain and opioid addiction. Methadone is the most commonly prescribed opioid substitution drug.
Naloxone	Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effect of opioids. It is a 'competitive antagonist' which means that it competes with opioids for the receptors and then blocks them temporarily. When administered by intramuscular this only takes a few minutes, although several doses may be required depending on the person's response and the opioid involved.
Needle exchange programs (NEP)	Needle exchange programs (NEP) are programs which aim to reduce transmission of viral infections among intravenous drug user. Injecting drug users can replace used needles and syringes for sterile and used equipment is properly disposed of and destroyed. During the exchange program users receive psychosocial assistance. NEPs don't result in increased drug use among participants.
Needle distribution program	These programs aim to reduce the multiple using of needles and reduce transmission of viral and blood-borne infections among injecting drug users.
Needle-sharing	Multiple use of needles and needle-sharing which puts the user at high risk for getting and transmission of viral infections like hepatitis C and HIV.

Term	Definition
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)	Generally (although not exclusively) this term is used to describe recently emerging synthetically produced drugs used for nonmedical or scientific purposes, not subject to control under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Drugs 1971 (although some countries may act unilaterally and regulate or prohibit certain NPS under domestic legislation). NPS are intended to copy the effects of illegal drugs.
Opiate	Opiates are drugs derived from opium. They may produce addiction and excessive use can cause potentially death and overdose. Less severe consequences can be nausea and constipation.
Opioid	Drugs that bind to opioid receptors in the nervous system or gastrointestinal tract and produce pharmacological effects including pain relief, sedation, constipation and respiratory depression. Opioids include opiates (drugs that contain chemical compounds directly from the opium poppy), semi-synthetic opioids (drugs synthetically derived from chemical compounds found in the opium poppy) and other fully synthetic drugs designed to have similar chemical properties and pain relieving effects as opiates. Examples of opioids include heroin, oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone, codeine, methadone, morphine and fentanyl.
Opioid substitution therapy	This type of therapy supplies illicit drug user with a replacement drug. It usually takes place under the supervision in a clinical setting. Opioid substitution therapy often includes prescribed medicines such as methadone, buprenorphine or soboxone.
Overdose	An accidental or intentional use of any drug in an amount that produces acute adverse physical or mental reactions - transient or lasting - or death. The lethal dose of a particular drug varies with the individual and with circumstances.
PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)	PrEP is the use of an antiretroviral drug to block the acquisition of HIV infection by uninfected people. It keeps HIV negative people from becoming infected. PrEP has been shown to be safe and effective. A single pill taken once daily, it is highly effective against HIV when taken every day. The medication interferes with HIV's ability to copy itself in your body after you've been exposed.
Prevention (Substance use prevention)	Drug prevention traditionally has referred to a range of activities, from regulation to education, with the aim of controlling the supply of drugs and reducing of the demand for them. Drug prevention aims to prevent initial use, delay onset of use, promote cessation of use and reduce harms resulting from use.
Problem drug use	The EMCDDA operationally defines problem drug use as "injecting drug use or long-duration/regular use of opioids, cocaine and/or amphetamines". Most cohort studies on drug users are conducted among problem drug users and in particular among problem opioid users. The problem drug use EMCDDA key indicator was recently revised and now focuses on a slightly broader concept, high-risk drug use.
Prohibition	The establishment of criminal sanctions for the production, distribution and possession of certain drugs (for other than medical or scientific uses). This term is used in reference to the international drug control regime as defined by the UN conventions and treaties of 1961, 1971 and 1988, as well as domestic legislation (sanctions varying widely).
Psychoactive plant	A term that refers to plants containing mild stimulants, often having been used in indigenous cultural settings, such as coca, khat, ephedra and kratom. The term is used to point to the distinction between mild, naturally occurring stimulants such as coca, used traditionally across the Andean region, and powerful alkaloid extracts and pharmaceutically produced substances (cocaine, crack, amphetamine and methamphetamine), the uses of which have much greater associated harms.

