3 Scenarios, 3 Alternative Addiction Futures for 2040
For the EMCDDA Scenario Engagement Workshop at LxAddictions22

by Future Impacts

Today's aims and agenda

Aim: Introduce the EMCDDA foresight approach, while providing everyone with an 'experience of the future'.
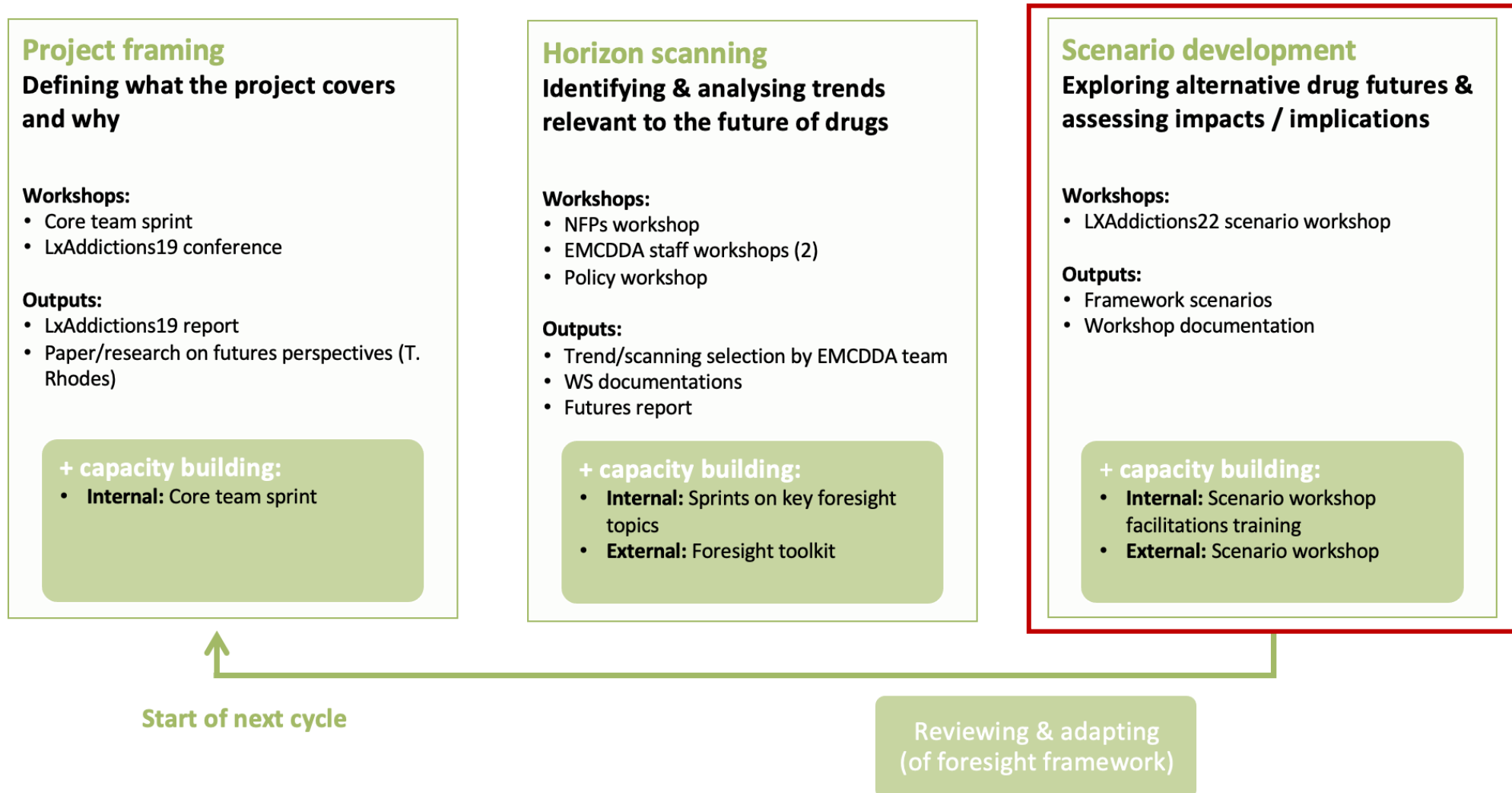
Expected outcome: Insights / shared reflection on the three scenarios and their potential implications for drugs and addictions (and drug monitoring/policy).

Agenda:

- Intro: Short presentation
  - Background and Methodology
  - Introducing the three scenarios
- Discussion on the scenarios
- Next steps

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Context
How the scenarios fit within EMCDDA's overall foresight process

Project framing
Defining what the project covers and why

Workshops:
- Core team sprint
- LxAddictions19 conference

Outputs:
- LxAddictions19 report
- Paper/research on futures perspectives (T. Rhodes)

+ capacity building:
- **Internal:** Core team sprint

Horizon scanning
Identifying & analysing trends relevant to the future of drugs

Workshops:
- NFPs workshop
- EMCDDA staff workshops (2)
- Policy workshop

Outputs:
- Trend/scanning selection by EMCDDA team
- WS documentations
- Futures report

+ capacity building:
- **Internal:** Sprints on key foresight topics
- **External:** Foresight toolkit

Scenario development
Exploring alternative drug futures & assessing impacts / implications

Workshops:
- LXAddictions22 scenario workshop

Outputs:
- Framework scenarios
- Workshop documentation

+ capacity building:
- **Internal:** Scenario workshop facilitations training
- **External:** Scenario workshop

