



Training Workshop:

Early Warning System (EWS)

Lisbon, November 2017





1. What is the specific problem?

2. What is an EWS?

3. Why is an EWS necessary?



4. How does an EWS work?





1. What is the specific problem?

SITUATION:

Emerging Drugs Phenomenon/NPS







NPS

"substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat" (UNODC, 2014, p.2).

Emerging drugs

"are substances that appear in the drug market at a certain time and are a novelty. They can be previously known or be new drugs, they may have appeared previously or never before, and they are generally not included in the lists of psychotropic or narcotic substances and therefore they are not illegal". (PNSD, s/f, p.17)





Emerging Drugs



change related to drugs which is observed for the first time



"The fact of it being a first observation can be linked to the fact that it is a new phenomenon or that it is a preexisting phenomenon that has not been observed before but that is perceived for the first time". (EMCDDA, 2003, p.22)



Ex: new consumption patterns or new forms of consumption





- One of the most pressing phenomena in the field of drugs nowadays
- Reported since 2009, it is presented as a phenomenon in global expansion, characterised by its dynamism and heterogeneity.
- Group of very varied substances that are produced clandestinely, which seek to emulate or even overcome the effects of classical substances through some variation in their chemical structure. Thus they avoid the normative controls that the traditional substances are subject to.





 Includes different groups of substances according to the chemical structure or the pharmacological effect

 According to the chemical structure, majority group: synthetic cannabinoids (32%)

 According to pharmacological effects, majority group: stimulants (36%)











Problems and Challenges

- Lack of knowledge about its safety and toxicity, risks and consequences
- Unawareness on the part of users about what they consume
- Increase in the number of overdoses and fatal cases associated with these substances
- Difficulty associated with controls of raw material





Problems and Challenges

Production relocation

Substances that are outside of the international control

Difficulties in identifying the substances chemically







2. What is an EWS?



EWS



• Information exchange network consisting of various institutions in a country (and from outside) belonging mainly to the areas of Supply Control and Demand Reduction.

• It addresses the NPS phenomenon and/or new drug uses/new consumption patterns of substances already known in a specific market and population.

• It involves the systematic collection and organization of varied information from different sources as well as its processing and analysis based on its triangulation.





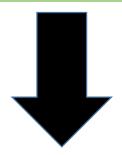
2. Why is an EWS necessary?







United Nations Conventions (1961, 1971 y 1988)



International Organisations



National Information Systems and NDO



«policy formulation based in contrasted data»



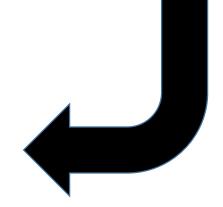
Systems



Provide valuable information

 They are based on nonsensitive methodologies to capture new phenomena/ changes in the drug field

Search for new tools to overcome this weakness of the NIS:



Early Warning Systems





Early Warning Systems

- Have early information to alert and reduce the harms that the consumption of these drugs can cause in the general population
- Decrease the costs associated with health care

- Possibility of anticipating the necessary actions in terms of prevention and reduction of risks and damages
- Greater efficiency in terms of control of the supply of drugs



Objective of the EWS COPOLAD

HEALTH CARE

- •Through vigilance and active and early warning about events that are potentially harmful to public health (use of NPS and / or new patterns of consumption/new uses of drugs) the aim is to reduce the social suffering associated with these events by taking the necessary and timely actions for each case and by promoting efficiency in the management of public health and health care.
- •Relying on truthful and timely information based on the evidence allows alerting health care providers and drug users about the risks and harms, in most of the unknown cases, associated with the use of NPS or new consumption patterns, and implementing measures to mitigate them.





In addition to these objectives in the health field, it should be noted that Early Warning Systems can also pursue other objectives from a control and monitoring perspective, for example, the identification of substances for their subsequent control and monitoring, both in the case of NPS as chemical precursors, using various legislative and regulatory resources that - varying from country to country - aim at fighting against the production and trafficking of substances.



Functions of the EWS



Strenghten NIS Monitor the market and consumption of NPS and of new uses of other drugs

Chemical identification n of substances

Generate an exchange space between actors and guarantee information flow

Evaluation of associated risks and use of NSO or new consumption patterns

Issue alerts

Develop communicatio n products Systematise and validate the information

Contribute to the strengthening and actions of Demand Control and Reduction

Strengthen the work of the NDOs Support international data collection mechanisms

Promote specific research and professional encounters



General requirements



- Sensitive and agile system before the novelty
- Proper definition of objectives
- Proactivity and reactivity of the network
- Exchange of information
- Diverse and multidisciplinary network
- Respect the suitability and competencies of the participating institutions
- Relevant and early information



General requirements



- Support of the system in scientific research, especially chemical analysis
- Validation and quality control processes
- Safeguards for protection and responsible treatment of information
- Good practices based on ethics and professional transparency.
- Existence of an Administrator or System Manager



