



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Drug use in prison: assessment report

Reviewing tools for monitoring illicit drug use in prison
populations in Europe

Luis Royuela, Linda Montanari, Miriam Rosa, Julian Vicente

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1. Introduction

Drug use in prisons and its related consequences are issues of considerable political concern. It is possible to draw a general picture of the situation in Europe based on data available at the European level, but there are significant limitations in the data and wide gaps in its availability, particularly when assessing the wider European picture and comparing individual countries.

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is required to collect information at the European level on drugs, drug addiction and their consequences, including the issue of drugs in prisons. As a first step in addressing gaps in the data on drug use in prisons, the EMCDDA gathered more than 40 questionnaires on drug use among prisoners that are currently being used in European prisons. This paper assesses the quality of the information collected by the surveys, exploring commonalities and differences between countries. The assessment will be used to create a standardised European questionnaire on prison drug use and related consequences that can be used in all European countries.

1.1 Prisons and drug use

According to the latest available data on the prison population, on 1 September 2010 there were an estimated 635 000 prison inmates in EU Member States. Most prisoners are from poor communities and vulnerable social groups, with the proportion who are immigrants or from minority ethnic backgrounds on the increase.

Drug users form a large part of the overall prison population. Studies show that a majority of prisoners have used illicit drugs at some point in their life, and many have chronic and problematic drug use patterns. Because of the illegality of the drugs market and the high cost of drug use, which is often funded by criminal activity, the more problematic forms of drug use are accompanied by an increased risk of imprisonment. Although some individuals do stop or reduce their use of drugs when they are sent to prison, others initiate drug use or engage in more damaging behaviours when they are incarcerated. In addition to high levels of drug problems, prisoners also experience poorer health than the general population, with higher prevalence of blood-borne infections such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV), as well as high rates of mental illness. Reported rates of self-harm and suicide among prisoners are particularly high compared with the general population of the same age. Overcrowding and poor hygiene may further aggravate the stress, social and health problems experienced by prisoners. For opioid users, the risk of dying from drug overdose greatly increases in the period after release from prison, due to high rates of relapse and lower opioid tolerance (Aebi and Delgrande, 2011; EMCDDA, 2012; WHO, 2007).

In 2012 the EMCDDA published a special report, *Selected issue 2012: Prisons and drugs in Europe — the problems and responses* (EMCDDA, 2012), based primarily on data provided by the Reitox network of national focal points, ⁽¹⁾ through either yearly routine reporting or a special data collection. It provides an overview of the most recent available data on drug use and responses in European prisons. The data include both qualitative information on drug use in prisons and quantitative data on prevalence and patterns of drug use among prisoners. However, there are methodological limitations — the data are scarce and there is no common methodology for monitoring drug use in prison. The EMCDDA is therefore working towards increased harmonisation.

1.2 The institutional mandate and the work carried out at the EMCDDA

A requirement to monitor the issue of drug use, related problems and responses in prisons is specified in the priorities of European institutions. The EMCDDA in particular is required, as a primary objective, to collect factual, objective, reliable and comparable information at the European level on drugs, drug addiction and their consequences; this includes the issue of drugs in prisons. The data collection work carried out at the EMCDDA on drugs and prisons has focused on drug use prevalence and patterns of drug use before and during prison, health problems related to drug use among the prison population and interventions targeting drug users in prison. Specific instruments for data collection and reporting from the national focal points to the EMCDDA have been developed, including standard tables and national reports.

Since the mid-1990s the EMCDDA has worked with external consultants on this topic on several projects, mainly focusing on methodological aspects of data collection in prisons and interventions targeting drug users in prison. Several outputs have been produced, including the 2012 *Selected issue*. From the outset, the EMCDDA has also worked in close collaboration with international partners on the issue of drugs and prisons, and in particular with the World Health Organization (WHO) Office for Europe's Health in Prisons Programme (HIPP), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The EMCDDA also contributes regularly to EU-funded projects in the field of drugs and prison.

The EMCDDA's task of collecting information on drugs and prisons is reinforced by the mandate of the European Commission. The EU action plan 2009–12 (objective 9) states that Member States should provide access to health care for drug users in prison, to prevent and reduce health-related harms associated with drug use, and identifies two specific actions to support this

⁽¹⁾ Reitox is the European information network on drugs and drug addiction created at the same time as the EMCDDA. The abbreviation 'Reitox' stands for the French 'Réseau Européen d'Information 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'.

objective: Actions 21 and 22. Action 22 indicates that Member States must endorse and implement in prison settings indicators to monitor drug use, drug-related health problems and drug services delivery on the basis of a methodological framework developed by the Commission — with the support of the EMCDDA — that is compatible with existing methodologies, and taking into account the work done by UNODC (in the area of HIV/AIDS and treatment) and by WHO (in relation to health in prisons).

The EMCDDA, together with national experts and international organisations, has therefore written a document that defines the methodological framework for collecting data on drugs and prisons in European countries. This was presented during a meeting of the Horizontal Drug Group of the Council of the European Union (Council of the European Union, 5420/1/13-CORDROGUE 7 –SAN 19) in February 2013. That document sets the basis for the development of common instruments for data collection on drugs and prisons in the EU Member States.

1.3 The methodological framework

The need to define a common methodological framework has been driven by the necessity to have a clear and harmonised picture of the situation so that the availability and effectiveness of interventions targeting drug users in European prisons can be analysed, and trends can be followed over time.

A common and harmonised approach at European level is needed:

- to identify the extent and nature of the drug problem affecting the prison population in *all* European countries, with no exceptions;
- to quantify and describe the characteristics of European prisoners, and their health and social needs in relation to drug use;
- because currently available information on drugs and prison in Europe is fragmented, incomplete and mostly not comparable across countries.

In the methodological framework the following five areas of information are identified: background information on prison populations; drug use among the prison population; health problems among drug users in prison; service provision for drug users in prison; and drug-related adverse effects after prison release.

Some information already exists and can be obtained through existing tools from the EMCDDA or other international organisations (Council of Europe, WHO, UNODC). Other information needs to be collected through new tools harmonised at the European level, based on national tools adapted and harmonised in a European data collection instrument. In particular, two tools have been identified: a common EU questionnaire on drugs use and its related consequences among prisoners; and an EU survey on facilities targeting drug users in prison.

The current report focuses on the first tool, and concludes by defining a common European questionnaire based on the assessment of existing national tools used in European countries.

1.4 The need for a harmonised European questionnaire

At the European level the information on drugs and prisons is lacking. In fact, information at the national level is rare, and does not cover all relevant aspects of the issue. Also, the information collected at the national level does not cover all prisons, is not collected regularly, so trends cannot be described, and its comparability at the European level is low.

The information is often based on differing methodologies (e.g. routine data collection, ad hoc studies, surveys, etc.); study samples may vary considerably in size and are often not representative of the whole prison system and prison population; periods of data collection may differ by country and prison. Much of the available data from EU Member States come from ad hoc studies among prisoners carried out at the local level. Furthermore, there is a lack of repeated surveys. All these methodological limitations in data comparability make extrapolation of a national and European overview figure for the prison system and population very difficult, and limit trend analysis in most EU Member States.

Some general principles must be established in order to develop a harmonised European tool:

- Existing data sources at national, European and international levels must be reviewed.
- When data collection tools are defined, both the data collection at the national level and reporting to the EMCDDA should be considered.
- The data collection instrument should focus on a minimum dataset, including only the most important items to describe drug use, health problems and service needs among prisoners in Europe.
- The questionnaire should be accompanied by methodological guidelines.

Some priority areas have been identified as a minimum common basis to be covered by the data collection:

- information on drug use prevalence (before/inside prison, initiation/continuation);
- patterns of drug use (frequency, route of administration, risk behaviour);
- infectious diseases;
- demographic data;
- service use;
- needs inside prison.

On the basis of these areas and of the assessment of national tools, a proposal for a common European questionnaire is presented as the conclusion of the current report.

2. Mapping and assessment of national questionnaires on drug use and related questionnaires in prison

2.1 Objectives and method of the project

Over the last decade, several studies on drug use among the prison population in Europe have been conducted, and in many countries routine monitoring systems are in place. The purpose of this study is to develop a European Questionnaire on Drug use among Prisoners (EQDP), based on the assessment of existing national data collection tools.

