

Sedronar

Secretaría de Políticas Integrales
sobre Drogas de la Nación Argentina

2nd COPOLAD Annual Conference

Tackling two important challenges for drugs policy
Internet illegal drug markets / Synthetic drugs

May - 2017

Drug use background in Argentina

In the 1990s, the use of synthetic drugs was identified in nightclubs and in crowded electronic music festivals ("raves").

- Major synthetic drugs in circulation: ecstasy (MDMA) and other amphetamines, liquid ecstasy (GHB), and ketamine
- Major population group : middle and upper-class youth groups
- Accessibility: extremely high. Sale in nightclubs, by telephone and through Internet
- Consumption patterns: consumption mixed with alcohol and / or cannabis (depending on the substance and expected effects)
- Effects: relaxing effects, feeling empathy with others, euphoria

Source: Public Policies on Addictions Monitoring Center (2010). *Nocturnes and consumption of synthetic drugs. Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. 2010*

Responses from the drug demand reduction perspective: Early Warning System

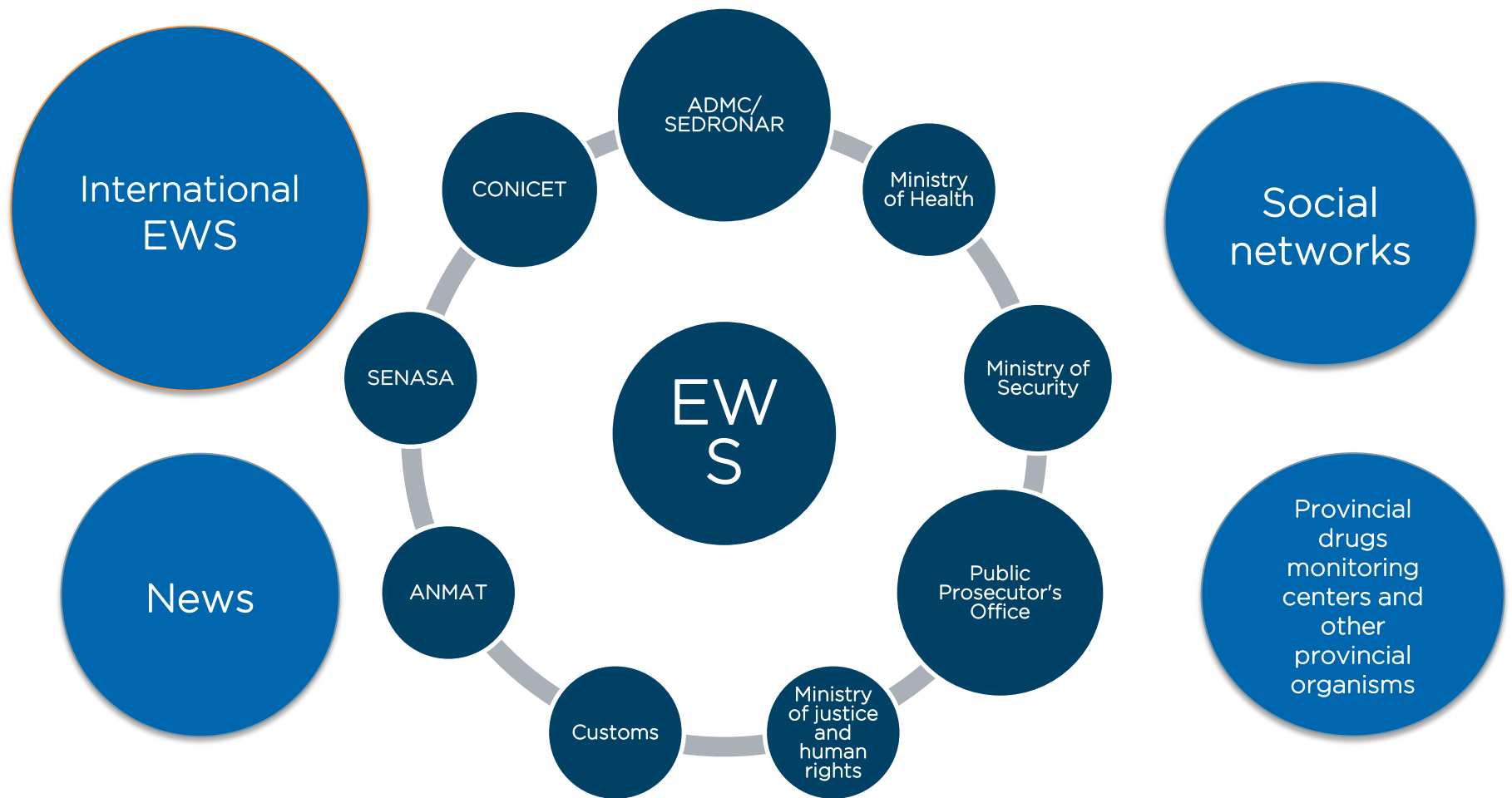
December 2016: Sedronar creates, through its Argentine Drugs Monitoring Center (ADMC), the Early Warning System (EWS)

The EWS is a multi-sectoral and multi-institutional network that rapidly collects, evaluates and disseminates information on emerging events related to the consumption of psychoactive substances (new substances, their components, re-emergent substances, new consumption types or new marketing modalities).