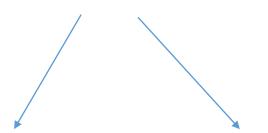


Fundamental aspects of an EWS





Purpose





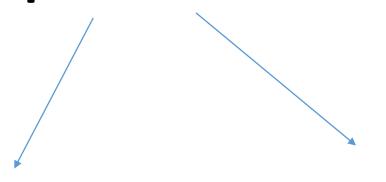
NPS

NPS + new uses or consumption patterns of already known substances





Operational Model





Chemical analysis

Chemical analysis
+ clinical case
analysis





Territorial Scope



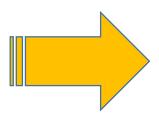
Others: local, regional, international



Gestión del SAT



It can be done by different agencies but the suggestion is that the task falls on:



National Drug Observatory



- Expertise in articulation and joint work with institutions
- Specialised in collecting, systematising and analysing drug information; adds value to the EWS
- The EWS contributes to its epidemiological surveillance task





Care of information

Intimately linked to the system management

Sensitive information

- Risks of spreading false alarms if the information is not taken care of properly
- Ensure security for the entire network



Issuance of Alerts



- Priority aspect
- Technical independence
- Develop commensurate communication products
- Choice of channel and form of communication

- Quality of information
- Availability of devices that can respond to the demands that the alert arouses in the specific or general population





Communication Support



Specific virtual space for EWS

Email

Face meetings





Aspects that strengthen the EWS

Existence of a legal framework

Existence of protocols

Availability of specific resources





EWS Recipients / Beneficiaries

Decision makers

Technicians / professionals in the area of health care

Forces of the interdiction area

Drug users





EWS Recipients / Beneficiaries

General population

Other countries

 International Organisations (UNODC, CICAD / OAS, COPOLAD, etc.)



Products of the EWS



• Alerts (public, focused on specific recipients, etc.)

Substance risk assessment reports

 Database on NPS, new drug uses/new patterns of consumption detected

Action protocols



Products of the EWS



 Newsletters/Reports with a summary of the system activities for a specific period

Ad hoc studies

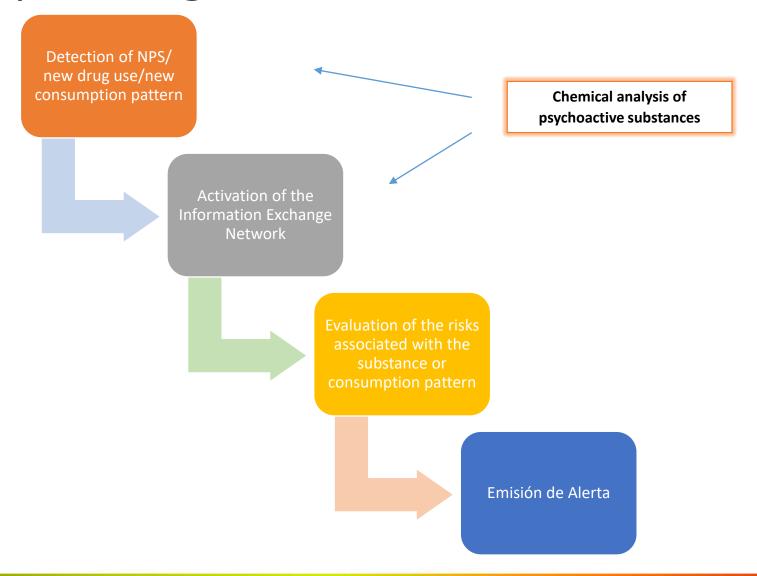
Research Reports

 Special reports on specific topics using different methodologies





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4. How does an EWS works?







1) GENERAL ACTIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EWS

Favorable conditions of a political order

Mapping of available Institutions and Information

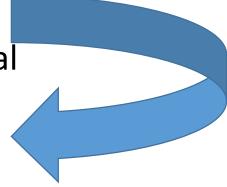
Interinstitutional coordination for the formation of the network