In summer 2012 a request was sent to national focal points (NFPs) for them to send in existing surveys/questionnaires used at the national level for collecting data on drug use among prisoners. All countries provided the questionnaire and related documents in their national language. Most non-English speaking countries also provided a translation in English. A few countries only provided a non-English questionnaire, and in these cases the key areas were translated into English by this project. The exercise was voluntary and the countries were keen to participate, sending in more than 40 questionnaires. When a particular survey was mentioned in a country's national report, it was specifically requested. Guidelines and codebooks were also collected.

Four questionnaires used by non-EU countries or international organisations were collected as external reference: South Asia Knowledge, Attitude and Practice in Prison Populations (SAKAPiPP); the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) used to survey drug use among the prison population; *Toolkit for HIV Situation and Needs Assessment in Prisons*; and the Australian National Prison Entrants' Bloodborne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey.

All questionnaires were entered into an Excel database and, based on the most complete survey, an assessment template was created. The template was used as a reference point for assessing commonalities and differences between the national questionnaires. The analysis only concerned the areas of drug use, related consequences and service needs among prisoners in European countries. The wording of each question was assessed according to criteria identified in the methodological framework and during a literature analysis.

The following analytical categories were identified:

a. Socio-demographic information

(gender, age, citizenship, ethnicity, level of education, job situation before prison, marital status, accommodation, cohabitation/living with whom, parental status)

b. Legal status

(prisoner's status, type of offence, length of current prison sentence, time served/remaining, how many times in prison, contact with criminal justice system, age at first arrest, probations, past imprisonments)

c. Substance use

(drug use before prison/lifetime, drug use in prison, type of drug, frequency of drug use, amount of drug use, route of administration, injecting behaviour, overdose, drug-related crimes, likelihood of consumption after release, tobacco)

d. Risk behaviour

(sharing injecting equipment, tattooing/piercing, sexual intercourse without condom, sharing shaving material, disinfecting, other risk behaviours)

e. Sexual behaviour

(consensual/not consensual, other sexual behaviours)

f. Prison

(type of prison, custodial interventions, prison conditions, prison staff, prisoner occupation, others)

g. Health status

(health care, health status: physical health, mental health)

h. Infectious disease tests

(HIV test, HIV result, hepatitis B test, hepatitis B result, hepatitis C test, hepatitis C result, hepatitis vaccine, other infectious disease tests)

i. Drug treatment

(need for treatment, previous treatments, treatment in prison, modality of treatment, treated by whom/where, length of treatment, number of times treated, type of drug use treated, other drug treatment, source of referral)

l. Support

(family or friends' support)

m. Others

2.2 The country questionnaires

A total of 45 questionnaires or registration forms were sent to the EMCDDA, plus other related documents, such as guidelines or codebooks. All NFPs except one (Turkey) replied to the request. Overall, 23 NFPs submitted questionnaires and/or other documents (see Table 1). Six countries (Germany, Malta, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and Norway) did not submit any documents, for a variety of reasons — either because a single national questionnaire did not exist, or because the questionnaires were unavailable, or for other reasons. The questionnaires that were received mainly targeted prisoners, with prison staff also targeted to a minor extent. The questionnaires are available on the EMCDDA website at <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/prison> (see Table 1).

Table 1. Questionnaires and related documents provided by NFPs (Reitox NFPs, 2013)

Country	Status	Type
Belgium	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Bulgaria	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Czech Republic	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Denmark	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners) Registration form for treatment clinics (not prison, not translated) Registration form Refusing schedule form
Germany	Not available	
Estonia	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Ireland	Provided in English	Questionnaire (prison staff)
Greece	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners) Questionnaire (therapy)
Spain	Translated into English (short version) Full version in Spanish	Questionnaire (prisoners) Guidelines for interviewer
France	Translated into English and French version	Questionnaire (prisoners, PREVACAR) Questionnaire (prison services)

		Questionnaire (prisons, infectious diseases PRI2DE)
Italy	Translated into English	Data reporting form for detention institutions Questionnaire on drugs (prisoners, adult) Questionnaire on alcohol (prisoners, adult) Questionnaire on drugs (prisoners, juvenile) Questionnaire on alcohol (prisoners, juvenile) Several questionnaires depending on type of institution for minors
Cyprus	Translated into English	Data reporting form for detention institutions
Latvia	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Lithuania	Translated into English	Questionnaire (therapy)
Luxembourg	Translated into English	Questionnaire (therapy)
Hungary	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Malta	None exist	
Netherlands	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Austria	None exist	
Poland	Not available	
Portugal	Translated into English	Questionnaire 2001 (prisoners) Questionnaire 2001 (prison staff and Director) Questionnaire 2007 (prisoners) Questionnaire 2007 (prison staff and Director)
Romania	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Slovenia	None exist	
Slovakia	Translated into English	Drug testing data collection form
Finland	Translated into English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Sweden	Translated into English	Questionnaire (drugs) Questionnaire (alcohol)
United Kingdom	Provided in English	England and Wales questionnaire (prisoners) — reception

		<p>England and Wales questionnaire (prisoners) – pre-release</p> <p>England data reporting form</p> <p>Scotland questionnaire (prisoners)</p> <p>England questionnaire about mandatory drug test in prison (prison staff and prisoners)</p> <p>England and Wales questionnaire (prisoners) – ethnicity, nationality, religion, age and disability</p>
Croatia	Translated into English	Data reporting form for detention institutions
Norway	Not available	
Questionnaires and related documents from other countries and international organisations		
UNODC – South Asia	Provided in English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
CICAD	Provided in English	Questionnaire (prisoners)
Australia	Provided in English	Questionnaire (prisoners)

3. The assessment results

The questionnaires provided information on several areas of the prisoners' life and referred to two time windows: before entering prison, and inside prison. The areas of information overlapped with those identified in the methodological framework: socio-demographic information, health status, drug use and related health problems, risk behaviours (drug-related or not), and infectious diseases. Some questionnaires also covered other issues, such as work status and living status, relationships with other inmates, etc.

The following is an analysis of the different aspects and information areas that the questionnaires provided, addressing the commonality and difference between questionnaires.

3.1 Methodology of the questionnaires (Table 2)

Methodological aspects include the aim of the survey, the year of data collection, the institution responsible for data collection and management, the target population, sampling, the length/duration of the questionnaires, method of data collection, the level of participation, the language used and ethical issues.

Aim

The main aim of most studies was related to public health, and encompassed prisoners' health, drug use and related health problems, risk behaviours and infectious diseases.

Year

The questionnaires were quite recent, with 13 conducted after 2009.

Responsible institution

The institution responsible for conducting the study or the data collection was mainly the prison and probation service or the ministry of health. In a few cases the surveys were led by universities. The United Kingdom's survey was carried out by the Home Office.

Target population

Nearly all of the questionnaires targeted the prison population, either on remand or convicted. The prisons themselves were the target of the data collection in two cases (Italy and Cyprus). In France the questionnaire targeted both prisoners and prisons. Some targeted prison staff in addition to prisoners (Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom), or the prison director (Portugal).

Sampling

Around half of the questionnaires were applied using random samples of prisoners; in the case of Romania, a probabilistic, stratified and multistage sampling was used.

Length/duration

Information on the average duration of the interview was only available for three countries; in those countries the time for conducting the interview was around 60 minutes. For the remaining countries, most questionnaires were quite concise, except for the United Kingdom, where the questionnaire was quite long and conducted in two waves (at reception and on release). The duration of the interview usually varied according to the type of drug consumption of the respondents and their previous offending. Drug users with a longer history of drug use and offending could spend more time in the interview. Another factor that could prolong the duration of the interview was the prisoners' illiteracy, which obliged the interviewers to read out show-cards. The studies covering several areas of information were longer.

Method of data collection

Surveys were carried out using different methods. Some were self-administered; after filling in the questionnaires the prisoner put the survey in an envelope and sent it to the researchers. Others were face-to-face interviews carried out by trained interviewers. The United Kingdom used a face-to-face computer-assisted personal interview in two waves, at reception and pre-release. This method has the advantage of incorporating consistency checks.