Start of next cycle

Reviewing & adapting
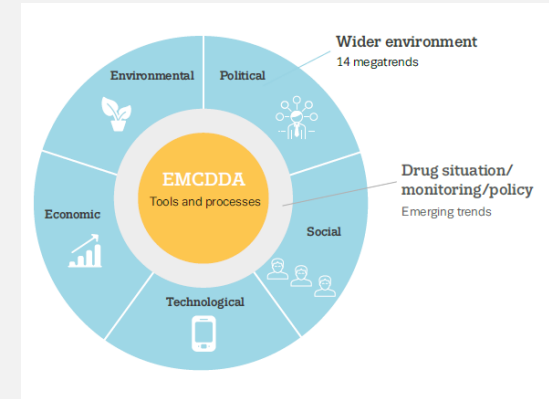(of foresight framework)

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Two fundamentals of foresight
Systematic Approach for Forward-Oriented Planning & Anticipation

1. 360 degree view – Horizon Scanning
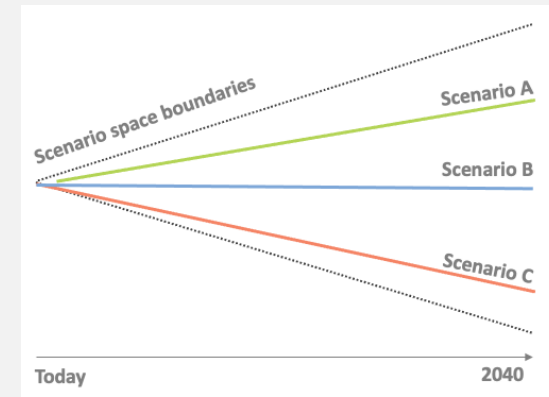
Recognising & understanding trends & other signals of change

- EMCDDA Trends Workshop Toolkit (*available online*)

2. Scenarios: Anticipating Alternative Futures

Mapping out options, opening the horizon, rather than prognoses

- EMCDDA Co-Creative Scenario Process (*upcoming*)

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Why scenarios?

We tend to imagine the future as a continuation of the present

"If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said:
A faster horse."

(Henry Ford)

We have (recently) witnessed disruption ....clearly even before the pandemic and the Ukraine war

- September 11th

- Fukushima

- Financial crisis 2007

For the anticipation of COVID19 – see e.g., past World Risks or Millennium Project 'State of the Future' Reports (+ others), and Bill Gates in 2015

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What scenarios are
(and what they are not)

- **Scenarios are not predictions** – they do not aim to predict a specific, most probable future

- They map out different, **alternative futures** = they (mostly) come in the plural

- Serve to **aid discussion and reflection** on possible future developments

- Serve to support **anticipatory decision making**

- = a tool, a means to an end, not an end in itself

Scenario space boundaries

Scenario A

Scenario B

Scenario C

Today   2040

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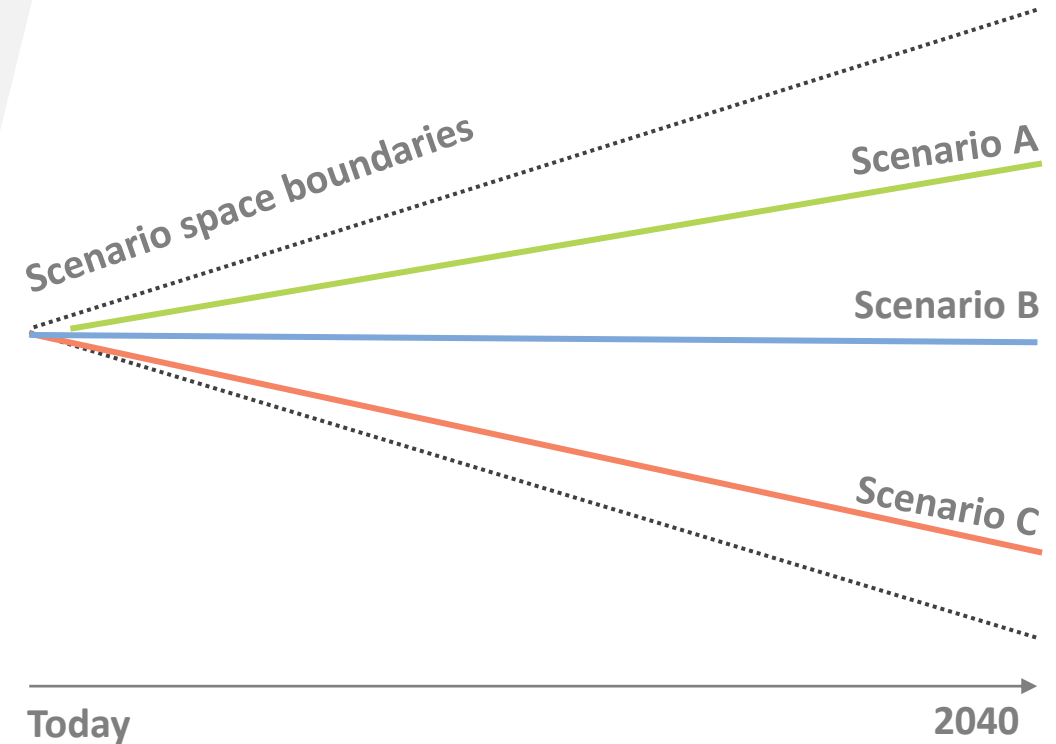
Who else works with scenarios
Examples

Scenarios have a strong tradition in both corporate and public sector foresight, below are just a few examples of other organizations who work with scenarios:

- **European Union (STOA)** (e.g. Precision Agriculture and Future of Farming in Europe)
- **UK Office of Science and technology** (e.g. Drug Futures 2025, the Scenarios)
- **Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)** (e.g. Global Governance in 2030: Prospective Scenarios on the Future of Politics)
- **World Economic Forum (WEF)** (e.g. Future Scenarios and Implications for the Industry)
- **World Energy Council** (e.g. World Energy Scenarios; and Eight Futures of Work)
- **UNESCO** (e.g. World Water Scenarios to 2050)
- **The Millennium Project** (e.g. Work/Technology 2050: Scenarios and Actions)
- **United States National Intelligence Council (US NIC)** (e.g. Global Trends 2040: a more contested world)

