

National Drugs Forum 2022

Building research capacity: knowledge for a safer future.

#nationaldrugsforum

**Gibson Hotel,
Dublin**
2 November 2022



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



An Bord
Taighde Sláinte
Health Research
Board

We're delighted to welcome you to the first in-person National Drugs Forum since 2019. The forum takes place during Ireland's presidency of the Council of Europe and to mark this, the opening address will be given by the Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group (Council of Europe International Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addictions). The Pompidou Group last year celebrated 50 years supporting evidence-based and human rights-focussed drugs policy research.

This year's forum will explore the relevance of diversity, engagement and equality in research work, values that the Pompidou Group has helped to integrate into thinking around drugs policy since it was founded. Good research communicates clearly and respectfully with its subjects, with knowledge users and the wider society and is aware of the principles and values that underpin practice in prevention, recovery, and harm reduction work.

At last year's online forum, we did a foresight exercise, identifying megatrends that may impact on the drugs situation over the next few years. This did not help us anticipate the extraordinary global events since then. A war in Europe with a consequent energy crisis and rapid inflation shakes our confidence in our ability to predict the future, even in broad outlines.

Nevertheless, we need to use the knowledge resources available to prepare for new threats and take advantage of developments that will support us in meeting them. While there are consistent national and regional patterns, we have seen rapid change as new trafficking routes, innovative drug syntheses and changes

in distribution patterns impact on the type of drugs used, the context in which they are used and the consequences of use. New developments in European research policy will help us to understand these changes and adapt to them.

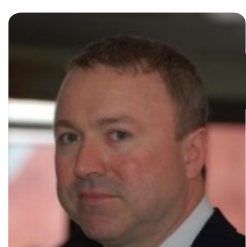
Research needs to be adaptive, imaginative and resourceful. Evidence is contained not just in the scientific literature or the academy but is part of a vibrant and reflective conversation between scientists, the subjects of research and those who manage responses. Today's forum is a continuation of that dialogue and an opportunity to share knowledge and discover new ways of creating and using evidence.

Speakers



Denis Huber

Denis Huber started his diplomatic career in January 1990, in the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He then joined the Council of Europe in September 1993, gaining 10 years' experience in the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers. Between 2006 and 2012, he was posted to Belgrade and then to Lisbon. Since July 2018, he is the Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group (Council of Europe International Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addictions). Since January 2022, he is also responsible for supervising the Council of Europe cooperation activities in the field of police and detention.



Paul Griffiths

Paul Griffiths has worked in the drugs field for over 25 years. Prior to 1999, he worked as a researcher based in the National Addiction Centre in London. From 2000, his activities have focused on the international monitoring of drug use, working first for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna, and subsequently, for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Paul joined the EMCDDA in 2003, as head of the epidemiology unit and was appointed Scientific Director in 2010. He holds an honorary position as a Visiting Senior Lecturer in the Department of Addictions, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.



Dr Sabrina Molinaro

Dr Sabrina Molinaro is Research Director and Head of the Laboratory of Epidemiology and Health Services Research at the Institute of Clinical Physiology of the National Research Council of Italy. Her training includes psychology and clinical psychology, an M.Sc. in Epidemiology, and a PhD in Public Health and Education. Since 2001 she has been designing and coordinating epidemiological research on general and specific populations with particular focus on adolescents. She has also designed clinical studies to evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of therapeutic patterns and treatment outcomes and developed models of statistical and epidemiological analysis of large data flows to support planning of healthcare governance policies. The crucial element of her research is to facilitate dialogue between disciplines and to allow the integration of different skills and heterogeneous data. Since 2010, she has led a research group of 25 people, coordinating both scientific activities and raising funds, with the aim of drawing as much knowledge as possible from existing information.



Dr Sarah Morton

Dr Sarah Morton is the Director of the Community Drugs Programme and Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning, College of Social Sciences and Law, University College Dublin. She has extensive experience in policy, practice, and outcome evaluation in relation to addressing complex issues including domestic and sexual violence and drug and alcohol use. Her research interests focus on community-engaged research as well as creative and participative research methodologies. She has a deep commitment to widening participation and community-engaged learning practices and was joint winner of the CEU 2020 European Award for Teaching Excellence in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Speakers (cont.)



Carine Mutatayi

Carine Mutatayi is a scientific analyst for the French Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT) and a postgraduate in Applied Epidemiology and Community Health. She has a special focus on prevention issues, drug and gender issues and critical social marketing related to alcohol. She reports annually to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) on French drug prevention policies. She is involved in methodological advocacy in scientific steering committees of prevention initiatives and reviewing for selection committees related to national public tenders. She contributed to the 2022 handbook published by the Pompidou Group (Council of Europe) on the implementation of gender sensitivity in drug policies. She is a member of the European Group on Gender and Drugs.



Dr Ena Lynn

Dr Ena Lynn is a Research Officer at the Health Research Board, working on the National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI). Ena is a qualified nurse, midwife, health promotion officer and has recently completed her PhD. Her PhD work focused on drug poisoning deaths among women. Ena is passionate about highlighting specific issues in relation to people, both men and women, who died as a result of drug use and how evidence should be used to influence policy and practice to help prevent these deaths. She also believes that the voices of people who use drugs should be heard and incorporated into the evidence to influence policy in this area.



Dr Louca-Mai Brady

Dr Louca-Mai Brady is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Health and Community Care (CRIPACC), University of Hertfordshire. She has worked for many years in the field of children and young people's involvement, as a researcher, facilitator, and advisor. Her research interests include young people's participation in health and social care research and services, disability, and qualitative and participatory research methods. Her doctoral research led to a recent book on young people's participation in healthcare. She has particular interests in inclusive approaches to involving children and young people who are marginalised or 'less often heard', including young people with experience of using drug and alcohol services (see, for example, Brady *et al* (2018) *Involving young people in drug and alcohol research*).