Participation

Participation in the studies was voluntary in most cases; however, sometimes questionnaires were mandatory when used as a routine monitoring system (Bulgaria and Sweden) or when the target of data collection was the prison institution (Italy and Cyprus). The data coverage of prisons varied between countries, with France reporting the highest coverage and Cyprus the lowest.

Language

All countries provided the questionnaire and related documents in their national language. Most non-English speaking countries also provided a translation in English. A few countries only provided a non-English questionnaire, and in these cases the key areas were translated into English by this project.

Ethical issues

The rationale of the study was explained and information on this aspect matched in all questionnaires. Anonymity was guaranteed in most cases.

Table 2 lists the questionnaires according to the methodological information.

3.2 The content analysis: areas of information (Table 3)

The information covered by the questionnaires was assessed, focusing only on drug-related information, even if several questionnaires covered other non drug-related areas.

Furthermore, since the common questionnaire will only gather epidemiological information, the assessment only focused on a small number of questions identified in the priority areas defined in the methodological framework (see paragraph 2.1).

A short description for each of the areas is provided below.

Number of questions

The number of questions included in the surveys varied between countries, from 10 to more than 100.

Subject areas

The subject areas covered ranged from a few to many, including health, crime-related questions, drug use, alcohol and tobacco use, interventions, behaviours and infectious diseases, among others. Most questionnaires also covered wider drug-related issues.

Drug use before or inside prison

Questions related to drug use before entering prison or inside prison were found in all questionnaires. However, not all of them included questions related to all legal or illegal drugs. Only six countries were interested in prisoners' tobacco use (Estonia, Spain, Latvia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom). More than ten countries (particularly the Nordic countries) asked about alcohol consumption. A key issue found in most surveys was related to the consumption of non-prescribed medicines (benzodiazepines, hypnotics, antiparkinsonian, etc.), including methadone and buprenorphine. The use of heroin, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamine, the four main illegal drugs leading to drug-related problems in Europe, was investigated in the majority of questionnaires. Questions regarding other drugs, such as inhalants, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, were found in many of the surveys.

Patterns of drug use

The questionnaires asked about lifetime prevalence, last year (last 12 months) and last month (last 30 days) prevalence for the different drugs. Six countries also included questions about the age of first use (Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom). Only a third of the countries asked about the frequency of drug use and eight countries asked about the main route of drug administration. Most countries asked about drug injection but less than a third included questions related to the user's age when they first injected.

Risk behaviours

About a third of the countries included questions regarding risk behaviours, either related to drug use, or to sexual behaviours and other risks behaviours (e.g. tattooing, piercing, sharing of razors and/or other personal hygiene equipment, such as a toothbrush).

Infectious diseases

Questions related to HIV and HCV prevalence, tests and results were found in more than a third of the questionnaires. About one-third of the questionnaires included questions on HBV tests, results and vaccination. Few countries asked prisoners about TB infection and treatment.

Table 3. Type of questionnaires, target population and drug use related questions for EU Member States, Turkey and Norway

	Belgium	Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Denmark	Germany	Estonia	Ireland	Greece	Spain	France	Italy	Cyprus	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Hungary	Malta	Netherlands	Austria	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovenia	Slovakia	Finland	Sweden	United Kingdom	Croatia	Turkey	Norway	Number of questionnaires/data collection forms	
Type of instruments																																
health									√	√																						0
drug use	√	√	√				√		√				√									√				√		√				0
intervention								√			√																	√				0
behaviours																												√				0
infectious diseases							√	√			√					√																0
Template																																
Target population																																
prisoners	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√			√			√		√				√	√			√	√	√	√		17	
staff							√															√					√				3	
prisons							√	√		√	√	√																	√		6	
prison directors																						√									1	
others																															0	
Methodology																																
sample	√		√				√		√							√						√	√			√		√			9	
all prisoners		√								√				√																	3	
prison entry																												√			1	
clinical assessment																															0	
administrative control								√																							1	
periodical survey												√	√															√			3	
Focus on drugs and prison																																
drug use prevalence	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√					√		√				√	√			√		√			18	
health status	√	√							√	√				√									√			√		√			6	
socio-demographic info	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√								√					√				√		√		12	
treatment	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√									√	√			√		√	√		17	
others	√																										√	√			4	
Drug use prevalence/patterns																																
type of drug - breakdown	√	√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√											√	√			√	√				14	
time span: Lifetime Prevalence	√			√					√	√	√												√	√		√					11	
time span: Last Year Prevalence			√						√	√	√												√	√		√					8	
time span: Last Month Prevalence			√	√					√	√	√												√	√		√					8	
age of first use of drug			√	√			√		√	√	√												√	√		√					6	
injection of drugs	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√					√		√				√	√		√	√	√	√	√		16	
frequency of drug use	√	√	√	√					√	√	√												√	√		√	√	√	√		10	
route of administration of drugs	√			√					√	√	√												√	√		√	√	√	√		8	
age of first injecting use of drug						√			√	√	√							√				√	√		√	√	√	√			6	
Drugs																																
tobacco						√			√				√												√	√	√					6
alcohol	√		√	√		√			√	√	√												√	√		√	√	√			12	
heroin	√	√	√	√				√	√	√	√					√		√				√	√		√	√	√	√			17	
cannabis	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√												√	√		√	√	√			18	
cocaine	√	√	√	√				√	√	√	√							√				√	√		√	√	√	√			18	
amphetamines	√	√	√	√				√	√	√	√							√				√	√		√	√	√	√			17	
methamphetamines		√	√	√					√	√	√															√	√	√	√		3	
inhalants			√	√		√			√	√	√														√	√	√	√	√		12	
unprescribed medicines		√	√	√					√	√	√													√	√	√	√	√			12	
unprescribed methadone/subutex	√	√	√	√					√	√	√					√								√	√	√	√	√			11	
ecstasy	√	√	√	√		√			√	√	√												√	√		√	√	√	√		15	
LSD	√	√	√	√					√	√	√													√	√	√	√	√			12	
magic mushrooms	√	√	√	√					√	√	√														√	√	√	√			7	
others	√					√		√	√	√	√							√				√	√		√	√	√	√			14	
Risk behaviours																																
Related to drugs	√		√			√			√				√					√				√					√				9	
Related to sexual behaviours	√					√			√									√													5	
Related to other	√					√			√									√													5	
Infectious diseases																																
HIV	√		√			√	√		√	√								√				√	√		√	√					12	
HCV	√		√			√	√		√	√						√						√	√		√	√					12	
HBV	√		√			√			√	√								√				√	√		√	√					9	
TB						√			√	√													√	√		√	√				5	

3.3 The main questions

Following the analysis of the broad content areas covered by the questionnaires, some key questions were analysed. The clarity of the wording used, the presence of polar questions, the existing biases and the number and type of drugs investigated were assessed.

3.3.1 Lifetime drug use (Table 4)

Twelve countries' surveys included questions related to prisoners' drug use before entering prison. In all cases the wording was clear, included all the necessary information and was adapted to prisoners' reading skills, taking into account the particular purpose of the question. However, none of the countries used the same wording for these questions. The sentences varied from very short phrases such as 'Tried [drug] ever' (Denmark) to several questions, such as 'Have you ever in your life, inside or outside prison, used other drugs than alcohol (all illegal drugs, also marihuana and hashish)?' (Belgium), and 'Which drugs have you ever used in your life?' (Belgium).

Clarity of wording

Due to the impact of language barriers and the translation to English conducted either by the country itself or at the EMCDDA, all questions varied between countries in the number and type of words used. However, in seven countries the questions started or ended with the same wording: 'Have you ever...'. When questions referred to 'lifetime prevalence' of drug use, different expressions were used, such as 'have you ever', 'ever', 'in your life' or 'during the life'.

Polar questions

Most surveys included polar questions (where the expected answer is either 'yes' or 'no'). The order of the answers ('yes' or 'no') differed, with two countries presenting 'no' as the first option, and six putting 'yes' first. In a few cases the answers defined the categories for the frequency of drug consumption. For example, in Bulgaria possible answers to the question 'Have you ever used [drug] in lifetime?' were: 'Never', 'At least once', 'At least 10 times in the last month or at least 30 times in the last year'.

Biases

In all countries the response categories were clear and mutually exclusive; no biases were identified in the questions. However, in a few cases the questions covered several issues (use and frequency) in only one question.