Term	Definition
Psychoactive substance	Any substance that when taken directly alters the mood or functioning of the brain. Legal psychoactive substances include alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and prescription medicine. Illegal psychoactive substances are drugs like heroin, cocaine, crystal meth, etc.
Public health approach	This approach focuses on health promotion and prevention of disease, injury, disability, inequality and premature mortality. It also incorporates individual and societal health protection measures through protecting and promoting physical environments and social policy frameworks that maximize individual and community benefits and minimize harms. A public health approach operates within a framework of guiding principles, broad goals and specific objectives and strategies. This approach recognizes that people use substances for anticipated beneficial effects and is attentive to the potential harms of the substances and the unintended effects of control policies. A public health approach seeks to ensure that harms associated with control interventions are not out of proportion to the benefit to harm ratios of the substances themselves.
Receptor	A molecule on the cell or within the cell that binds to a specific factor, such as a drug, antigen or hormone.
Recidivism	The term refers to the tendency to repeat an offence and/or to keep on returning to prison. There is a growing awareness that recidivism is often a result of the focus of law enforcement (i.e. on socially and economically disadvantaged areas where previously convicted people live) and/or of drug dependence (which can compel an individual to break drug laws).
Recreational drug use	Use of a drug, usually an illicit drug, in sociable or relaxing circumstances, by implication without dependence or other problems. The term is disfavoured by those seeking to define all illicit drug use as a problem.
Regulation	The set of legally enforceable rules that govern the market for a drug, involving application of different controls depending on drug risks and needs of local environments. Includes regulation of production (licensed producers), products (price, potency and packaging), availability (licensed vendors, location of outlets, age controls) and marketing (advertising and branding). Legal definition: Regulation describes the way in which government authorities intervene in the market to control a particular legal or legalised drug product (its price, potency, packaging etc.), as well the various aspects of its production, transit, availability, marketing and use. There is no single regulation model - there are a range of regulatory tools that can be deployed in a variety of ways depending on the product and location.
Rehabilitation	The process by which an individual with a substance use disorder achieves an optimal state of health, psychological functioning and social well-being. Rehabilitation follows the initial phase of treatment (which may involve detoxification and medical and psychiatric treatment). It encompasses a variety of approaches including group therapy, specific behaviour therapies to prevent relapse, involvement with a mutual-help group, residence in a therapeutic community or half-way house, vocational training and work experience. There is an expectation of social reintegration into the wider community.
Relapse	In addiction, relapse is the resumption of drug use after trying to stop taking drugs. It is a common occurrence in many chronic disorders, including addiction that requires behavioural adjustments to treat effectively.
Remission	Medical definition: The period during which the signs and symptoms of a chronic disease or addiction diminish or disappear. Legal definition: Remission is a government decision to allow a person who has been convicted of a crime to be released. It is typically used to remove a criminal record against a good citizen for a small crime.

Term	Definition
Risk factors and protective factors	According the World Health Organisation determinants can be positive or negative and they are often referred to as protective or risk factors. Risk factors can increase a person's chance for negative or socially undesirable outcomes (such as the tendency to violence, drug use, increase the chance of obtaining various kinds of diseases, etc.) Protective factors enhance the likelihood of positive outcomes and lessen the likelihood of negative consequences from exposure to risk. During childhood risk can be changed or prevented with school, family and community interventions.
Selective prevention	Selective prevention strategies target subsets of the total population that are deemed to be at risk for substance abuse by virtue of their membership to a particular population segment, for example young offenders, school drop-outs, or students who are failing academically. Risk groups may be identified on the basis of social, demographic or environmental risk factors known to be associated with substance abuse, and targeted subgroups may be defined by age, gender, family history, place of residence such as deprived neighbourhoods or those with high drug-use or trafficking.
Social Determinants of Health	The social and economic conditions that have an impact on the health of individuals, communities and jurisdictions as a whole and establish the extent to which a person can cope with challenges in life. The Public Health Agency of Canada names the following as determinants: income, social status, social support networks, education/literacy, employment, working conditions, social environments, housing, physical environments, personal health practices, healthy child development, biology, genetics, health services, gender and culture.
Stigmatization	A process by which people are labelled as different, the difference is linked to negative stereotypes, the labelled people are placed into distinct categories to separate "us" from "them" and the labelled people experience disapproval, rejection, status loss, exclusion and discrimination. The term "stigma" is often used in place of stigmatization.
Stimulants	A class of drugs that elevates mood, increases feelings of well-being and increases energy and alertness. Some stimulants produce euphoria, such as for example cocaine and methamphetamine. Another group of stimulants such as methylphenidate or mix of amphetamine salts are often prescribed to treat Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), such as for example Adderall®, Ritalin®, Concerta®.
Substance use disorder	Substance use disorders generally involve behaviour patterns in which people continue to use a substance despite having problems caused by its use. Substance use disorders can develop whether or not a drug is legal, is socially acceptable, or has an accepted medical use (with or without a prescription). People usually progress from experimentation to occasional use and then to heavy use and sometimes to a substance use disorder.
Substitution treatment	Treatment of drug dependence by prescription of a substitute drug (agonists and antagonists) for which cross-dependence and cross-tolerance exists, with the goal to reduce or eliminate the use of a particular substance, especially if it is illegal, or to reduce harm from a particular method of administration, the attendant dangers for health (e.g. from needle sharing) and the social consequences.
Supply reduction	Supply reduction has many faces and requires a societal, political and economic response. It means any activity or program conducted by state authorities that is intended to reduce the availability or use of illegal drugs.

