

Support material for the TWIST session “Alcohol”

What you will find in Lisbon Addictions 2017 about alcohol

Alcohol will have a preeminent role in [this years’ Lisbon Addiction Conference \(LxAddictions 2017\)](#), mimicking the preeminent role it plays around the world in terms of public health relevance.

A lot of information will be made available to attendees, which we will try to briefly organize and summarize in this short report. We hope that in so doing, we will facilitate your “navigation” through all the concepts and issues surrounding alcohol in LxAddictions 2017, which will be discussed in more detail in the Alcohol TWIST training session. There are many ways to organise the presentations, but we hope that what we have done here will be useful to you and will help you get the most out of LxAddictions 2017.

Key areas

We have identified 5 main areas or major topics around alcohol:

- **Policy**
- **Youth**
- **Assessment and Evaluation**
- **Treatment**
- **Cognitive Aspects of alcohol use**

Policy

Most presentations regarding Alcohol in Lisbon will deal with policy issues. *Alcohol Marketing and related issues* will be addressed in several presentations, especially in Paper Session 1, where discussions about regulation, implementation and new tools for monitoring will be presented. Also, the RARHA project will present new data about attitudes toward alcohol policies.

Prevention will also play an important role. Different prevention approaches and their implementation will be explained, especially in Paper Sessions 19 and 28, where online prevention systems will also be taken into account. Structured Session 38 will present other concepts related to

prevention in addictive substances. The TWIST Session on Prevention will also deal with these topics.

Youth

Addressing alcohol use among young people is of high importance. The Lisbon Addictions conference will therefore have several presentations targeting youth, especially in Paper Session 28. Some of the relevant concepts addressed will be normative feedback, heavy episodic drinking, energy drinks, peer education and sensation seeking among the young.

Assessment and evaluation

Important new concepts will be presented regarding assessment and evaluation. Paper Session 6 will discuss the application of the RDoC (Research Domain Criteria, a new framework for the study of mental illness) to the field of addiction. Paper Session 42 will present findings of Emergency Department evaluation of alcohol consumption with a new, promising biomarker (phosphatidylethanol). Assessment of drop-outs and withdrawal risk will be presented in Paper Session 24. Finally, structured session 19 will present some insights about Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA), via new technologies.

Treatment

Although probably not the main topic in the Lisbon Addictions Conference, the importance of treatment is almost self-evident. The use of new technologies will be evaluated in Paper Session 19 with the E-CHUG program (an online prevention web-system for young adults). Also, Paper Session 24 will present new studies about brief interventions and dialectical behavioural therapy for the management of alcohol use disorders. Structured session 19 will also have a presentation about mobile apps for treating addictive disorders.

Cognitive aspects

Finally, a few sessions will deal with some of the cognitive aspects surrounding alcohol consumption, mainly attentional bias. In one study, it will be addressed with the novel and interesting approach of eye-tracking (Paper Sessions 28 and 13).