



**EUROPEAN WINTER SCHOOL 2024**  
**Illicit drugs in Europe: demand, supply and public  
policies**

Gender-sensitive approaches to drugs related issues

26th February<sup>to</sup> 8th March 2024

**Lecturers Biography**

## Lucas Wiessing

Lucas Wiessing is a Principal Scientist in public health at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in Lisbon. He co-ordinates international studies on drug use and drug-related consequences and interventions across the European Union – including on HIV and viral hepatitis in injecting drug users, harm reduction and drug treatment. He is a national from the Netherlands, holds a PhD in public health (with distinction), speaks six languages and plays flute and saxophone semi-professionally. Lucas has over 150 scientific publications and he collaborates with many leading experts and organisations [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lucas\\_Wiessing](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lucas_Wiessing)



in his field.

## Alina Cosma

Alina Cosma is an Assistant Professor in Psychology at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. Alina has extensive experience in the design and management of cross-sectional health surveys focusing on child and adolescent health and well-being (e.g., Health Behaviours in School-aged Children study). She has held post-doctoral positions at prestigious universities in the UK (University of St Andrews), Ireland (RCSI, Trinity College Dublin), the Netherlands (Utrecht University) and Czechia (Palacky Olomouc University). Her current research focuses on cross-national adolescent health and mental health with a focus on exploring individual and country levels predictors, cross-national and gender differences, time-trends and associations with climate change beliefs and emotions.



## Danilo Ballotta



Ballotta (MSc) has been working for the more than 20 years in the field of international drug policy. Since 2005, he has been the EMCDDA's principal policy analyst and coordinator of relations with the EU institutions. Mr. Ballotta represents the EMCDDA at the EU working group on drugs of the Council of the European Union (HDG), at the Pompidou Group and interlinks with the UNODC, namely on the CND's processes. Over the years, he has participated in hundreds of EU and UN committees and policy events at an institutional level.

## Linda Montanari

Linda Montanari is a health sociologist working at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) since 2000. In the capacity of 'Principal scientist for health and social responses', she coordinates the area of monitoring prisons and drugs, developing the implementation of drug monitoring in European prisons. She was responsible for the 2021 EMCDDA publication: Prison and drugs in Europe, Current and future challenges and has contributed to various scientific publications in this field. Over the years, Linda has also worked in the areas of drugs and gender and drugs and mental health, promoting the conceptualisation and the conceptualisation and inclusion of these perspectives in drug monitoring.



## Rita Jorge

Rita Jorge, PhD is a scientific analyst in synthetic drugs at the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). She specialises on public health and security risks associated with the production of synthetic drugs, including the monitoring of precursor chemicals. She has worked extensively with the EU Early Warning System at the EMCDDA, and prior to that, has held positions related to science assurance in various organisations, performing evidence reviews to support evidence-based policy decisions.



## Thomas Seyler

Thomas Seyler is a scientific analyst on drug use and the drug problem at the Public Health unit, EMCDDA. He trained as a field epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Before joining the EMCDDA, he worked in outbreak investigations, applied research, surveillance systems and training in Asia, Africa and Europe for infectious diseases such as Influenza, Chikungunya, Plague and Ebola. At the EMCDDA Thomas is working on the Problem Drug Use (PDU) indicator, measuring the prevalence of the more problematic patterns of drug use in Europe, associated with the highest health risks and social costs, such as heroin use or injecting.

## Isabelle Giraudon

Isabelle Giraudon is an epidemiologist and principal scientific analyst working on health consequences related to drug use at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). She is responsible for the epidemiological indicators which monitor drug-related deaths and mortality and drug-related emergencies. This work includes research on acute toxicity, fatal overdoses, overall mortality and morbidity in liaison with harm reduction and responses.



## Owen Bowden-Jones

Professor Owen Bowden-Jones is a Consultant in Addiction Psychiatry at the CNWL Club Drug Clinic, London and an Honorary Professor at University College London. In 2010, Owen founded the CNWL Club Drug Clinic, an innovative service offering treatment for emerging drug problems including novel psychoactive substances, club drugs, online purchased prescription medications and chemsex. The service has since expanded to provide treatment within local sexual health services and universities. National roles include Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, Policy Fellow at the University of Cambridge, board member at the International Society for the Study of Emerging Drugs and special adviser to the Universities UK drugs taskforce.