Term	Definition
Synthetic cannabinoids	Synthetic cannabinoids are sold as "legal" and "safe" replacements for cannabis and may be advertised as "exotic incense blends" and "not for human consumption", in order to circumvent consumer protection and medicine laws. They may affect the brain much more powerful than marijuana and their actual effects can be life-threatening.
Synthetic cathinones	Synthetic cathinones also known as "bath salts" are typically sold as cheap and "legal" replacements for stimulants such as amphetamine, MDMA and cocaine.
Therapeutic community	A structured environment in which individuals with psychoactive substance use disorders live in order to achieve rehabilitation. Such communities are often specifically designed for drug-dependent people; they operate under strict rules, are run mainly by people who have recovered from a dependence and are often geographically isolated. Therapeutic communities are characterized by a combination of "reality testing" (through confrontation of the individual's drug problem) and support for recovery from staff and peers. They are usually closely aligned with mutual-help groups such as Narcotics Anonymous.
Tiered prevention	A prevention approach that gradually progresses from general to more specialised interventions. For example, a tiered drug prevention programme may start with a universal prevention intervention (e.g. drug education in the classroom). During this intervention, individuals with an above-average risk of (harmful) drug use may be identified and referred on to take part in an indicated prevention intervention (e.g. specialised after-school activity).
Tolerance	Reduced response of an organism and increased capacity to support the effects of a substance after a more or less lengthy period of use. Tolerance levels are extremely variable between substances. Tolerance to cannabis is believed to be lower than for most other drugs, including tobacco and alcohol.
Tranquillizer	Medications that slow brain activity. That makes them useful for reducing sleep problems or anxiety. Benzodiazepines, barbiturates and other types of central nervous system depressants are examples for tranquilizers.
Treatment centre	Any agency that provides treatment to people with drug problems. Treatment centres can be based within structures that are medical or non-medical, governmental or non-governmental, public or private, specialised or non-specialised. They include inpatient detoxification units, outpatient clinics, drug substitution programmes (maintenance or shorter-term), therapeutic communities, counselling and advice centres, street agencies, crisis centres, drug-treatment programmes in prisons and special services for drug users within general health or social-care facilities.
Treatment demand indicator (TDI)	The treatment demand indicator (TDI) is one of five key epidemiological indicators providing objective, reliable and comparable information at a European level concerning drugs, drug addiction and their consequences.
Universal prevention	In the context of drug prevention, activities that are targeted at groups with an overall average risk of drug use (adapted from Springer and Phillips, 2007). Often, such interventions will address the entire population within a setting (e.g. school, community, society). Universal prevention typically aims to prevent or delay the onset of drug use. Individuals or groups with an above-average risk of drug use are not singled out.
War on drugs	War on drugs is a series of actions tending toward a prohibition of illegal drug trade. Goal is to end the import, manufacture, sale and use of illegal drugs.

