

Project Partners

- School of Pharmacy, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK
- National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, London, UK
- Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland
- Bergen Clinics Foundation, Bergen, Norway
- De Sleutel, Gent, Belgium
- Servizio Salute Regione Marche, Ancona, Italy
- Consorci Mar Parc de Salut de Barcelona, Spain
- Rhine State Hospital, University of Duisberg-Essen, Essen, Germany
- National Institute for Drug Prevention, Institute for Social Policy and Labour, Budapest, Hungary
- DrugScope, London, UK

The project has been supported by UNESCO Chair in Information and Computer Ethics.



Collaborating Partners

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna, Austria
- Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary
- National Antidrug Agency, Rome, Italy
- National Antidrug Agency, Bucarest, Romania
- Addictologie, Prague, Czech Republic
- Children's Society, London, UK
- ELISAD, London, UK
- State Psychiatric Hospital of Alcohol and Drug Addiction, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Trimbos Institute, Utrecht, Netherlands
- A-Clinic Foundation, Helsinki, Finland
- Institute for Research and Development "Utrip", Grosuplje, Slovenia
- University of Szczecin, Poland
- Dipartimento Dipendenze Patologiche di Macerata, Italy

This publication arises from the project "ReDNet" which has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Health Programme

Grant Agreement Number: 20091216

For more information and regular updates about the ReDNet project please visit our website at: www.rednetproject.eu

The Recreational Drugs' European Network

An ICT prevention service addressing the use of novel compounds in vulnerable individuals



www.rednetproject.eu



This publication arises from the project "ReDNet" which has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Health Programme



Expected results

The expected outcomes of this project will be both immediate and long lasting:

- to constitute the first EU-wide ICT-based preventative programme designed for novel psychoactive compounds/combinations targeted at the young and those working with them;
- to inform and stimulate a much-needed discussion on the rapid and almost unpredictable diffusion of novel compounds;
- to contribute to an enhanced scientific understanding of recreational drugs, especially via the publication of results in both peer reviewed journals and international conferences;
- to offer proper advice to both EU/international agencies and national policy makers.

Background

The recent emergence of new recreational drugs, also known as 'legal highs', combined with the ability of the Internet to disseminate information quickly and act as an online marketplace, have raised prominent issues in the fields of drug policy, substance use research, and public health.

Both the number of largely unregulated substances, and the rapidity with which they appear and evolve has led to challenges for health agencies, government organizations, substance misuse services, and (potential) users alike.

Despite increasing amounts of research and attention being given to this area, there is still a distinct paucity of information available for either professionals or people taking/thinking about taking these substances. In addition, these new drugs are rarely mentioned in scientific literature, and there is limited information available on their effects and potential risks.

About the project

The Recreational Drugs European Network (ReDNet) project is a multi-site implementation project with the aim of improving the level of information available to young people (16-24) and professionals on the effects of these new recreational drugs and the potential health risks associated with their use. It also aims to explore the potential of a number of innovative information communication technologies (e.g. SMS, social networking sites, Second Life and other multimedia platforms) in the dissemination of accurate and non-judgmental, evidence-based information in a timely way, and in line with the needs of the target groups of the project.

The ReDNet project aims to:

- Develop accurate information on new recreational drugs;
- Develop and pilot a variety of innovative and effective ICTs to disseminate this information;
- Assess the feasibility of different ICTs and the relevance of the information being disseminated to the target groups;
- Inform future research in e-Health, selective prevention, and harm reduction, using ICT.