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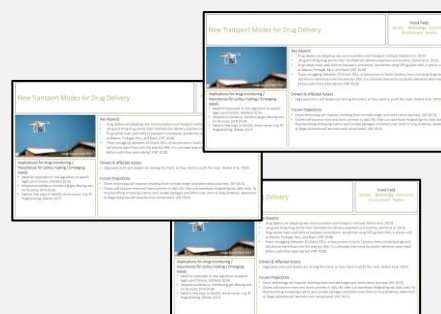
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Methodological Approach

Scenarios developed via a three step process, incorporating insights from:

1. Highest impact megatrends

- 5 JRC megatrends identified with the highest impact on the future of drugs (as identified at the EMCDDA futures workshops, EMCDDA reports, & Lisbon Addictions 19 report)

+

2. Emerging trends in the drugs field

- 6 emerging trends identified across EMCDDA futures exercises as being relatively "strong", visible, or new developments that can already be observed in the drugs field

+

3. Literature research & analysis

- Additional relevant literature systematically analysed for additional developments and insights

Soucres and Links:: https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/foresight/tool/megatrends-hub_en#explore

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How the scenarios are developed
Transparent key factor methodology

1) Identifying Influencing Factors (IF)

2) Prioritizing Key Factors (KF / "drivers")

3) Develop future developments i.e. projections

4) Develop and describe alternative scenarios

Building on EMCCDA Foresight Reports & Trends Toolkit (plus additional research)

Co-Creation of "Scenario Prototypes", via Scen. Workshop (Blueprint) at Lisbon Addictions Conference / Nov. 22

Utilising Existing Resources

Deep Involvement of Stakeholders

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Framework scenarios
Pilot scenarios to be built on at LxAddictions

Reminder that these are pilot / framework scenarios:

- Intended to create a space for thinking about alternative pathways, and for discussions about the future
- Specific implications on addictions / drugs to be developed in today's workshop
  - i.e. currently, the scenarios purposely do not say anything on types of drugs, diffusion, drug markets, violence, corruption, number of drugs-related deaths, etc.

- **Outcome of today's workshop**: Updated & refined set of scenario/s (incl. implications)

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3 Scenarios, 3 Alternative Addiction Futures for 2040

EU harmony
How we get there: 2040

- **Stable global economy** with high EU social cohesion & **collective wellbeing**
- Effective immigration policies **fill skill shortages** & offset aging EU population
- Some (but not all) severe climate change impacts have been mitigated
- Digital connectivity ubiquitous & available to (mostly) all
- Drug **regulation tight & harmonized** across the EU
- Funding for drug research & policy leads to **innovative treatment options** with complexity of needs profiles **well-observed & continuously adapted**
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session

In 2040, a stable and well-funded EU enjoys **high social cohesion and collective wellbeing**. With rising flows of migration - mostly young workers – **fuelling innovation** and creating ever **more diverse societies**.

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EU harmony
Potential implications for drugs

What could it mean for drugs and drug monitoring/policy? (examples)

- Innovative treatment options mature fast and are accessible throughout the EU
- Annual studies identify emerging addiction patterns and user profiles, and allow for timely policy adaptation
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session

In 2040, a stable and well-funded EU enjoys **high social cohesion and collective wellbeing**. With rising flows of migration - mostly young workers – **fuelling innovation** and creating ever **more diverse societies**.

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Barely managing
How we get there: 2040
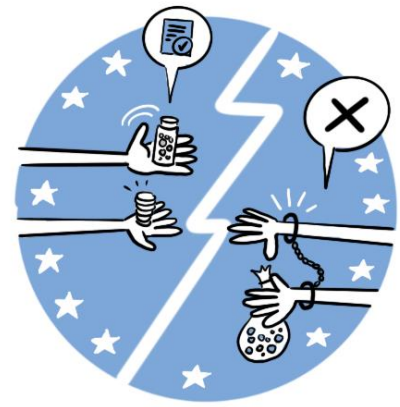
- Rocky economic backdrop with **rapid & complex new migration corridors**
- **Gap between haves and have-nots widening**, low social cohesion & tolerance
- Pace of environmental degradation higher than expected
- **Regional shifts towards de-criminalisation** result in mismatched regulation
- Control mechanisms currently keeping pace with **rising drug usage and medicines misuse** – but for how long?
- Growing knowledge gap in understanding users' profiles and complexities
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session

In 2040, a rapidly changing global backdrop is **widening societal divides** and reshaping societies. EU authorities are currently keeping pace with **rising complexities in drug and medicine misuse**, …but for how long?

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Barely managing
Potential implications for drugs
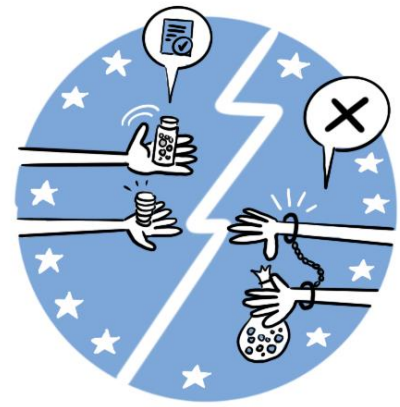
What could it mean for drugs and drug monitoring/policy? (examples)

- Rise in criminal opportunities (e.g., emerging distribution corridors) due to mismatched regulations across EU nations
- Regulation (and treatment options) partially fail due to run-of-the-mill approaches
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session

In 2040, a rapidly changing global backdrop is **widening societal divides** and reshaping societies. EU authorities are currently keeping pace with **rising complexities in drug and medicine misuse**, …but for how long?