Owen is the past-Chair of the Faculty of Addictions, Royal College of Psychiatrists and was previously a national clinical adviser to Public Health England. He has been an adviser to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

His research interests include emerging drugs harms, particularly in young people, and with colleagues has produced the NEPTUNE clinical guidance and associated learning resources. In 2023, Owen was honoured to be elected President of the Society for the Study of Addiction.

## Laurent Laniel



Laurent Laniel works as a Scientific analyst, drug supply reduction, at the EMCDDA since early 2008.

A linguist and sociologist specialising in illicit drugs and security issues, he has conducted fieldwork on drug production, trafficking and control measures in Europe and countries including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, South Africa, and the United States.

He has worked as a researcher at the Geopolitical Drug Watch (OGD), a Paris-based NGO, Unesco's MOST-Drugs Programme, and the French Interior Ministry's INHES institute. He has authored many papers, chapters and reports in French, English and Spanish for different national and international institutions and journals.

## Tim Surmont

Tim Surmont is a Belgian national working as scientific analyst, drug markets & drug-related crime, at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) based in Lisbon, since 2016. Tim holds a Master's degree in Criminological Sciences, and has been working at Ghent University as research assistant on drug phenomena. He has published papers on cannabis production and supply, the Dutch coffeeshop model, cross-border drug tourism and mixed method criminological research. In the last couple of years, he became more specialised in environmental impacts of drug markets. His latest publication is: "Synthetic Drug Production in Belgium – Environmental Harms as Collateral Damage?", available here: <https://jied.lse.ac.uk/articles/10.31389/jied.84> . Further, he has special interests in transnational drug distribution networks, the Dutch drug policy, cannabis production, synthetic drug production, drug precursor trafficking, synthetic cannabinoid distribution and processing, and organised crime groups. He also coordinates law enforcement training on drugs within the agency.



## Nuno Capaz

Nuno Capaz has been working for the Portuguese Ministry of Health's Dissuasion Commissions since they were created in 2001. These boards were created to apply Portugal's decriminalization law. As such, he is a member of an interdisciplinary team that evaluates drug users. He has also been in charge of correspondence with foreign delegations seeking information and research about the Portuguese model for drug policy.



## João Castel-Branco Goulão

João Castel-Branco Goulão is currently Portuguese Drugs and Alcohol National Coordinator and Director General of the Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies General Directorate (SICAD), the body within the Health Ministry responsible for the policy coordination in this field. He was Chairman of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) from 2009 to 2015 and he has a long experience in addictions field at international level. He is the Chair of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe for the period 2019-2022.

A medical doctor by profession, Dr. Goulão has over 20 years' experience regarding drug-related issues, working in this field since 1987 as general practitioner and since then all his professional life has been devoted to drugs and health. He was also a member of the Portuguese Committee which, in 1999, prepared the report on which the first Portuguese Drug Strategy was based and that included decriminalisation proposal.



## Zuzana Líšková

Zuzana Líšková worked in the Slovak state security and law enforcement since 1991. From 2008 to 2010, she served as the Slovak Liaison Officer at Europol in The Hague, displaying her dedication to international cooperation.

Between 2011 and 2017, Zuzana contributed to law enforcement training at CEPOL, working in the UK and Hungary. In 2018, she joined Europol in the Netherlands, where she held the position of head of the EMPACT Support Team from 2020 to 2022. Currently, she serves as the deputy team leader for drugs operational coordination in the EU Drug Unit, focusing on combating drug-related crimes and enhancing coordination among member states.



## Leonid McKay

Currently appointed as the Executive Chairperson of the Authority for the Responsible Use of Cannabis in Malta. Experience in various social policy areas with specific involvement in social justice and human rights related reforms.

Held different top management roles in both public and non-governmental sector. Served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Housing Authority between 2014 and 2018 and oversaw the implementation of various new rent reforms and innovative social housing projects. Previously, held the position of Director of Caritas Malta between 2014 and 2018. During the same tenure held the role of

Chairman of the Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers. Worked for Caritas Malta as from 2006 and has carried out wide-ranging social research on various social policy areas ranging from the minimum budget required for low-income families to be able to achieve an acceptable and a decent standard of living (Minimum Essential Budget for a Decent Living 2016, 2012); the adequacy of non-contributory welfare benefits (Minimum Income Schemes, 2014); labour market exploitation of migrants in Malta (Social Fieldwork Research 2014); integration efforts of People with International Protection (2013); geographic mapping of pockets of deprivation and study the social conditions of poor neighbourhoods in Malta (Master of Arts in Social Policy Dissertation, 2012).