Number and types of drugs

The list of drugs in some cases was quite extensive, varying from four to 15 drugs, from a few substances in France (heroin, cocaine, crack, free-base, other) to a full list of different substances in Belgium and Spain. All questionnaires included heroin, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines. Questions related to ecstasy use were included in half of the questionnaires.

A fake drug was used by two questionnaires, to filter out people who said they had tried every drug and to ensure the validity of the prisoners' answers.

Table 4. Questions regarding lifetime drug use

Before entering prison	Questions	Answers	Drugs
Belgium	- Have you ever in your life, inside or outside prison, used other drugs than alcohol (all illegal drugs, also marihuana and hashish)? - Which drugs have you ever used in your life?	- no - yes	Heroin; cocaine, crack; speed, amphetamines; ecstasy; GHB (liquid XTC); LSD or mushroom; methadone or Subutex; black market; hashish, marihuana; sleeping pills or sedatives of the black market; Valium, Lexotan, ("Roche"); ketamine; self-prepared mixtures; other (fill in).
Bulgaria	Have you ever used DRUGS in lifetime?	- Never - at least once - at least 10 times in the last month or at least 30 times in the last year	Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, ganja); cocaine (including crack); heroin; ecstasy; others (morphine, codeine, lido, methadone subtitol, methamphetamine, LSD, hallucinogenic mushrooms, adhesives, bronze, etc.)..
Czech Republic	Please circle whether you have before entering prison take one of the listed substances.	- During last months - during last year - during the life - never	Alcohol; marijuana / hashish; ecstasy; methamphetamine / amphetamine; LSD; magic mushrooms; heroin; subutex / suboxone without a prescription; methadone without a prescription; Relevin; volatile compounds (toluene, solvents, adhesives, etc.); depressant drugs without a prescription such as Diazepam, Neuro, Rohypnol, Lexaurin, Codeine, Tramal and other drugs: which(....).
Denmark	Tried [drug] ever	- yes - no	Alcohol; hashish, all forms of cannabis; amphetamines; Cocaine; ecstasy = MDMA, etc; LSD; magic mushrooms; benzodiazepines (all preparations) (illegally); heroin, opium, and all forms, "Pakistani-pills" etc.; morphine / Ketogan / Contalgin (illegal); Temgesic (= Subutex = buprenorphine = anorfin) (illegal); methadone (illegal); Solvents /lighter fluid; other drugs (write).
Germany	:	:	:
Estonia	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:
Greece	:	:	:
Spain	Did you use [drug] any time in your life?	- yes - no	Alcohol; non prescribed tranquilizers (benzodiazepines: Trankimizin, Rohypnol, diazepam, Valium, Tranxilium, Orfidal, Halcion or barbiturates; cannabis (hashish, marijuana, joint, oil, weed), heroin (without any other drug), non prescribed methadone (street methadone), non prescribed opiates (other than heroin and methadone) morphine, codeine, Contugesic, opium, buprenorphine, pentazocine, Buprex, Deprancol, pethidine); cocaine base (without heroin); cocaine powder (without heroin), heroin+cocaine (mix in the same dose), amphetamines (speed, methamphetamine, ice, Dexedrine, Centramine); ecstasy (MDMA, MDA); hallucinogens (LSD, acid, peyote, mescaline, magic mushrooms); inhalants (poppers, nitrates, solvents, gasoline, glues).
France	Before entering the prison was the patient taking the following [drug]?	- yes - no	Heroin; cocaine; crack, free-base; other.
Italy	:	:	:
Cyprus	:	:	:
Latvia	Before entering the prison have you ever tried [drug]?	- yes - no	Alcohol (beer, alcoholic cocktails, wine, cider, vodka and other spirits); marijuana or hashish, "grass"; ecstasy; amphetamines; cocaine; heroin; opiates; analgesic and sedating drugs without a prescription.
Lithuania	:	:	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:
Hungary	Have you ever used drugs? - If you have used, which drugs have you used?	Yes, for the last time before imprisonment.	Heroin (hernyó, herka, barna, nyalsci); methadone; cocaine (kokó, kocsz, kóla); amphetamines (speed, spuri, gyors, amfet, ice); ecstasy (labda, laszli, bogyó, gömb, tabi, X, ex, XTC); cannabis (spangli, fű, csoki, kender, zöld, haska, joint, ázszó); LSD (bélyeg, korong, tripp, papír); other (namely).
Malta	:	:	:
Netherlands	:	:	:
Austria	:	:	:
Poland	:	:	:
Portugal	What is your situation regarding drug consumption?	- I have never in my life consumed any drugs - I have consumed drugs	Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, weed); medicines (pills), cocaine (coca), heroin (hero, horse), amphetamines (LSD, acids), ecstasy (tablets, speeds), other substances (e.g. glue, solvents).
Romania	Have you ever used one or more of the substances mentioned on the card (mark the appropriate code)?	- yes - no	Heroin, cocaine, LSD, cannabis (marijuana), hashish, ecstasy, amphetamines, relevin, Methadone, other type of drug, please specify.
Slovenia	:	:	:
Slovakia	:	:	:
Finland	:	:	:
Sweden	Have you ever tried preparation?	- no - yes	Methadone, Subutex, other opiates / analgesics, hypnotic and sedatives (BZD, Sed, Hypn.), cocaine, amphetamine, cannabis, hallucinogens, ecstasy, solvents, other
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	Before entering custody, had you ever used any of these drugs?	- yes - no	Amphetamines (also known as speed, whizz, upper, Billy); cannabis (also known as marijuana, grass, hash, ganja, blow, draw, skunk, weed, spliff); crack cocaine (also known as rock, stones, white); cocaine (also known as Charlie, C); ecstasy (also known as E, pills); heroin (also known as smack, skag, H, Brown, horse); LSD (also known as tabs, trips) or magic mushrooms; unprescribed methadone; unprescribed tranquilizers (also known as diazepam, temazepam, 'downers', 'jellies', 'termazies', 'tranks'); None of these; Don't know; Not stated/refused.
Croatia	:	:	:
Turkey	:	:	:
Norway	:	:	:

3.3.2 Drug use inside prison (Table 5)

The following countries included questions related to prisoners' drug use inside prison: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom (England and Wales). The wording was unambiguous. The questions included all the necessary information and were tailored to prisoners' reading skills.

Clarity of wording

All questions differed between countries in the number of words and phrasing used. However, in seven countries the questions started with or included the same clause: 'Have you ever'. The questions varied between countries regarding the wording; for example, for 'lifetime prevalence' different expressions were used: 'have you ever' (the most frequent), 'ever', 'in your life' or 'during the life'. None of the questionnaires used the same phrases. The sentences varied from very short questions like 'What did you use mostly in this year?' (the Netherlands), to a combination of several questions like: 'Have you ever in your life, inside or outside prison, used other drugs than alcohol (all illegal drugs, also marihuana and hashish)?' and 'Which drugs have you ever used in your life?' (Belgium) (see Table 5).

Polar questions

Eight questionnaires included polar questions. The order of the answers ('yes' or 'no') differed, with three countries presenting 'no' as the first option, and five putting 'yes' first.

Biases

In all countries the response categories were clear and mutually exclusive, and no bias was detected.

Number and type of drugs

The list of drugs in some cases was very extensive. It could vary from 0 to 15 drugs. Lithuania only referred to 'psychoactive substances' without specifying any particular drug; other countries, such as Belgium and Spain, included a complete list of substances. All countries included heroin, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamines. Questions related to ecstasy were included in at least one-third of the surveys. Three countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Spain) included methamphetamine, and three countries (France, Spain and the United Kingdom) referred to crack use. Only three member states asked about alcohol use (the Czech Republic, Spain and Latvia). Questions about the use of non-prescribed medicines and methadone were included by less than one-third of the countries.

A fake drug was used by two questionnaires, to filter out people who said they had tried every drug and to ensure the validity of the prisoners' answers.