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House of cards
How we get there: 2040

- Unpredictable global economy impacts on EU funding, with **societal discord rising** alongside inflation rates
- Losses & damages due to climate change are large-scale & unprecedented
- **Digital penetration varies by region** as many struggle with high energy costs
- EU´s health & **addiction infrastructure lacks adequate funding** & resources
- Regional differences in drug regulation make **enforcement challenging**
- Large-scale **corporate R&D investment in addiction** & related challenges
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session

In 2040, with **environmental & economic crises** on the doorstep, societal discord is rapidly rising alongside inflation rates. With no end in sight, many governements are **placing all bets on innnovation** to find the necessary solutions.

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House of cards
Potential implications for drugs

What could it mean for drugs and drug monitoring/policy? (examples)

- Skilled personnel shortages in health & addiction support services
- High corporate R&D investment in addiction related innovation in hope of capitalising on growing drug usage rate (i.e., in legal substitutes, treatments, etc.)
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session
- …. to be expanded upon in today's working session

In 2040, with **environmental & economic crises** on the doorstep, societal discord is rapidly rising alongside inflation rates. With no end in sight, many governements are **placing all bets on innnovation** to find the necessary solutions.
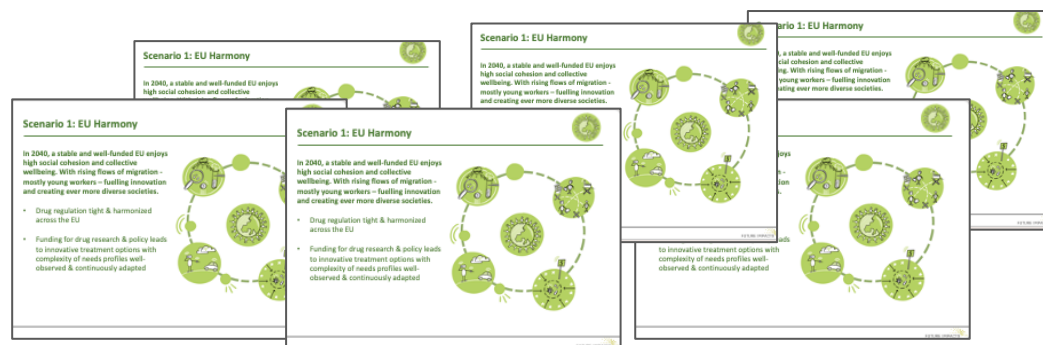
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Scenarios overview
The world (and the drug situation) in 2040

EU harmony	Barely managing	House of cards
In 2040, a stable and well-funded EU enjoys **high social cohesion and collective wellbeing**. With rising flows of migration - mostly young workers – **fuelling innovation** and creating ever **more diverse societies**.	In 2040, a rapidly changing global backdrop is **widening societal divides** and reshaping societies. EU authorities are currently keeping pace with **rising complexities in drug and medicine misuse**, …but for how long?	In 2040, with **environmental and economic crises** on the doorstep, societal discord is rapidly rising alongside inflation rates. With no end in sight, many governements are **placing all bets on innnovation** to find the necessary solutions.

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Today's focus
Discussing and working on the scenarios with you

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Key questions for the working session

What changes could the different scenarios bring about for the future of drugs until 2040?

- Generally (i.e. for society, living conditions, etc.)?

- For drugs and addictions?

- For drug monitoring and policy?

Any urgent comments or questions?

Workshop participants and groups

EU Harmony	Barely Managing	House of Cards
Eva Trier	**Jess Prendergast**	**Clara Jöster Morisse**
Dominique Lulla	**Tereza Cernik**	**Fatima El Kach**
Maria Moreira	Florian Scheibein	**Klaudia Palczak**
Lies Gremeaux	Réka Bálint	Milutin Milošević
Elsa Caballeria	Ilonka Horvath	Nadine van Gelder
Georgiy Bobashev	Nicki Killeen	Zoe Swithenbank
Maphisa Maphisa	Jordi Navarro	Ishwor Maharjan
Daniel Deimel	Chiara Remondi	Olena Puhach
Artemisa R Dores	Sandrine Sleiman	Miriam Lorenz
Melissa Bone		Dasa Kokole

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Time to go to the working groups

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Wrapping up

Next steps

- Your inputs and results will feed into scenarios, to be further refined and developed in the next months

- In 2023, possible option for a scenario process on a specific topic – watch this space

Most importantly:
Thank you very
much!

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Annex

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On the scenarios' assumptions
and a word of volatility and disruptions

- Due to the recent experience around pandemics, volatility and disruption is on everyone's minds (see the the concept "VUCA" = volatile, ambiguous, complex and uncertain).

- The **set of scenarios we work with today is built on a set of assumptions**, e.g. they **assume that a certain amount of volatility continues** (more in some scenarios than others), including a **continued struggle with pandemics and climate change impacts**, and that these are dealt with more or less well, leading to more or less bleak or problematic outcomes.

- However, the scenarios purposely do not foreground extreme disruption or (very extreme) levels of volatility (e.g., around an alien invasion, humanity relocating to space, or WW3). They focus more on (also largely disruptive) aspects of how innovation, the economy, societies, cooperation and technology could develop.

Inputs around specifics of future volatility could be covered in another iteration of scenario work within EMCDDA (feel free to note thoughts on these in the working sessions!).

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EU harmony
The world in 2040

In 2040, a stable and well-funded EU enjoys **high social cohesion and collective wellbeing**. With rising flows of migration - mostly young workers – **fuelling innovation** and creating ever **more diverse societies**.

