



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction



## FINAL PROGRAMME

# GENDER AND DRUGS

State of play, challenges and future perspectives

**LX Addiction conference: Side event**

<https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2022/side-events>

**22 November 2022**  
**Lisbon Congress Centre**

## **Background**

A gender perspective has rarely been applied in the analysis of the drug situation, interventions and policies, representing the drug phenomenon mainly as gender-neutral, despite the large gender differences in numbers, risk factors, behaviours, consequences of drug use and requested interventions. When gender has been taken into account in the drugs field, it has been from a binary perspective and with a focus placed on some women-specific issues (e.g. pregnancy and child care), without consideration of the diversity between and within genders.

This symposium is the first major event organised at European level on the topic of gender and drugs. Its aim is to shed light on the drug phenomenon from a gender perspective, by discussing recent developments in the current gender theories and their relation with drugs; findings from drug research and monitoring; key factors influencing gender pathways in drug use and addiction; recent developments in gender-sensitive related interventions. In the final session representatives of different stakeholders in the drugs field will discuss why and how to incorporate a gender perspective in the implementation of drug policies.

This event is the result of the work of the European group on Gender and Drugs (EGD), set up in preparation of LX Addiction conference 2019. The group is coordinated by the EMCDDA and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, together with UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality) and several drug experts from different countries.

Due of time constraints it is not possible to include many of the diverse aspects of the gender and drugs topic; this will be the subject of future discussions and opportunities.

## **Objective of the symposium**

- to discuss implications of the recent debate on gender for the drugs field;
- to present an overview of gender differences in the drugs field;
- to discuss key issues surrounding gender and drugs;
- to exchange knowledge on gender-sensitive interventions in the drugs field;
- to discuss possible approaches to incorporate a gender perspective in drug policy;
- to facilitate exchanges among experts around gender and drugs;
- to promote a systematic inclusion of a gender perspective in the drugs field.

## **Structure**

The event is organised in five plenary sessions. Each session will start with a general presentation – not drug-related – which will be followed by presentations focusing on drugs and gender in the areas of gender theories, drug epidemiology, gender-based violence and drug-related interventions. A final dialogue on how to incorporate a gender perspective in drug policy will take place with representatives of different stakeholders: policymakers, practitioners, users' organisations and scientists.

## **Practical information**

The event will be held in person at Lisbon Congress Centre (Praça das Indústrias, 1300-307 Lisboa) on 22 November 2022 from 9.00 to 17.30- Room 5B. No online sessions are planned at the moment. In the evening there will be a social event and an exhibition on women's recovery pathways will be shown during the event. All presentations will be recorded and made available on the EMCDDA and PG-COE websites after the event.

## GENDER AND DRUGS SYMPOSIUM

9.00-9.30 Arrival of participants

### SESSION 1 - PLENARY (Room 5B) GENDER AND DRUGS: CONCEPTUAL ISSUES I

*Chair: Linda Montanari, EMCDDA, Alessandra Liquori, UNICRI and Florence Mabileau PG-CoE*

9.30-10.30 Welcome and introduction - Jane Mounteney, Head of Public Health Unit, EMCDDA and Denis Huber, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, Executive Secretary

Key concepts for the implementation of a gender perspective - Anália Torres, Portugal

Sex and gender differences from a neuroscience perspective: what about drugs? - Gina Rippon, United Kingdom

Sex and gender differences in drug use and drug addiction from a social perspective - Nuria Romo, Spain

*Rapporteur: Kristín I. Pálsdóttir, Iceland*

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

### SESSION 2 - PLENARY (Room 5B) GENDER AND DRUGS: CONCEPTUAL ISSUES II

*Chair: Liesbeth Vandam, EMCDDA and Marta Torrens, Spain*

11.00-12.00 History of gender and drugs: how gender has impacted on drug use behaviours across time, countries and generations - Cristiana Vale Pires, Portugal

Transformations of sexology and substance use in sex and gender diverse people - Kane Race, Australia

Using an intersectional lens to examine substance use experiences and outcomes - Alex Collins, United States

*Rapporteur: Marica Ferri, EMCDDA*

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

13.00-14.30 **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE** (Room 5B)  
*Chairs: Paolo Stocco, Italy and Ana Trudov, PG-CoE*

Istanbul convention and women who use drugs - Simona Lanzoni, Group of independent Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

EU Gender-based violence - Ligia Nobrega, EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality)

Gender-based violence and women who use drugs: results from Interleave project - Laia Plaza Hernández, Interleave, Spain

A rapid review of the international literature and a national estimate of the prevalence of women who use substances and experience domestic violence in Ireland. 2022 - Catherine Comiskey, Ireland

Making gender more visible in research and policy on drugs and violence - David Moore, Australia

*Rapporteur: Ligia Parodi, European Network of People who Use Drugs (EURONPUD)*

**DRUG EPIDEMIOLOGY AND GENDER: OLD AND NEW METHODS** (Room 1.08)  
*Chairs: Sharon Arpa, Malta and Rachel Christie, EMCDDA*

Epidemiology of gender: including a gender perspective in data, statistics and information – the EIGE view - Ligia Nobrega, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Epidemiology of gender and drugs in Europe: current and future perspectives - João Matias, EMCDDA

Trends in drug poisoning deaths among women in Ireland - Ena Lynn, Ireland

Gender in the criminal justice system: paths and regional findings - Tania Gordillo, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Organization of American States (OAS)

*Rapporteur: Isabelle Giraudon, EMCDDA*

**SESSION 3 - PLENARY (Room 5B)**  
**DRUG-RELATED INTERVENTIONS IN A GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

*Chairs: Ricardo Furtos, Portugal and Franca Beccaria, Italy*

14.30-15.30	Gender mainstreaming in health interventions - Evelyn Boy-Mena, WHO (World Health Organisation) Addressing trauma and gender-based violence in drug treatment - Sarah Morton, Ireland Drug prevention and gender - Carine Mutatayi, France Drug treatment for girls and women: findings from a systematic literature review - Anja Busse, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
15.30-16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00-16.30	Children whose parents use drugs. Promising practices - Corina Giacomello, Mexico and Suzi Lyons, Ireland Gender issues in drug treatment access - Marie Jauffret-Roustide, France and Karine Bertrand, Canada <i>Rapporteur: Gabriele Fischer, Austria</i>

**SESSION 5 – PANEL DISCUSSION (PLENARY) (Room 5B)**  
**TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE GENDER STRATEGY IN DRUG POLICY IN EUROPE.**

***DISCUSSION WITH A POLICYMAKER, A USERS’ REPRESENTATIVE, A PRACTITIONER AND A SCIENTIST***

*Facilitator: Brendan Hughes, EMCDDA*

16.30-17.30	Incorporating a gender perspective in policy and practice. Short introduction - Florence Mabileau, PG-CoE We discuss how to incorporate a gender perspective in drug policy with: David Lorentzon, Sweden Judy Chang, International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) Meni Mallori, Greece Tomi Lintonen, Finland <i>Rapporteur: Danilo Ballotta, EMCDDA</i>
17.30	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b> European Group on Gender and Drugs
21.30	<i>Social event</i>

9.00-17.30	<b>‘Recovery Pathways’</b> A photo exhibition on women’s recovery will be displayed during the event
<i>During lunch break: 12.00-13.00</i>	<i>Two practical demonstrations:</i> <i>‘Trauma-sensitive yoga as complementary support in addiction treatment’</i> <i>Julie Schamp and Ann Vrancken</i> AND <i>“Mindfulness for Recovery- finding balance in a hectic world”</i> Anita Bajzát