Implementing an EWS is essential for surveillance, early detection, and timely response to emerging substance use threats.

Responses from the drug demand reduction perspective: Early Warning System

Members of the Argentinian Warning System



Responses from the drug demand reduction perspective: **Early Warning System**

Variety of sources of information for detection

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- ADMC Studies
- 141 telephone line
- Consultation and orientation center (CEDECOR)
- Integral Territorial Approach Settings (DIAT)
- Community Encounter Points (PEC).
- Homes for Care and Community Accompaniment (CAAC)

Ministry of Health

- Clinical Surveillance C2 (SNVS)
- National Surveillance System SIVILA (SNVS)
- National Intoxication Center (Posadas Hospital)
- Argentinian Toxicology Network (REDARTOX)
- Information, Advice and Toxicological Assistance Centers (CIAATs)
- Toxicological Clinical Analysis Laboratories (LACTs)
- 0800 Salud Responde (telephone line)

Ministry of Security

- Reports
- Seizures
- Federal and provincial security forces

Anachronisms as original in spanish

Responses from the drug demand reduction perspective: Nocturnal contexts

In 2016, Sedronar promoted prevention strategies in nocturnal and recreational contexts

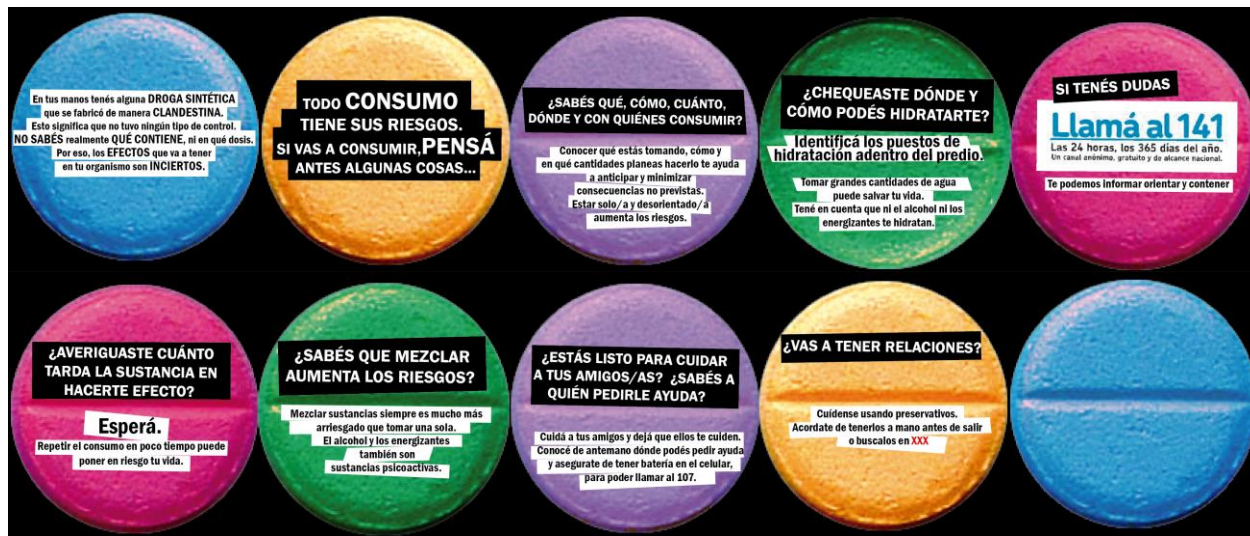
Strategy pillars:

- **Joint responsibility:** private companies and State (Nation, Provinces and Municipalities)
- To inform and raise awareness among the population through communication material in order to promote responsible care practices based on information on associated risks and harm.
- To establish "safe" areas of support, recovery, rest and rehydration at night events.
- **To train staff** involved in nocturnal events.
- To implement and guarantee actions of environmental prevention (health security, temperature, humidity and ventilation)

Responses from the drug demand reduction perspective: Nocturnal contexts

Communication material for specific actions

→ January 2017: Electronic Party MUTE (Mar del Plata, Province of Buenos Aires) - 20,000 people reached
Preventive actions in cooperation with the organizers of the event and the municipality.



Responses from the drug demand reduction perspective: **Protocols of action**

Currently, the Nation Ministry of Health is developing **protocols of action for emergency rooms** to be implemented by all the Argentinian health services providers.

Objectives:

- To provide coordinated and consistent responses to patients who are using alcohol and/or smoking and synthetic drugs.
- To provide guidelines for action regarding the appearance of new drugs or new drug use patterns.

Thank you very much