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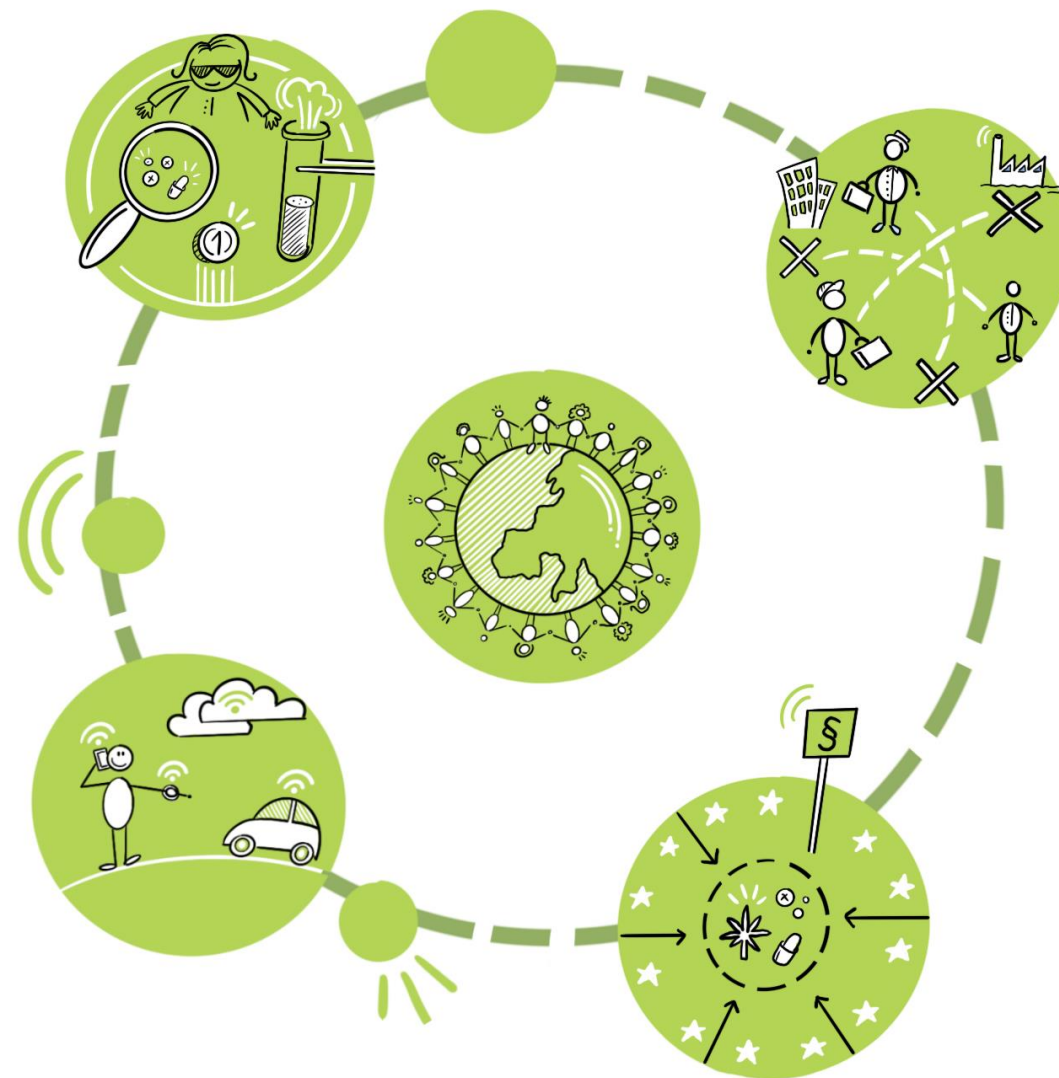
EU harmony
The world in 2040

- The global economy remains relatively stable, with flow on effects of steady and predictable funding for drug research, monitoring and policy
- Effective immigration & integration policies help to offset the slowly aging & shrinking EU population, & fill skills shortages in many industries
- Social cohesion is high, with most healthy & in state of collective wellbeing
- Some (but not all) severe climate change impacts have been mitigated, while targeted large-scale funding prevents the acceleration of environmental degradation
- Digital technology is ubiquitous with most EU citizens digitally connected on a daily basis
- Drug regulation is tight & harmonized across the EU
- Sufficient research, funding and targeted interventions have positively impacted on rates of medicine misuse – although keeping pace requires ongoing and constant attention
- A well-funded R&D landscape has led to innovative treatment options, especially in early prevention techniques
- The rising complexity of needs profiles and addictions are adequately managed via continuous observation and adaptation