Dr Emma Dorris

Dr Emma Dorris is the programme manager for PPI Ignite Network @ UCD, based in University College Dublin. Emma is an advocate for responsible research and innovation. She collaborates internationally to help researchers involve those with lived experiences in the design, development and decision making around research and research strategy. Emma has authored a number of articles on public involvement, with specific focus on preclinical and life science research. She has a passion for improving research culture across all disciplines. She has a particular interest in policy and practices related to public and patient involvement (PPI) and evidence to support a sustainable change in research culture towards more engaged practices.

Speakers (cont.)



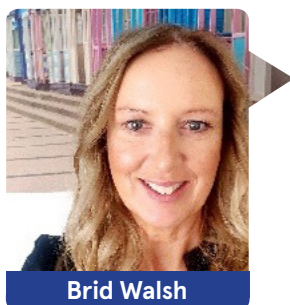
Andy O'Hara

Andy O'Hara has been an active community worker and has worked for over ten years, with those most marginalised, oppressed, and excluded from power. He aims to create the conditions for these groups to increase their participation in programmes, projects, research, policies, strategies, and in decision-making spaces which recognise and address barriers, including structural barriers, to meaningful participation. This can enable us to formulate strategies that go beyond consultation and create a policy context for full participation that can lead to social change. Andy currently works in UISCE, which works for and with people who use drugs to ensure their voices are heard in decision making spaces. Andy currently represents UISCE on the National Oversight Committee (NOC).



Sinéad McNamara

Sinéad McNamara is a Senior Biochemist in the HSE National Drug Treatment Centre Laboratory. She has over 20 years' experience in Forensic Toxicology specialising in the analysis of urine for drugs using LC-MS and GC-MS. For the last 10 years, she has been working on developing and updating methods for the detection of new psychoactive substances in urine to enable trend monitoring of drug use in the addiction population and related research. Recent highlights have included carrying out analysis for the first Irish Syringe Analysis Pilot Project and carrying out testing at the first 'back of house' drug monitoring pilot project in Ireland at Electric Picnic.



Brid Walsh

Brid Walsh started her career in semi-state organisations before focusing on community and health settings and is currently the HSE Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinator in North Dublin. Previous positions included National Rehabilitation Coordinator, Local Drug Task Force Coordinator and various frontline roles including as a Mediator and a Rehabilitation/Integration Officer. She holds a first-class M.Sc. in Leadership in Healthcare from University College Cork and an M.Sc. in Social Science from Trinity College and other related 3rd level courses including Community Rehabilitation (UCD), Adult Career Guidance (NUI) and the Irish Times Certificate in Administration. She is a member of the National Oversight Committee for the Drugs Strategy, the National Working Group for Dual Diagnosis and Chairperson of the DRIVE Oversight Committee focussing on Drug Related Intimidation. She currently chairs the national network of Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinators in Ireland.



Nicki Killeen

Nicki Killeen is a Project Manager in the HSE National Social Inclusion Office with responsibility for improving responses to emerging drug trends and new user groups, such as those who use in nightlife settings. Nicki manages drug communication projects for the Drugs.ie website and recently coordinated the HSE's multi-component festival outreach programme which included Ireland's first 'back of house' drug monitoring programme. Nicki holds a BA in Social Science and Master's in Addiction Studies, and has recently undertaken a Certificate in Advance Drug Policy Management with the Pompidou Group's International Drug Policy Academy.

National Drugs Forum 2022 Programme

09:00 Opening of National Drugs Forum

Mr Frank Feighan TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy

Drugs research and policy to 2030

09:15 Keynote Speaker: Denis Huber, Council of Europe

The Pompidou Group at 50: human rights at the heart of drugs and addictions policies

09:45 Paul Griffiths, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Identifying and communicating future research and monitoring needs at the EU level. A perspective from the EMCDDA

Sabrina Molinaro, National Research Council Italy

Knowing the future by observing the present: using ESPAD data for planning and policy evaluation

11:20 Coffee

Gender, drugs policy and research

11:40 Carine Mutatayi, French Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction

Why does gender sensitivity in drug demand reduction matter? A focus on the challenges in drug prevention

Sarah Morton, University College Dublin

Why does gender sensitivity in substance use intervention matter? An exploration of the challenges and innovation in practice

Ena Lynn, Health Research Board

Drug poisoning deaths among women in Ireland

12:50 Lunch and poster sessions

Developing involvement in research projects

14:00 Emma Dorris, University College Dublin

Why now? Concepts and evidence underpinning the movement towards public involvement in research

Louca-Mai Brady, University of Hertfordshire

Whose voices? Inclusive involvement of young people in health and social care research

Andy O'Hara, UISCE

Peer led participatory research: How and Why?

National Drugs Forum 2022 Programme (cont.)

Innovations in monitoring and new indicators

15:15 **Sinead McNamara**, HSE National Drug Treatment Centre

Irish syringe analysis pilot project

Brid Walsh, North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force

DRIVE Project: recognising the lead role of community based services in unlocking hidden data to inform evidence based responses to drug related intimidation

Nicki Killeen, Health Service Executive

Monitoring drug use in nightlife settings: Advantages, challenges and results from the HSE 'Safer Nightlife Programme 2022'

16:15 Close of National Drugs Forum

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Report on National Drugs Forum 2022

Reports from the workshop will be compiled and these will be made available on the website of the National Drugs Library (www.drugsandalcohol.ie) and included in the Winter 2022 issue of *Drugnet Ireland*.