Table 5. Questions regarding drug use in prison

Inside prison	Questions	Answers	Drugs
Belgium	Have you ever in your life, inside or outside prison, used other drugs than alcohol (all illegal drugs, also marihuana and hashish)?	- no - yes	Heroin; cocaine, crack; speed, amphetamines; ecstasy; GHB (liquid XTC); LSD or mushroom; methadone or Subutex; black market; hashish, marihuana; sleeping pills or sedatives of the black market; Valium, Lexotan, ("Roche"); ketamine; self-prepared mixtures;
Bulgaria	Have you ever used DRUGS in lifetime?	- Never - at least once - at least 10 times in the last month or at least 30 times in the last year	Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, ganja); cocaine (including crack); heroin; ecstasy; others (morphine, codeine, lido, methadone subtitol, methamphetamine, LSD, hallucinogenic mushrooms, adhesives, bronze, etc.),..
Czech Republic	Have you ever taken some of these substances in prison.	- no - yes	Alcohol; marijuana / hashish; ecstasy; methamphetamine / amphetamine; LSD, Magic mushrooms; heroin; Subutex / Suboxone without a prescription; methadone without a prescription; Relevin; volatile compounds (toluene, solvents, adhesives etc.); depressant drugs without a prescription such as: Diazepam, NeuroI, Rohypnol, Lexaurin, Codeine, Tramal; Other drugs, which:.
Denmark	:	:	:
Germany	:	:	:
Estonia	Have you ever used drugs in prison (including hemp products)? Think of all the times spent in prison.	- yes - no	:
Ireland	:	:	:
Greece	:	:	:
Spain	In the last 30 days in prison did you use [drug] ?	- yes - no	Alcohol; non prescribed tranquilizers (benzodiazepines: Trankimazin, Rohypnol, diazepam, Valium, Tranxilium, Orfidal, Halcion or barbiturates; cannabis (hashish, marijuana, joint, oil, weed), heroin (without any other drug), non prescribed methadone (street methadone), non prescribed opiates (other than heroin and methadone) morphine, codeine, Contugesic, opium, buprenorphine, pentazocine, Buprex, Deprancol, pethidine); cocaine base (without heroin); cocaine powder (without heroin), heroin+cocaine (mix in the same dose), amphetamines (speed, methamphetamine, ice, Dexedrine, Centramine); ecstasy (MDMA, MDA); hallucinogens (LSD, acid, peyote, mescaline, magic mushrooms); inhalants (poppers, nitrates, solvents, gasoline, glues).
France	:	:	:
Italy	:	:	:
Cyprus	:	:	:
Latvia	Did you in prison time ever tried [drug]?	- yes - no	Alcohol (beer, alcoholic cocktails, wine, cider, vodka and other spirits); marijuana and hashish, "grass"; ecstasy; amphetamines; cocaine; heroin; opiates; analgesic and sedating drugs without a prescription.
Lithuania	The primary psychoactive substance due to which the person applied to the health care institution	:	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:
Hungary	:	:	:
Malta	:	:	:
Netherlands	What did you use mostly in this year?	:	Heroin, cocaine, other opiates (morphine, opium, etc), amphetamines (speed), anabolic steroids, Other drug; namely.
Austria	:	:	:
Poland	:	:	:
Portugal	What is the situation that most resembles your case?	- Never consumed - Consumed before prison but stopped consuming before prison - Consumed before prison but stopped consuming in prison - Consumed before prison and continued or consumed again in prison - Consumed for the first time in prison	Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, weed); medicines (pills), cocaine (coca), heroin (hero, horse), amphetamines (LSD, acids), ecstasy (tablets, speeds), other substances (e.g. glue, solvents).
Romania	Have you ever consumed [drug] while in current detention?	- yes - no	Heroin, cocaine, LSD, cannabis (marijuana), hashish, ecstasy, amphetamines, relevin, Methadone, other type of drug, please specify.
Slovenia	:	:	:
Slovakia	:	:	:
Finland	:	:	:
Sweden	How many of the last 30 days have you used [drug]? Did you use it on a physician prescription? Have you followed this prescription?	- no - yes	Methadone, Subutex, other opiates / analgesics, hypnotic and sedatives (BZD, Sed, Hypn.), cocaine, amphetamine, cannabis, hallucinogens, ecstasy, solvents, other
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	Have you used any of these [drugs] while you have been in prison for your current sentence?	- yes - no	Amphetamines (also known as speed, whizz, upper, Billy); cannabis (also know as marijuana, grass, hash, ganja, blow, draw, skunk, weed, spliff); crack cocaine (also known as rock, stones, white); cocaine (also known as Charlie, C); ecstasy (also known as E, pills); heroin (also known as smack, skag, H, Brown, horse); LSD (also known as tabs, trips) or magic mushrooms; unprescribed methadone; unprescribed tranquilizers (also known as diazepam, temazepam, 'downers', 'jellies', 'temmazies', 'tranks'); None of these; Don't know; Not stated/refused.
Croatia	:	:	:
Turkey	:	:	:
Norway	:	:	:

3.3.3 Frequency of drug use before entering prison/while in prison (Table 6)

The frequency of drug use represents an important item of information on drug use patterns. The standard method for data collection is based on the ranking of frequencies. Ten countries included questions regarding the prisoners' frequency of drug use. Three (Latvia, Sweden and the United Kingdom) included several questions referring to the frequency of drug use for a specific reference period (usually the last month).

Clarity of wording

In all cases the wording was unambiguous and included all the necessary terms to be clear and understandable. The questions were adapted to prisoners' educational ability. The wording differed in every country, including expressions like 'frequency of intake', 'how frequent', 'how often' and 'how many'.

Biases

In all countries the response categories — ranking of frequencies — were clear and mutually exclusive, and no bias was detected. However, the way in which frequency was defined differed between countries. Frequency of drug use progressed from 'never' to 'occasional (monthly) use', 'one time a month', 'less than one day a week', 'once weekly or less'; and to more frequent drug use: weekly might be 'four to six days a week' or 'four times a week or more' and daily was also expressed as 'every day'. Some countries used 'times' to express the frequency (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, and Latvia), others used 'days' (Spain and the United Kingdom), and others mixed the two measures. Sweden used the two formulations 'times' and 'days'. The Netherlands only asked which is the most frequently used drug in the year; Portugal asked about the situation that best described the prisoners' frequency of drug use. Some of the categories used were not accurate and were rather ambiguous (e.g. 'Repeatedly during last months before onset'). Nine countries used close-ended answers, while two (Sweden and the United Kingdom) used open-ended questions. Only two countries included the options 'don't know' and 'no answer' or 'not stated/refused'.

Number and type of drugs

The list of drugs for which the frequency of use was asked about was in some cases very extensive. The number could vary from a few to 15 drugs. Spain included the longest list of different substances. Of the ten countries that asked about the number and type of drugs used, nine asked about the frequency of use of heroin, cocaine, cannabis products, amphetamine and ecstasy; only three countries asked about the frequency of use of methamphetamine (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Spain), crack (cocaine base) (Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom) or alcohol (Denmark, Spain and the Czech Republic). Some countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Latvia and the United

Kingdom) included the frequency of use of non-prescribed medicines (benzodiazepines, hypnotic, antiparkinsonian, methadone and buprenorphine).