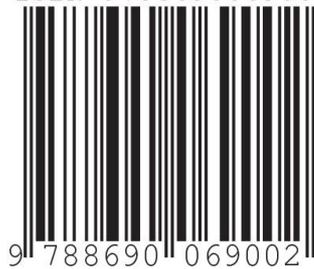**International organisations working on drug policy**

Institutions	Definition
CND Commission of narcotic drugs	The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It is the central policy-making body within the UN system for dealing with all drug-related matters. The Commission analyses the world drug abuse situation and develops proposals to strengthen international drug control.
EHRA Eurasian Harm Reduction Association	The Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) is a regional network with a mission to promote humane, evidence-based harm reduction approaches to drug use. It aims to improve health and protect human rights at the individual, community, and societal levels. EHRA's geographical focus consists of six sub-regions: the Baltics, Central Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Caucasus and Central Asia.
EMCDDA European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction	The European Monitoring Centre was created in 1993 to provide member states within the EU objective, reliable and comparable information on drugs, drug addictions and their consequences. Statistical information, documents and techniques developed in the EMCDDA are designed to give a broad perspective on drug issues in Europe. The Centre only deals with information. It relies on national focal points in each of the Member States.
IDPC International Drug Policy Consortium	The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of civil society organisations that come together to promote objective and open debate on drug policy issues. Its vision is that national and international drug policies are grounded in the principles of human rights and security, social inclusion, public health, development and civil society engagement.
INCB International Narcotics Control Board	The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions. It was established in 1968 in accordance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. INCB has 13 members, each elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of five years.
NA Narcotics Anonymous	Narcotics Anonymous is a global, community-based organization founded in 1953 with a multi-lingual and multicultural membership. It offers recovery from the effects of addiction through working a twelve-step program, including regular attendance at group meetings. Today, NA members hold nearly 67,000 meetings weekly in 139 countries. Membership is free, and NA have no affiliation with any outside organizations including governments, religions, law enforcement groups, or medical and psychiatric associations.
Pompidou Group	Pompidou Group is an inter-governmental body formed in 1971 at the initiative of the late French President Georges Pompidou within the Council of Europe to contribute to the development of multidisciplinary, innovative, effective and evidence-based drug policies in its Member States. The Pompidou Group is made up of 37 Member States and Mexico as an Observer State. Its technical cooperation also involves other European states which are not members of the Pompidou Group, such as Albania, Latvia and Ukraine and states from the Mediterranean Basin such as Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon.
Reitox European information network on drugs and drug addiction	Reitox is the European information network on drugs and drug addiction. The abbreviation 'Reitox' stands for the French 'Réseau Européen ďInformation sur les Drogues et les Toxicomanies'. Members of the Reitox network are designated national institutions or agencies responsible for data collection and reporting on drugs and drug addiction. These institutions are called 'national focal points' or 'national drug observatories'.

Institutions	Definition
TAIEX	TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission. TAIEX supports public administrations with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices.
UN drug conventions	International treaties concerned with the control of production and distribution of psychoactive drugs. The first treaty dealing with controlled substances was the Hague Convention of 1912: its provisions and those of succeeding agreements were consolidated in the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (amended by a 1972 protocol). To this have been added the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
UNDCP United Nations Drug Control Program	Established in 1991, the Program works to educate the world about the dangers of drug abuse. The Program aims to strengthen international action against drug production, trafficking and drug-related crime through alternative development projects, crop monitoring and anti-money laundering programs. UNDCP also provides accurate statistics through the Global Assessment Programme (GAP) and helps to draft legislation and train judicial officials as part of its Legal Assistance Programme. UNDCP is part of the UN Office for Drug Control and the Prevention of Crime.
UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UNODC is a United Nations agency mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC carries out a broad range of initiatives, including alternative development projects, illicit crop monitoring and anti-money laundering programmes.
WHO World Health Organization	World Health Organization was founded in 1948 and main headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Now they have offices in more than 150 countries.

Abbreviations

ADAD	Adolescent drug abuse diagnosis
ADAPT	Adolescent drug abuse and prevention treatment
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
CCM	Country coordinating mechanism (for Global Fund supported projects)
DCR	Drug consumption room
DEFY	Drug education for youth
EBP	Evidence-based practices
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
EWS	Early Warning System
GHAP	Global HIV/AIDS program
HAT	Heroin-assisted treatment
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HCV	Hepatitis C
HIA	Health impact assessment
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HTC	HIV testing and counselling
IDU	Injection (injecting) drug use
MAT	Medically assisted therapy
MSM	Men who have sex with men
MTD	Methadone
NAS	Neonatal abstinence syndrome
NEP	Needle exchange programs
NPS	New psychoactive substances
NSP	Needle-syringe programs
OST	Opioid substitution therapy
PLHIV	People living with HIV
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PWID	People who inject drugs
SEP	Syringe exchange programs
SSP	Syringe services programs
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
STD	Sexually transmitted disease
SUD	Substance use disorder

Notes

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