1) Favorable conditions of a political order

- Political Aval
- Support for the proposal

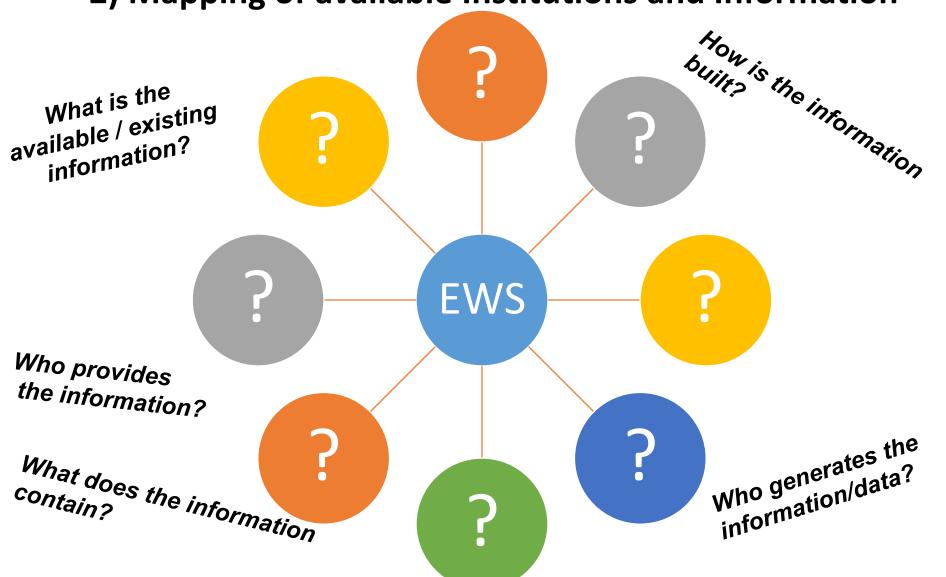


Sensitise the political bodies (decision makers)





2) Mapping of available Institutions and Information







2) Mapping of available Institutions and Information

•Information available in the country that should include the SAT and identification of institutions-data sources

Identification of institutional focal points

Recognition of information flows





- 3) Interinstitutional coordination for the formation of the network
- Information on the objectives and scope of the System

 Information on the benefits, tasks and duties of the institutions participating in the system

 Knowledge on the part of the institution of the information that must be downloaded into the system

Training of focal points





The information that circulates in the EWS

- It will depend on each case, based on the reality of the country, the availability of them and their quality
- There are priority data
- Diverse data quality, System managers must rank the information and stipulate the validation criteria





Priority Data

Seizure reports

Chemical identification of drugs

Identification of NPS uses



Priority Data



New patterns/uses of drugs already known

Report of clinical cases of NPS intoxication / overdose, known substances, or adulterants

Forensic report of deaths associated with NPS

Toxicology information of necropsies





Other relevant data

Detection of drug consumption through wastewater analyses

Detection of drug consumption through the analysis of hair samples

Ad hoc studies in specific populations







What to do if the country does not have the priority information for the EWS?





✓ Do not abandon the initiative to install an EWS in the absence of priority information.

- ✓ Consider and analyse the possibility of incorporating other data available in the country that allow the EWS to operate.
- √ The EWS initiative and the inter-institutional meeting can be favorable conditions to promote the availability of information.



There are other data that can be considered in these situations!!!





Information generated by EWS from other countries and regions

Information about people in treatment for drug use in specialised centres

Epidemiological studies



Fundamental information sources of the EWS





NDC

forensic and toxicological departments/





Drug supply control forces

Prosecutors,
Ministries
of Justice

Health care services





Health services specialised in drugs

Programs/in struments to reduce risks and damages

Help lines and telephone consultation s about drugs





Drug users, former drug users and self-help groups

Spaces of accompanim ent, counseling and drug prevention

Other reception spaces





Academic research teams

Customs

Qualified informan ts

Prison centres



Other sources



- Institutions in the area of control and registration of pharmaceutical and/or food products that include psychoactive substances
- Media, social networks and internet
- Other government agencies
- EWS from other countries and regional EWS
- International Organisations and Specific Programs on emerging drugs





DATA RELATIONS / INFORMATION - SOURCES



- Drug supply control forces
- Customs

Chemical identification of drugs

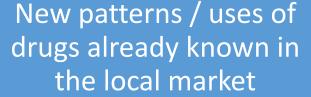
- Laboratories/forensic and toxicological/ clinical departments
- Forces of the Supply control area
- Prosecutors, Ministry of Justice
- Academic research teams

Identification of uses / NPS administration modes

NDO

- -Drug users
- National Drug Councils -Prison centres
- Health care services -Qualified Informants
- Health services specialised in drugs -Reception spaces
- DRR Programs/intruments -Academic research teams
- Help lines

- Accompaniment spaces and counseling





-Drug users



- Health care services -Qualified Informants
- Health services specialised in drugs -Reception spaces
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- Accompaniment spaces and

Report of clinical cases of NPS intoxication/ overdose, known substances, or adulterants

- Health care services
- Health services specialised in drugs
- Help lines
- Academic research teams

Forensic report of deaths associated with NPS

 Laboratories/forensic and toxicological/ clinical departments





Toxicology information of necropsies

 Laboratories/forensic and toxicological/ clinical departments

Comunicación efectos nocivos para la salud del consumo de sustancias psicoactivas y/o de adulterantes utilizados en estas sustancias

- NDC
- Health care services
- Health services specialised in drugs
- Academic research teams





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