Table 6. Frequency of drug use before entering/while in prison

	Questions	Answers	Drugs
Belgium	Have you during your current stay in prison; use any drugs (no alcohol but all illegal drugs, also marihuana and hashish) that were available on the black (illegal) market in the prison?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never - Ever, but not the past year (last 12 months) - 1 time per month or less - Multiple times per month - 1 time per week - Multiple times per week - Daily 	Heroin; cocaine, crack; speed, amphetamines; ecstasy; GHB (liquid XTC); LSD or mushroom; methadone or Subutex; black market; hashish, marihuana; sleeping pills or sedatives of the black market; Valium, Lexotan, ("Roche"); ketamine; self-prepared mixtures;
Bulgaria	Have you ever used DRUGS in lifetime?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never - at least once - at least 10 times in the last month or at least 30 times in the last year 	Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, ganja); cocaine (including crack); heroin; ecstasy; others (morphine, codeine, lido, methadone subtitol, methamphetamine, LSD, hallucinogenic mushrooms, adhesives, bronze, etc.)..
Czech Republic	Please circle whether you have before entering prison taken one of the listed substances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repeatedly during last months before onset - 1-2 times during last months before onset - During last year before onset - During the lifetime before onset - Never 	Alcohol; marijuana / hashish; ecstasy; methamphetamine / amphetamine; LSD, Magic mushrooms; heroin; Subutex / Suboxone without a prescription; methadone without a prescription; Relewin; volatile compounds (toluene, solvents, adhesives etc.); depressant dr
Denmark	Frequency of intake [drug] last month before insertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once weekly or less - 2-6 times per week - Daily 	Alcohol; hashish, all forms of cannabis; amphetamines; cocaine; ecstasy = MDMA, etc; LSD; magic mushrooms; benzodiazepines (all preparations) (illegally); heroin, opium, and all forms, "Pakistani-pills" etc.; morphine / Ketogan / Contalgin (illegal); Temgesic (= Subutex = buprenorphine = anorfin) (illegal); methadone (illegal); Solvents /lighter fluid; other drugs (write).
Germany	:	:	:
Estonia	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:
Greece	:	:	:
Spain	How frequent was your use of [drug] in the 30 days before this last imprisonment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less than one day a week - 1-3 days a week - 4-6 days a week - Every day - No answer - Don't know 	Alcohol; non prescribed tranquilizers (benzodiazepines: Trankimazin, Rohypnol, diazepam, Valium, Tranxilium, Orfidal, Halcion or barbiturates; cannabis (hashish, marijuana, joint, oil, weed), heroin (without any other drug), non prescribed methadone (street methadone), non prescribed opiates (other than heroin and methadone) morphine, codeine, Contugesic, opium, buprenorphine, pentazocine, Buprex, Deprancol, pethidine); cocaine base (without heroin); cocaine powder (without heroin), heroin+cocaine (mix in the same dose), amphetamines (speed, methamphetamine, ice, Dexedrine, Centramine); ecstasy (MDMA, MDA); hallucinogens (LSD, acid, peyote, mescaline, magic mushrooms); inhalants (poppers, nitrates, solvents, gasoline, glues).
France	:	:	:
Italy	:	:	:
Cyprus	:	:	:
Latvia	How often you used [drug] in the last month prior to imprisonment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I use several times a day - Daily - 4-6 times a week - 2-3 times a week - At least once a week - Less than once a week 	Marijuana or hashish, "grass"; ecstasy; amphetamines; cocaine; heroin; opiates; analgesic and sedating drugs without a prescription.
Lithuania	:	:	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:
Hungary	:	:	:
Malta	:	:	:
Netherlands	What did you use mostly in this year?	:	Heroin, cocaine, other opiates (morphine, opium, etc), amphetamines (speed), anabolic steroids, Other drug; namely.
Austria	:	:	:
Poland	:	:	:
Portugal	What is the situation that most resembles your case?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never consumed - Consumed before prison but stopped consuming before prison - Consumed before prison but stopped consuming in prison - Consumed before prison and continued or consumed again in prison - Consumed for the first time in prison 	Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, weed); medicines (pills), cocaine (coca), heroin (hero, horse), amphetamines (LSD, acids), ecstasy (tablets, speeds), other substances (e.g. glue, solvents).
Romania	:	:	:
Slovenia	:	:	:
Slovakia	:	:	:
Finland	:	:	:
Sweden	How often do you use [drug] other than alcohol?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never - 1 time a month or less - 2-4 times month - 2-3 times week - 4 times / week or more 	
	How many of the last 30 days have you used [drug]? Did you use it on a physician prescription? Have you followed this prescription?	- Number of days: ___	Methadone, Subutex, other opiates / analgesics, hypnotic and sedatives (BZD, Sed, Hypn.), cocaine, amphetamine, cannabis, hallucinogens, ecstasy, solvents, other
	How many years have you used [drugs] three days or more per week? How many of these have you followed the prescription?	- Number of years: ___	
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	On how many days did you use cannabis in the four weeks before you came into custody?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of days ... - don't know - not stated/refuse 	Amphetamines (also known as speed, whizz, upper, Billy); cannabis (also known as marijuana, grass, hash, ganja, blow, draw, skunk, weed, spliff); crack cocaine (also known as rock, stones, white); cocaine (also known as Charlie, C); ecstasy (also known as E, pills); heroin (also known as smack, skag, H, Brown, horse); LSD (also known as tabs, trips) or magic mushrooms; unprescribed methadone; unprescribed tranquilizers (also known as diazepam, temazepam, 'downers', 'jellies', 'temmazies', 'tranks'); None of these; Don't know; Not stated/refused.
	On how many days have you used <DRUG> in the last four weeks?		
Croatia	:	:	:
Turkey	:	:	:
Norway	:	:	:

3.3.4 Initiation of drug use inside prison

There is considerable political concern about prisoners who take drugs for the first time whilst in prison. Five countries included questions on drug initiation inside prisons in their surveys.

Clarity of wording

None of the wording used in the questions matched. Phrases used included 'first time was in prison', 'first have tried drugs were you in prison', 'consumed for the first time in prison', 'first use in prison' or 'was the first time you ever used heroin in prison'.

Number and type of drugs

Four countries (Belgium, Estonia, Portugal, Spain) included questions about the most common drugs used for the first time in prison: cannabis, heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and ecstasy. Belgium, Portugal and Spain asked about a range of different drugs: Spain included a question about drinking alcohol for the first time in prison; Belgium and Spain also included non-prescribed methadone and other medicines; and Portugal asked about medicines. The United Kingdom only asked the prisoners whether the first time they ever used heroin was in prison.

3.3.5 Route of administration/injecting drugs before entering or while in prison (Table 7)

Twelve countries included questions regarding the main method of drug administration, or drug injection.

Clarity of wording

None of the wording used in the questions matched. Phrases used included 'typical mode of administration', 'methods of consumption', 'frequent route for drug intake' or 'which route of administration'. Six countries asked whether the respondent injected drugs. Different words were used to refer to the route of drug administration, and no harmonisation was found. Polar questions were used for injecting behaviours. Some countries asked about other routes of administration, which could be specified by the respondent.

Number and type of drugs

Seven countries included a list of drugs and asked respondents to indicate how they took them. Cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, cannabis and amphetamine were the most commonly mentioned drugs in this context.

Table 7. Route of administration/injecting drugs before entering or while in prison