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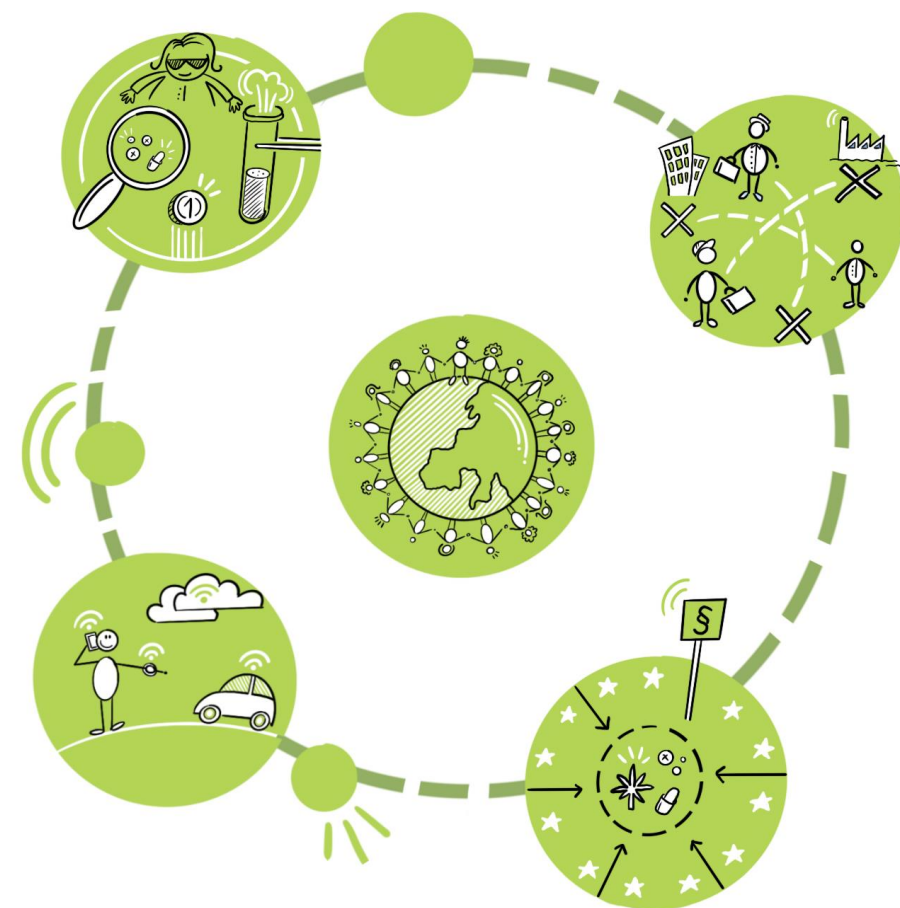
# Barely managing
The world in 2040

In 2040, a rapidly changing global backdrop is **widening societal divides** and reshaping societies. EU authorities are currently keeping pace with **rising complexities in drug and medicine misuse**, …but for how long?

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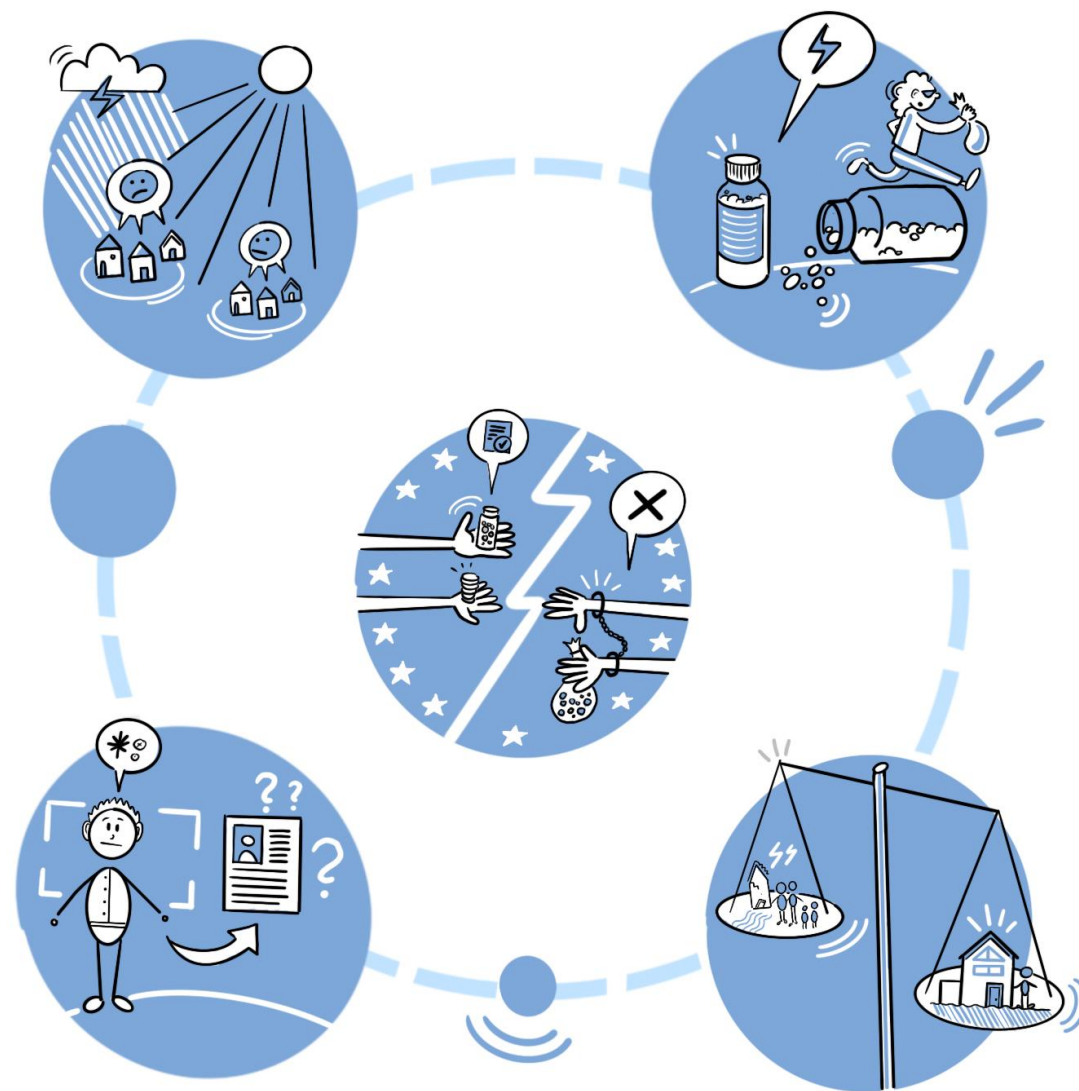
# Barely managing
The world in 2040

