

Support material for TWIST Session 13:

Impacts and Costs of Addictions

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Overview of expenditure topics and further reading

1) General information and data on drug related public expenditure:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/drug-related-public-expenditure>

2) Costs of treatment

It is estimated that over 1 million people receive treatment for drug-related problems in the European Union every year. With shrinking public budgets, increasing pressure on health systems, changes in the drugs used and the need to provide on-going care to chronic cases, what is the real cost of drug treatment in Europe? In collaboration with experts from around the globe, the EMCDDA has compiled this analytical report, the first of its kind, to present the current practices used for estimating drug treatment costs in order to help fill the knowledge gap.

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/drug-treatment-expenditure-measurement_en

3) Costs of supply reduction

Evaluating drug policy is an integral part of a cost-efficient approach to tackle illicit drugs. This report takes a first step towards a systematic analysis, by examining a set of representative attempts to estimate public expenditure on supply reduction interventions. It proposes a common set of definitions, aiming to establish a common basis for understanding this topic and facilitating comparability in three main dimensions: time, policy and countries. Although it is mainly confined to supply reduction expenditures, in order to set the context, it describes the proportion that total drug-related expenditure represents of national public spending and; presents the balance between demand and supply reduction spending for a number of European countries. Finally, with the aim of facilitating and promoting future empirical expenditure studies and of setting the ground for the development of good practices, relevant data sources and methodologies applied are listed and discussed and examples of sectorial models of public spending are selectively provided.

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/joint-publications/pompidou-group/public-expenditure-on-supply-reduction-policies_en

4) Financing drug-related public expenditure in the wake of the 2008 economic recession

The economic crisis that Europe experienced in 2008 and later presented a grave challenge to public finances. Countries responded to this by undertaking fiscal consolidation. By examining public expenditure in the areas where most drug-related activities are provided, this report looks at how austerity affected responses to the drugs problem. While the full effect of austerity on drug policy is not yet clear, one of the tentative conclusions is that the countries hardest hit by the recession are the ones in which drug policy is most heavily impacted.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/emcdda-papers/recession-and-drug-related-public-expenditure>

5) Introduction to drug-related public expenditure

A confirmed political will to address the drugs problem in Europe lies not only in the development of appropriate policies, but in the amount of public funds assigned to implement such policies. One of the aims of the EU drugs action plan (2005–08) is to produce estimates of public expenditure on drug-related issues. Doing so is a challenge, due to the range of political structures and government accounting systems present in Europe. A multilingual summary of the contents is available.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/selected-issues/public-expenditure>