	Questions	Answers	Drugs
Belgium	How do you use heroin in prison (more than one answer is possible)?	- Injecting - Inhaling - Other (fill in).....	Heroin
	Have you ever injected drugs (intravenous)?	- yes - no	
Bulgaria	Have you ever used in lifetime a NARCOTIC INJECTION?	- Never - Some time ago - Currently	:
Czech Republic	Have you ever injected any drug?	- no - yes	:
	Have you ever injected any drug in prison?		
Denmark	Typical mode of administration last month before insertion	- Injection - Smoking - Sniffing - Eat/drink substance	Hashish, all forms of cannabis; amphetamines; cocaine; ecstasy = MDMA, etc; LSD; magic mushrooms; benzodiazepines (all preparations) (illegally); heroin, opium, and all forms, "Pakistani-pills" etc.; morphine / Ketogan / Contalgin (illegal); Temgesic (= Subutex = buprenorphine = anorfin) (illegal); methadone (illegal); Solvents /lighter fluid; other drugs (write).
Germany	:	:	:
Estonia	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:
Greece	:	:	:
Spain	By which route did you use [drug] more frequently in the 30 days before this last imprisonment?	- Smoke on aluminum foil, pipe, vase, bottle - Smoke by cigarette - Injected - Sniffed through the nose - Oral (through the mouth)	Alcohol; non prescribed tranquilizers (benzodiazepines: Trankimazin, Rohypnol, diazepam, Valium, Tranxilium, Orfidal, Halcion or barbiturates; cannabis (hashish, marijuana, joint, oil, weed), heroin (without any other drug), non prescribed methadone (street methadone), non prescribed opiates (other than heroin and methadone) morphine, codeine, Contugesic, opium, buprenorphine, pentazocine, Buprex, Deprancol, pethidine); cocaine base (without heroin); cocaine powder (without heroin), heroin+cocaine (mix in the same dose), amphetamines (speed, methamphetamine, ice, Dexedrine, Centramine); ecstasy (MDMA, MDA); hallucinogens (LSD, acid, peyote, mescaline, magic mushrooms); inhalants (poppers, nitrates, solvents, gasoline, glues).
	By which route did you use [drug] more frequently in the last 30 days?	- Another - No answer - Don't know	
France	Before entering prison, did the patient use drugs by intravenous route in lifetime?	- yes - no	:
Italy	:	:	:
Cyprus	:	:	:
Latvia	How did you use [drug] before entering prison?	- Snorted - Injected (duroties) - In tablets - Other (which?)	Ecstasy; amphetamines; cocaine; heroin; opiates; analgesic and sedating drugs without a prescription.
	How you used [drug] during detention?		
Lithuania	:	:	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:
Hungary	:	:	:
Malta	:	:	:
Netherlands	Have you ever injected drugs or steroids?	- No - Yes, drugs - Yes, steroids	:
	Have you ever injected drugs or steroids in detention?		
	Have you ever injected drugs or steroids during this detention?	- No - Yes, indicate what you have injected.....	
Austria	:	:	:
Poland	:	:	:
Portugal	Methods of consumption before this reclusion?	- Smoking - Snorting/Inhaling - Injecting - Ingesting	Cannabis (marijuana, hashish, weed); medicines (pills), cocaine (coca), heroin (hero, horse), amphetamines (LSD, acids), ecstasy (tablets, speeds), other substances (e.g. glue, solvents).
	Which route of administration did you use to consume drugs?	- Oral; Oral ingestion of the drug by mouth (tablets / pills) - Parenteral or injectable (intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous or intradermal) - Intra-nasal snuff (powder suction through the nose) - Smoking (suction gas, vapour) - Inhalation (trailing) - Other (specify) - did not consume - NR	
Romania	- for regular consumption - for occasional consumption		Heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, ethnobotanical, other type of drug
Slovenia	:	:	:
Slovakia	:	:	:
Finland	:	:	:
Sweden	Which was the most frequent route for [drug] intake?	- Oral - Nasal - Smoking - Non intravenous injection - Intravenous injection	Methadone, Subutex, other opiates / analgesics, hypnotic and sedatives (BZD, Sed, Hyprn.), cocaine, amphetamine, cannabis, hallucinogens, ecstasy, solvents, other
	Have you ever injected?	- no - yes	
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	How did you normally take [drug]?	- Swallow - Snort/sniff - Smoke/chase - Inject - Not stated/refused	Amphetamines (also known as speed, whizz, upper, Billy); cannabis (also known as marijuana, grass, hash, ganja, blow, draw, skunk, weed, spliff); crack cocaine (also known as rock, stones, white); cocaine (also known as Charlie, C); ecstasy (also known as E, pills); heroin (also known as smack, skag, H, Brown, horse); LSD (also known as tabs, trips) or magic mushrooms; unprescribed methadone; unprescribed tranquilizers (also known as diazepam, temazepam, 'downers', 'jellies', 'temmazies', 'tranks'); None of these; Don't know; Not stated/refused.
	Have you injected any drugs while you have been in prison for your current sentence?:	- yes - no	
Croatia	:	:	:
Turkey	:	:	:
Norway	:	:	:

3.3.6 Risk behaviours in drug use (other than injecting) (Table 8)

Ten countries included questions about risk behaviours, referring to different time periods: lifetime, last six months, last two months, last month.

Questions about injecting drugs varied between countries. Most of the countries asked prisoners whether they shared and disinfected or cleaned syringes. Other questions were linked to re-use of syringes, sharing equipment like cookers, cottons and filters, sharing liquids to clean syringes and occasionally about whether users loaded the drug from used syringes or cookers. Only five countries included questions related to tattooing and if the instruments were disinfected before use. Two asked about piercing. One country asked about hygiene habits, namely toothbrush use. Some countries asked questions about sexual practices — five asked about sexual practices in exchange for money to sustain drug use or to purchase drugs; one asked about non-consensual sex.

Clarity of wording

In all cases the wording of the questions was not ambiguous and included all the necessary terms to be clear and understandable.

Table 8. Risk behaviours in drug use (other than injecting)

	Related to drug use	Not related to drug use	Not related to drug use
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you the last time you injected, before your stay in prison, shared your injection equipment (syringe, spoon, filter, water) with anyone? - Have you the last time you injected drugs in prison, disinfected the injection equipment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you been during your current stay in prison tattooed or being tattooed? - Have you during your current stay in prison pierced or got pierced? - Have you during your current stay in prison ever shared a toothbrush or a razor (used together) with another prisoner? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you during your current stay in prison ever received money or goods in return for sexual practices? - Have you during your current stay in prison had sexual relations, but outside the conjugal visits? - If yes, did you use condoms?
Bulgaria	:	:	:
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you ever used needle or syringe, which previously used by someone else? - Have you ever in prison used needle and syringe previously used by someone else? 	:	:
Denmark	:	:	:
Germany	:	:	:
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did you, in the last 12 months in prison, inject with a needle or syringe that had been used by someone else before you? - Did you, in the last 12 months in prison, fill your syringe from another syringe which was used before to inject or to fill others syringes? - Did you, in the last 12 months in prison, use cookers used by someone else before you? - Did you, in the last 12 months in prison, use filters or cottons, which were used by someone else before you? - Did you, in the last 12 months in prison, take a drug solution from a cooker, which somebody before you put a needle in? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you ever in prison get a tattoo done on your own? - Were the instruments cleaned before the last prison tattoo? - Have you ever made in prison holes into the body (eg ear, lip, navel, etc.)? - How were instruments (needles clips, safety pins, etc.) cleaned before the last piercing in prison? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You have in the last 12 months in prison had sexual intercourse with several different people? - How often was a condom used the last 12 months for sexual intercourse? - How often was a condom used the last 12 months in prison in sex with same-sex person?
Ireland	:	:	:
Greece	:	:	:
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When in prison, over the last 30 days did you inject with needles or syringes already used by other inmates? - When in prison, over the last 30 days, before injection, did you clean the needles or syringes already used by other inmates? - Over the last 30 days in prison, did you inject drugs that were dissolved in a syringe already used by another inmate? - Over the last 30 days in prison, did you use spoon, can, recipient to cook/dilute the drug already used by another inmate? - Over the last 30 days in prison, did you use filter or cotton already used by another inmate? - Over the last 30 days in prison, did you use liquid to clean the syringe already used by another inmate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did you have a tattoo done in prison? - Do you know whether or not the needle was disinfected? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the last 12 months, did you have oral or anal sexual intercourse? - Did you use condoms in our sexual intercourses over the last 12 months?
France	:	:	:
Italy	:	:	:
Cyprus	:	:	:
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did you in jail clean the syringe and needle and use it again? - Or in prison, using drugs, you should always use a syringe that you use only your own? - Or in prison time you ever used a syringe and needle, which is used by other prisoners? - How do you clean the syringe and needle? 	:	:
Lithuania	:	:	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Before imprisonment, have you ever shared needles or syringes? - Before imprisonment, have you ever shared other injecting equipments (such as: spoons/filters/cooker/water)? - During this imprisonment have you ever shared needles or syringes? - During this imprisonment have you ever shared other injecting equipments (such as: spoons/filters/cooker/water)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you have tattoos? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When did you have your last sexual intercourse? - At your last sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom on that occasion? - Do you usually use a condom with your casual sex partner?
Malta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you ever lent needles or syringes to other detainees while in/ in this detention? - Did you have any syringes or needles used by other prisoners while in/ in this detention ? 	:	:
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How often do you have in this detention during injection, used materials (eg, spoon, glass, water and cotton balls) borrowed from someone? - Are the used syringes and needles when pre-cleaned? - How are these syringes or needles mainly cleaned? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If an official tattoo artist would be in jail, would you then use it? - If an official piercer would be in jail, would you then use it? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you ever had one of the following sexual acts other than during BZT made within detention? - Have you ever had one of the following sexual acts against your wishes in detention?
Austria	:	:	:
Poland	:	:	:
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the last month, in order to inject, you used more often new/used needles? - Over the last month, did you share needles with another person? - Over the last month, how many times did you use a disinfectant (bleach or another) to clean the needles? 	:	:
Romania	:	:	:
Slovenia	:	:	:
Slovakia	:	:	:
Finland	:	:	:
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you take the last six months, how often have you shared syringe? - How many times did you inject with a needle already used by someone else? 	:	:
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did you share any injecting equipment (spoon, filter, syringe or needle) with anyone else? - Did you use disinfecting tablets to clean injecting equipment? 	:	:
Croatia	:	:	:
Turkey	:	:	:
Norway	:	:	:

3.3.7 Drug overdose

Drug overdoses occur in prison, and most cases involve heroin. Some of these overdoses may be linked to suicides attempts. Despite the relevance of the issue from a public health perspective, there were very few, limited questions about it, perhaps due to the complexity of the topic and the difficulty in collecting information on it . Only two countries, Belgium and the United Kingdom, asked about drug overdoses.