- Rocky global economic backdrop, but in the EU (minimum) funding levels for health-related portfolios remain consistent
- Conflict & climate change impacts result in rapid & complex new migration corridors. EU authorities are overwhelmed – with negative consequences for migrants, industries in need of skills, & overall EU sentiment
- The gap between the haves & have-nots is widening, as is social cohesion with solidarity & tolerance low
- Pace of environmental degradation is higher than expected, climate change mitigation has been mostly unsuccessful with extreme losses & damages to livelihoods & ecosystems
- Incidence of illness (NCD and mental health) continue to rise, but both are relatively well managed via adequately funded health systems
- Regional shifts towards de-criminalisation, however mismatched regulation across the EU causes headaches for authorities
- Misuse of medicines is rising in the EU. Control mechanisms are currently keeping pace, but it is unknown for how long
- Growing knowledge gap in understanding users' profiles & complexities mean individually tailored interventions are lacking, with specific vulnerabilities remaining unaddressed

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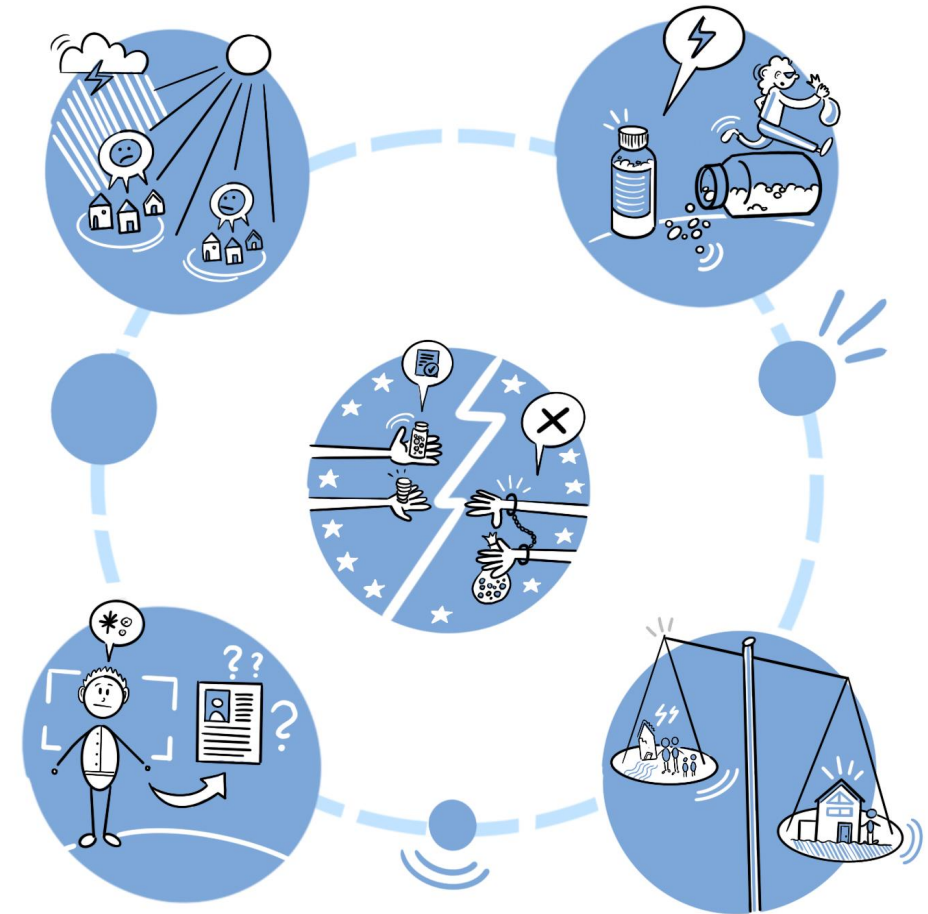
House of cards
The world in 2040

In 2040, with **environmental and economic crises** on the doorstep, societal discord is rapidly rising alongside inflation rates. With no end in sight, many governements are **placing all bets on innnovation** to find the necessary solutions.

