

New Research Findings: New Psychoactive Substance Use in Moldova and Belarus



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According to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (2015), 'Over the past five years or so there has been an unprecedented increase in the number, type and availability of new psychoactive substances [NPS] in Europe.

This is particularly true in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where anecdotal reports indicate NPS use is growing, and creating new challenges for health and drug services. This seminar will present the findings of new research on the use of NPS in Moldova and Belarus.

Conducted jointly between the Swansea University and the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, and funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund, the project interviewed key stakeholders as well as groups of people who use drugs to identify current gaps in the national responses to NPS, and to make recommendation to reduce harms related to the use of NPS.

Ganna Dovbakh is Executive Director of Eurasian Harm Reduction Association in Lithuania, which unites 267 organisations and activists from 29 countries of Central, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ganna is community support and health programs sustainability expert in EECA region. She is originally from Ukraine, holds a MA in Social Psychology and MA in Culture Studies and has authored numerous trainings, researches and publications.

Eliza Kurcevic is a Senior Programme Officer at the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association. She has experience in human rights, legal consultations in the field of harm reduction and drug policy, as well as in working with young people. Eliza holds Master's Degree in International Law. Currently working on issues related to the new psychoactive substances, peer involvement into the harm reduction programmes and young people who use drugs.

Dr Rick Lines is Associate Professor of Criminology and Human Rights at the School of Law. He has over 25 years of international experience working on drug use and harm reduction issues, as is Principle Investigator for this research. Rick sits on the International Advisory Board of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association.