Belgium asked about overdoses during the current period of imprisonment. The United Kingdom included three different questions to explore overdoses. The first question asked about all overdoses — ‘Have you ever overdosed on drugs?’; the second about frequency of overdoses — ‘How many times? Once; two or three time; four or five times; six to nine times; 10 or more times?’ The United Kingdom also asked inmates about their opinion on the distribution of naloxone in prison: ‘In your opinion, could giving out ampoules of naloxone at needle exchanges save lives?’

3.3.8 Psychiatric comorbidity

Mental health disorders are quite prevalent among prison inmates, and the level and severity of these disorders are the subject of several studies. Psychiatric comorbidity is also an important issue in prisons (EMCDDA, 2012).

Six countries included scales or questions to assess psychiatric comorbidity.

Clarity of wording

There was no harmonisation on how this information was collected — the issues, scales, wording of questions and answer categories all differed.

Belgium asked whether prisoners were weary and restless, what their mental condition was in the last month, what their subjective feeling of boredom and their mental state was. Finland included a psychiatric assessment scale about regular use of medication for mental disorders, past mental treatment, and inmates’ perception of their mental health. Latvia included a short assessment scale and questions about the prevalence of some psychiatric disorders and symptoms (e.g. depression, anxiety, aggression, insomnia and suicidal thoughts). Romania asked about lifetime treatment for psychiatric disorders. The Swedish survey included a section on mental health that included two questions on the number of treatments received in mental health centres and one on the lifetime and current (last 30 days) experience of severe depression, experiencing severe anxiety or stress, experiencing difficulties in understanding, remembering or concentrating, experiencing hallucinations, and experiencing difficulty controlling violent behaviours. The United Kingdom (England and Wales) asked about the frequency of visits to GP/family doctor for health or medical problems, including mental health and emotional problems, and whether the respondent had been prescribed medication for mental health and emotional problems, and if so the type and name of medication and

continuation of prescription. Some countries included screening scales for detecting psychosis, anxiety and depression. Questions on this topic in all the questionnaires referred to the last 12 months before entering in prison.

3.3.9 General questions: socio-demographic (Table 9)

Socio-demographic questions featured in all the surveys, asking about gender, birth year and/or age, nationality and/or place of birth, level of education, employment status and living conditions.

All countries except three asked for the respondent's gender. All countries except two asked for their age or birth year. Ten asked about level of education. Nationality was also asked for by seven countries. Six collected data on respondents' employment status prior to entering prison. Some countries asked questions relating to where people lived before entering prison, and who with.

Table 9. Socio-demographic questions in surveys

	Gender	Birth year/ age	Nationality	Highest level of education	Labour status	Living status (where)	Living status (whom)
Belgium	√	√	:	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	:	√	:	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	√	√	√	√	√	:	:
Denmark	√	√	:	:	:	:	:
Germany	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Estonia	√	√	√	√	:	:	:
Ireland	√	√	:	:	:	:	:
Greece	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Spain	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
France	√	√	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia	:	√	√	√	√	√	√
Lithuania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Hungary	√	√	:	:	:	:	:
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	:	√	√	√	:	:	:
Austria	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Portugal	√	√	√	√	:	√	√
Romania	√	√	√	√	:	√	:
Slovenia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovakia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Finland	√	√	:	√	√	:	√
Sweden	√	√	:	√	√	√	√
United Kingdom (Enoland & Wales)	√	√	:	√	√	√	√
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

3.3.10 Type of offences related to drug use (Table 10)

The links between drugs and crime are complex. Studies that have been carried out to collect reliable data on this issue are typically based on prisoners. Several of the surveys that were assessed for this study included questions dealing with the relationship between drugs and crime.

Clarity of wording

There was no uniformity on how data was collected about offences related to illegal drugs. Ten countries asked whether the prisoners had been arrested or imprisoned for offences linked to illegal drugs. The questions attempted to determine whether the offences were committed under the influence of drugs, in order to get money to support drug use or to get drugs, or were related to drug dealing, trafficking, cultivation, production, drug use or possession for use and/or crimes that included an element of drugs among other issues (money laundering, human trafficking, slavery, murder).

Belgium asked about the reason for the last arrest (possession/use of drugs; drug dealing; other reasons; other reason related to drugs). Bulgaria asked about the link between offences and drug abuse. Denmark asked whether the crime was committed under the influence of a drug (cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, heroin, etc.). Finland asked whether a crime had been committed to support drugs directly, and about the possession of drugs.

Some countries asked about the reasons for incarceration. Latvia asked inmates whether they had been convicted for drug-related problems. Portugal asked whether imprisonment was related to drugs, drug trafficking or other crimes to obtain money to support drug consumption, as well as for the related crime: assault, theft, robbery, forgery, swindling, drug trafficking, drug consumption, murder, sexual crimes, armed robbery or another type of crime. Romania attempted to identify whether the offence was a violent crime, and included a question to establish whether the inmate was arrested, and whether the crime was committed, under the influence of any substance, and the type of crime committed.

Some countries asked questions related to their penal code. The Spanish survey categorised crimes according to the Spanish penal code: crimes against property or patrimony (robbery, theft or fraud); crimes against public health (drug plantations, production or trafficking, including precursors); crimes against persons (homicide, murder, abortion, injury); and other type of crimes (abuse, harassment and sexual aggression, road safety crime, possession, trafficking and holding of guns, terrorism). Sweden grouped crimes as: property offences (theft, shoplifting, receiving stolen goods, fraud, etc.); violent crime (robbery, assault, murder, manslaughter, etc.); and other types of crimes (vandalism, illegal possession of weapons, etc.). The United Kingdom included several questions concerning drug-related offences, including selling drugs to anyone including friends, economic-compulsive crimes to support

drug use (to steal money or to obtain drugs for themselves or another person) and the connection between the offence and the drug/alcohol use.

Table 10. Types of crime covered by questions in the surveys

	Direct link- Drug-related	Psychopharmacologic al crimes	Economic- compulsive crimes	Systemic- crimes	Drug possession	Drug trafficking	Other
Belgium					√	√	√
Bulgaria	√						√
Denmark		√					
Spain	√						√
Latvia	√						√
Portugal	√		√		√	√	
Romania		√			√	√	√
Finland			√		√		
Sweden							√
United Kingdom	√	√	√				

4. Concluding remarks

Based on the results of this assessment, a basic module of a core set of questions was defined. The goal was to harmonise the questions that countries had used, in order to collect key data related to drug use and related consequences in a harmonised way.

The assessment did not include all existing instruments available in Europe, but only those provided by the countries. However, the variety of questionnaires provided enabled an exhaustive analysis of different indicators to be carried out. It is likely that additional questionnaires would not significantly affect the overview.

It is important to note that questionnaires submitted by all but two of the countries had been translated into English, and there are limitations related to the translation. In addition, methodological differences between the questionnaires, such as the type of interview (face-to-face, computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), self-administered), could have introduced differences in the wording that are not related to actual content differences. Nevertheless, the wording of the questions was clear enough to be understandable and included all the necessary information.

Some of the questionnaires were very comprehensive and covered many different areas, including areas that are not drug-related.

In general, the questionnaires differed substantially in many methodological and content aspects, but they also presented several similarities and common aspects, as the assessment and the tables of comparison have shown. The questions in the proposed common questionnaire are based on those commonalities and aim to identify a minimum data set of questions that are harmonised at European level.

The final output of the current analysis is the first **draft European questionnaire on drug use among prisoners**, which includes a limited number of core variables to be implemented across countries, either as a stand-alone module on drug use or included in larger prison studies addressing broader issues.

After a preliminary agreement on the questionnaire, the next stage is to develop **implementation guidelines** with methodological specifications and common rules for conducting the survey.

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