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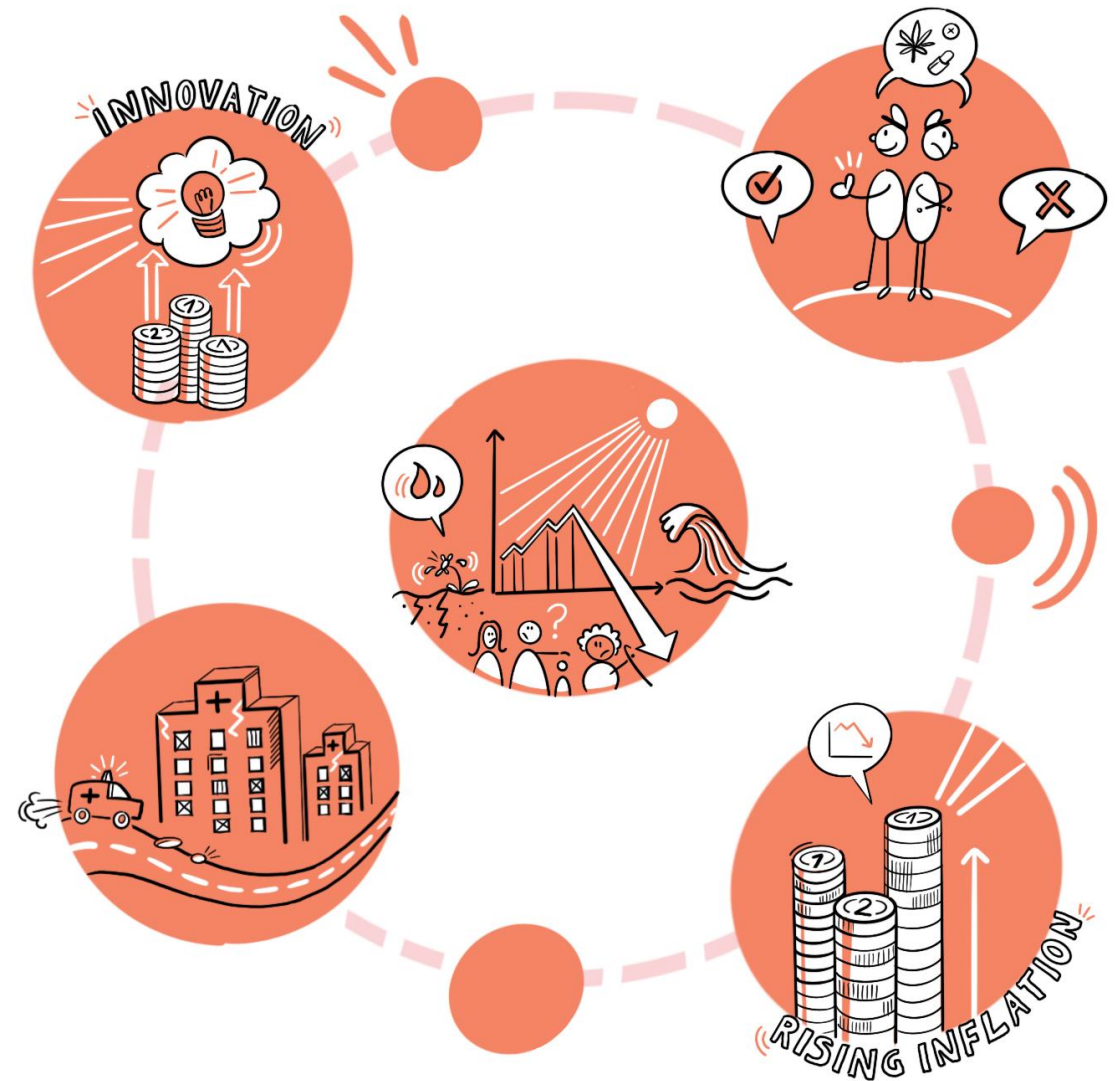
House of cards
The world in 2040

- Highly unpredictable global economy, impacts on health (& addiction) funding landscape
- Societal discord rapidly rising alongside rising inflation rates
- Pace of environmental degradation higher than expected, climate change mitigation mostly unsuccessful with extreme losses & damages to livelihoods & ecosystems
- Digital penetration varies by region, with many struggling with high energy & digital infrastructure costs
- EU´s health infrastructure is fighting a losing battle against an array of health epidemics
- Regional differences in drug regulation render enforcement challenging
- Rates of medicine misuse continue to steadily rise, with authorities overwhelmed & lacking adequate resources
- Development & introduction of new detecting & monitoring tools has made small progress, but has not had any radical impact on addiction outcomes – however corporate funding is readily available in hopes of a breakthrough
- Growing knowledge gap in understanding users' profiles & complexities mean individually tailored interventions are lacking, with specific vulnerabilities remaining unaddressed

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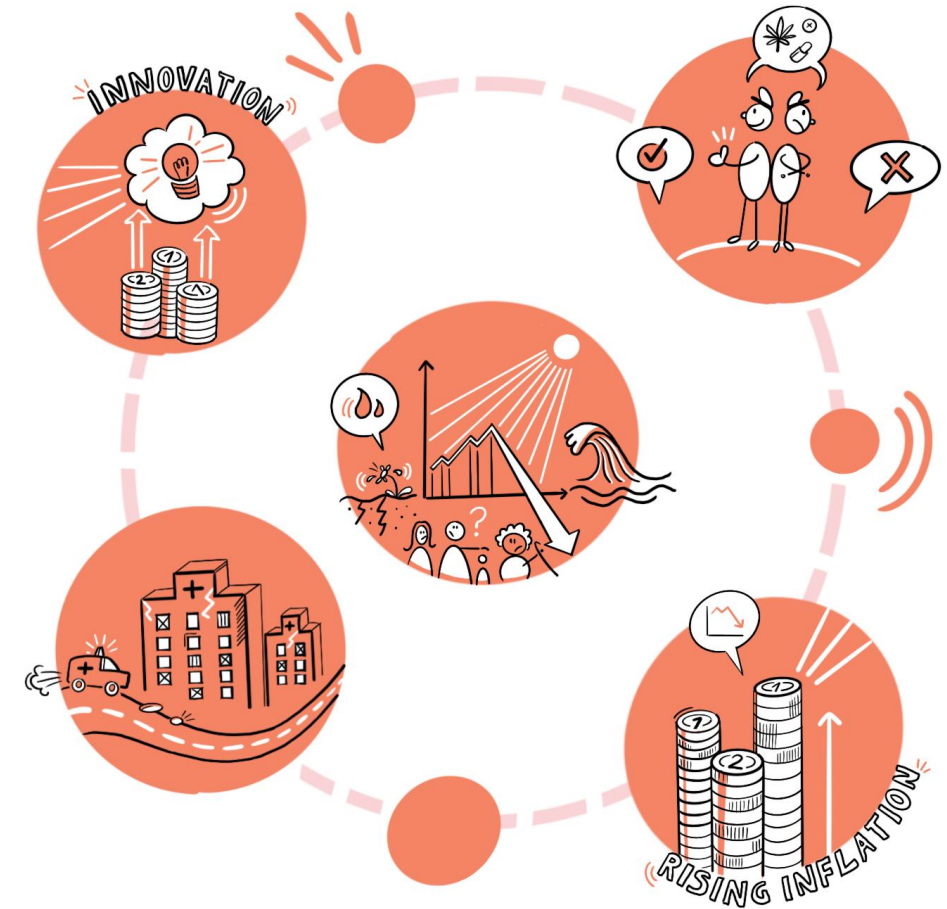
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