Holds a Master of Arts in Social Policy degree and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sociology from the University of Malta. Between 2012 and 2014 - Lecturer at the Malta College of Arts Science and Technology and taught at the Institute of Community Services.



## Franziska Schneider

Franziska Schneider has been a scientific associate at the Institute for Therapy Research in Munich since 2018 in the German Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Her main focus areas include research on prisons, drug markets, and crime. Since 2023, Schneider has taken on the role of Interim Head of the German Focal Point, demonstrating her leadership and expertise in the field of drug monitoring and addiction research. Schneider's pursued a Bachelor's degree in cultural and media science (2015), followed by a Master's degree in criminology (2017). Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in criminology, her research delves into the intricate balance between punishment and assistance for drug users in prison.



## Aura Roig

Social anthropologist with a Master's degree in Criminology and Legal Penal Sociology. She has dedicated the last 18 years to monitoring, and evaluation of drug policies from a harm reduction, human rights, and intersectional feminist perspective. She has served as an advisor in the United States, Eastern Europe, Colombia, and Costa Rica. After a few years in Colombia, where she launched the country's first programs for people who inject drugs, she returned to Barcelona. There, she conducted the first study on women users of harm reduction resources in Catalonia, leading to the creation of XADUD, a Network of Women Who Use Drugs, and laying the groundwork for the cooperative Metzineres. She is the founding director of "Environments of Shelter for Women Who Use Drugs Surviving Violence."



## Joana Canedo

Activist for the rights of people who use drugs. She is part of the Executive Committee of EuroNPUD (European Network of People Who Use Drugs). In Portugal, Joana is working with women and non-binary individuals who use drugs and engage in sex work, co-creating the collective "Manas/GAT." An expert in drug policy reform, harm reduction, and public policies, she works from an intersectional perspective to achieve effective public policies, especially focusing on bottom-up approaches. A candidate for a Ph.D. in Development Studies at ICS, she is interested in research that focuses on community inclusion in the design, implementation, and monitoring of innovative programs. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations and a Master's degree in Economics and Public Policies.





## Iciar Indave

Dr Iciar Indave is a Medical Doctor specialising in Preventive Medicine and Public Health with extensive clinical experience in harm reduction settings as varied as supervised drug consumption rooms, drug checking services, opioid substitution treatment programs and prisons.

Dr. Indave holds a Master Degree in Public Health from the Universidad de Alcala in Spain, a University Expert Degree in Drug Addiction from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the same university in which she studied neurological risks of stimulant use. She

has been working as an epidemiologist since 2011, first at the National Centre of Epidemiology at the Carlos III Health Institute in Madrid focusing on addictions and later contributing as a methodologist to the field of cancer classification and research. In the past four years, Dr Indave has been working for the World Health Organization (WHO) at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon (France), coordinating "The International Collaboration on Cancer Classification and Research" (IC3R) and contributing to the scientific and editorial process of the WHO Classification of Tumours, known as the WHO Blue Books.

Back to the field of addictions, she is currently working as the scientific agent responsible for health and social responses to drug use in the Support to Practice Sector of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in Lisbon.



## Gregor Burkhardt



Gregor Burkhardt is since 1996 responsible for prevention responses at the EMCDDA in Lisbon. He developed databases of evidence-based programmes (Xchange), evaluation and prevention mapping tools and is currently implementing the European Prevention Curriculum (EUPC) in Europe and beyond. His main activities are to develop common European indicators on the implementation of prevention strategies and programmes in member states, to promote across European countries a better understanding of universal, selective, indicated as well as environmental prevention and to support the implementation of evidence-based prevention approaches. He is co-founder (2010) and currently the president of the European Society for Prevention Research, EUSPR.

## Brendan Hughes

Brendan Hughes has been working at EMCDDA since 2001 in the field of national drug legislation, after gaining a Masters degree in International Criminal Law (LLM) specialising in narcotics law.

He manages the online database “Penalties at a glance” which summarises the penalties for drug use, possession and trafficking laws for 40 countries and has written various comparative overviews and analyses on different topics such as drug classifications, threshold quantities, alternatives to punishment, drug driving, and control systems for new psychoactive substances. He published the first European quantitative comparison of drug law sentencing and outcome statistics in 2009, followed by the first European qualitative comparison of trafficking scenarios in 2016.

He has advised ministers and parliamentary committees on issues such as decriminalisation, alternatives to punishment and cannabis legalisation, and has authored several articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Brendan Hughes is a British national.

