



## PROGRAMME

# 2<sup>nd</sup> GENDER AND DRUGS SYMPOSIUM

Towards consensus on gender responsive drug interventions in Europe

**Lisbon Addictions conference: side event by the European Drugs and Gender Group (EDG)**

**22 October 2024  
Lisbon Congress Centre**

## Background

The European Drugs and Gender Group (EDG) was set up in 2019 for the preparation of the Lisbon Addictions conference and has worked since then to implement the inclusion of a gender perspective in the drugs field. The group, is coordinated by the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, together with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and several drug experts from different countries. The EDG has promoted the gender perspective through the organisation of several events, exchanges and reflections among experts in the fields of drugs and gender. In 2023, a major step forward in this area was taken when the Swedish presidency of the Council of the EU prioritised gender and drugs in the EU drugs strategy.

Overall, increasing attention has been paid to the intersection of gender and drugs. Several reports, guidelines and scientific papers have been published on gender and drugs, or including gender and sex in their methods, discussion and results. However, this dimension is still not systematically included, the focus of gender discussions has remained primarily on women, and no common standards exist in Europe on what it means to incorporate a gender perspective in the drugs field.

This symposium is the second major event organised at European level on the topic of gender and drugs. The first gender and drugs conference side event during Lisbon Addiction 2022 set the scene and critically examined key concepts and issues around the topic in order to move towards common understandings.

The 2024 side event aims at identifying useful and evidence-based practices and recommendations for the implementation of gender responsive interventions at European and international level.

## Purpose of the symposium

The main purpose of the 2024 symposium is to identify some of the main recommendations and requirements to move from theory to practice in incorporating a gender dimension in the drugs field, with the final objective to move towards a consensus on gender responsive drug interventions in Europe.

## Objectives of the symposium

With the purpose of identifying common recommendations for gender-responsive drug policy and interventions, in order to promote consensus on gender responsive drug interventions in Europe, the symposium has several objectives:

- to discuss how to incorporate a gender dimension in the daily practice of those working in the drugs field;
- to present ideas about interventions aimed at reducing gender-related stigma;
- to share best practices and models of care on gender and drugs;
- to discuss the practical implementation of trauma-informed interventions;
- to present available findings on research about the implications of masculinities and drug use;
- to discuss issues surrounding intersectionalities, gender/sex diversities and drug use;
- to share research findings and practical experiences on parenthood and drug use;
- to work towards common recommendations for gender-responsive drug policy and interventions in Europe.

## Target audience

The symposium targets practitioners, managers, researchers and policymakers in the field of drugs.

## Structure

The event is organised in one plenary session, two parallel sessions, working group discussion and a final debate aimed at identifying key recommendations for gender responsive drug interventions in Europe.

## Practical information

The event will be held in person at Lisbon Congress Centre ([Praça das Indústrias, 1300-307 Lisboa](#)) on 22 October 2024 from 9.00 to 17.30 – Level 1 - Insight zone - Room 5A.

**Speakers are requested to arrive 1 hour before** the event starts in order to have the time to upload their presentation.

Coffee breaks and light lunch will be offered.

## Social event/Exhibition

### Practical session

## SESSION 1 – GENDER AND DRUGS: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Chairs: Liesbeth Vandam, EUDA and Elena Hedoux, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe

9.00-10.45 Room 5A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome – Jane Mounteney, Head of Public Health Unit, EUDA</li> <li>From theory to practice: introduction - Linda Montanari, EUDA</li> <li>Overview of existing minimum requirements or standards for gender responsive interventions in the drug field - Cristiana Vale Pires, Portugal</li> <li>Reducing gender-related stigma and substance use: the need for community and couple interventions using a socioecological framework - Wendee Wechsberg, United States</li> <li>Monitoring and research with a gender perspective - Nuria Romo, Spain</li> </ul>
10.45-11.00	Intervention by Alexis Goosdeel, Executive Director, EUDA
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
Room 5A	“Trauma-sensitive yoga as complementary support in addiction treatment” - Julie Schamp (Belgium)

## SESSION 2 – Parallel sessions

11.30-12.30	<p><b>1A) Trauma informed interventions with a gender responsive approach</b> (Room 5A) <i>Chair: Sharon Arpa, Malta</i></p> <p>Main findings from the European Survey on Gender Based Violence - Monica Barbovschi, EIGE</p> <p>Drug-related interventions addressing trauma and GBV - Carol Weiss, United States</p> <p>Practical example of a trauma informed intervention for people who use drugs - David McPhillips, Ireland</p>	<p><b>1B) Understanding masculinities in the drug field</b> (Room 1.09) <i>Chair: Brendan Hughes, EUDA</i></p> <p>Man Up or Shut Down? Exploring the Role of Masculinities in Society and vice-versa - Tatiana Moura, Portugal</p> <p>Masculinity: The Unexamined Norm - Geoffrey Hunt, Denmark</p> <p>Integrating a masculinities perspective in the planning and implementation of drug interventions - Sotiris Lainas, Greece</p>
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch break (served in the lobby)</i>	
13.00- 13.30 Room 5A	Marica Ferri (EUDA) discusses the book “ <i>Tagliate male</i> ” by Anna Paola Lacatena	

## SESSION 3 – Parallel sessions

13.30-14.30	<p><b>2A) Drugs, intersectionalities and sexual/gender diversities</b> (Room 5A) <i>Chair: Ricardo Fuertes, Portugal</i></p> <p>Intersectionalities, sexual and gender diversities - Amanita Calderon-Cifuentes, TGEU</p> <p>Gender transformative approach to drug interventions - Roberto Perez, C-EHRN</p> <p>Metzineres. A model of approach for women and non-binary gender people who use drugs surviving violence - Aura Roig, Spain</p>	<p><b>2B) Parenthood and drugs: main challenges and practical examples</b> (Room 1.09) <i>Chair: Florence Mabileau, former PG Secretariat</i></p> <p>Parenthood in a gender perspective - Analia Torres, Portugal</p> <p>Parenthood and drugs: results from research in 12 countries - Corina Giacomello, Mexico</p> <p>Interventions for parents who use drugs and their children - Linnea Fryk Afzelius, Sweden</p>
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14.30-15.30	<b>SESSION 4 – WORKING GROUPS</b> <b>Introduction:</b> Carine Mutatayi, France (Room 5A) <i>Participants will be invited to take part in one of the four interactive workshops based on the inputs from the four themes discussed in the parallel sessions.</i>	
	<b>Working group 1</b> (Room 5A) <b>Trauma informed interventions with a gender responsive approach</b> Chair: Sara Evli Özhan, Green Crescent, Turkey Rapporteur: Sharon Arpa, Malta	<b>Working group 2</b> (Room 5A) <b>Understanding masculinities in the drugs field</b> Chair: Franca Beccaria, Italy Rapporteur: Brendan Hughes, EUDA
	<b>Working group 3</b> (Room 1.09) <b>Drugs, intersectionalities and sexual/gender diversities</b> Chair: Ligia Parodi, EuroNPUD Rapporteur: Ricardo Fuertes, Portugal	<b>Working group 4</b> (Room 1.09) <b>Parenthood and drugs: main challenges and best practices</b> Chair: Graciela Ahumada, COPOLAD Rapporteur: Florence Mabileau, former PG Secretariat

15.30-16.00 *Coffee break*

Room 1.09 Practical demonstration on trauma-sensitive mindfulness for addictions, Anita Bajzat

**SESSION 5 – FINAL DEBATE**  
**TOWARDS CONSENSUS ON GENDER RESPONSIVE INTERVENTIONS IN THE DRUGS FIELD**  
Chair: Alessandra Liquori, UNICRI and Marta Torrens, Professor of Psychiatry, Spain

16.00-17.00  
Room 5A

Feedback from working groups:  
Sharon Arpa, Malta  
Brendan Hughes, EUDA  
Ricardo Fuertes, Portugal  
Florence Mabileau, former PG Secretariat

Short comments from:  
Mulka Nisic, Civil Society Forum (CSF)  
Gabriele Fischer, EUDA Scientific Committee  
Meni Malliori, European Parliament in the EUDA Management Board  
Michal Miovsky, International Society of Substance Use Professionals, ISSUP  
Anja Busse, UNODC

**SESSION 6 – CONCLUSIONS**

17.00-17.30  
Room 5A

Follow up and next steps, Linda Montanari, EUDA  
Concluding remarks: Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group, Council of Europe and Liesbeth Vandam, Head of Support to Policy Sector, Public Health Unit, EUDA

**SOCIAL EVENT**

19.00 **Dinner** (*information will be sent to registered participants - limited places*)

20.30 **Presentation of *Manaszines* organised by “Manas” (women’s peer support group)**  
Coordinators: Joana Canêdo and Magda Ferreira

*“From Grief to Resistance” in territories of exclusion: presentation of the “Manas” Magazine (Fanzine)*  
*Open conversation with the author of the book “Do nothing and transform worlds”, Raonna Martins*

**Disclaimer:** ‘Third party links on this event are merely indicative and are published with the sole objective of facilitating contacts between the conference delegates and services that are external to the Gender and Drugs Symposium. The organisers of this side event, do not endorse these external service providers, will not cover costs of services provided by them, are not compensated by them and cannot be held responsible for the choice and/or use of service providers listed on this page.’