

The European Drug Report: using an open data approach to improve data visualisation

doto. europo academy 21 June 2024 10.00 — 11.30 CEST

Rules of the game



The webinar will be recorded and shared with you, and the material will be published in the data.europa academy



Please reserve 3 min after the workshop to help us improve by filling in our feedback form



For questions, please use the ClickMeeting chat



Introduction



Inmaculada Farfan Velasco Data.europa academy Publications Office of the EU



Rosemary Martin de Sousa Head of Communication, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)



Sonia Vicente Digital production manager, European Drug Report, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)



David Penny Web manager,European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)





Introduction

data	
11.25 – 11.30	Closing remarks – Inmaculada Farfan Velasco
11.10 – 11.25	Q&A session
10.50 - 11.10	Case studies: data re-use by media and press – Rosemary Martin de Sousa
10.25 – 10.50	The European Drug Report 2024 and its visualisations- Sonia Vicente, David Penny
10.10 - 10.25	How an open data approach transforms publications – Rosemary Martin de Sousa
10.05 - 10.10	Opening and introduction – Inmaculada Farfan Velasco





How an open data approach transformed our publications

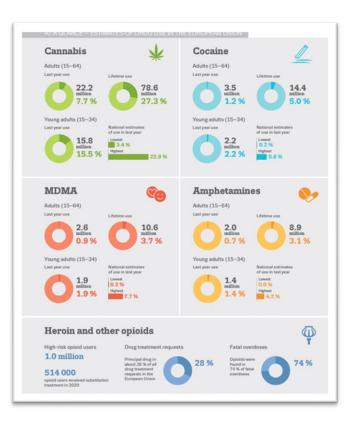
The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)



- One of the EU's decentralised agencies, set up in **1993 in Lisbon**
- Specialised in **illicit drugs and drug addiction**, and their consequences
- National data provided by national focal points ('Reitox'): EU, Norway and Türkiye
- Local and city-level data by partnerships with specialised networks
- On 2 July 2024 the EMCDDA will become the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA)



European Drug Report (print and PDF)



- Published every year since 1996
- The Agency's flagship product
- A concise overview of the drug situation in Europe
- Until 2023, conceived and designed for **print and PDF**
- Graphic and data-rich
- Translated into over 20 EU languages



European Drug Report print and PDF: a success story





- **4 500** downloads in 5 days post launch in 2022 (1 download every 2 minutes)
- Consistently highly rated by our partners and main customers
- Strong press + media uptake
- Established production process: Word, Excel and InDesign
- Tried and trusted technologies: PDF for the web, print for the real world
- Something visually pleasing to hand out to visitors, leave in the lobby, etc.



You want to do what...?



PDF process: error prone and NOT open data friendly



- Data often ceases to be machine-readable early in the production process
- Corrections are made directly in graphics or proofs
- Process is error prone and requires vigilance and continuous checking
- Increasingly difficult to update as process advances
- 'Source data' often needs to be reconstructed at the end

9

PDF: an accessibility obstacle course



PDF is not natively accessible

- It can be hard to navigate a PDF with a screen-reader
- PDFs can be made accessible ('born accessible') — not hard but not often done
- Experts recommend providing both HTML and PDF



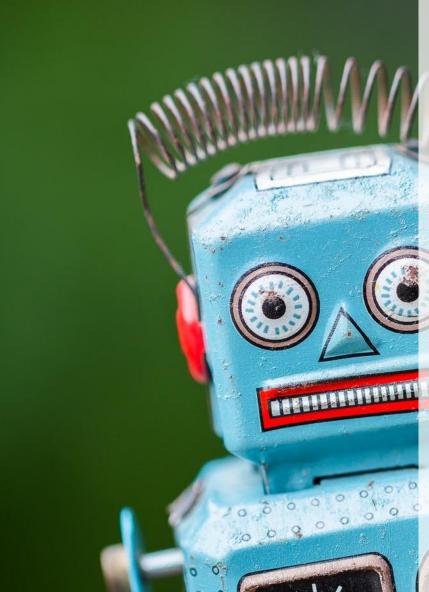
60% of our visitors are using mobile...



- PDF provides a very poor experience on mobile
- Not 'responsive'
- Difficult to navigate
- Difficult to read
- Difficult to view data and charts
- Difficult to find information
- Why are we doing this to the majority of our customers with our flagship publication?



Search engine bots hate PDF...



- PDFs rank lower in search results than web pages
- Algorithms favour mobile-friendly and accessible information sources
- We saw very out-of-date content in HTML being served ahead of our most recent PDFs
- Search engines matter! 90% of all our visitors find our information through organic search

Downloading a report is not the same as reading a report



- A PDF is a metrics black hole
- After download, most people (~80%) came back and continued their information search
- For most visitors, a PDF is a very long web page with poor navigation and a poor user experience
- A PDF download is not the same as a 'read'
- The number of 'downloads' was actually dropping (40% drop between 2021 and 2022)

13

Going 'digital first'

- Data to remain machine-readable throughout the process
- Data-driven visualisations generated 'on the fly'
- It should be born accessible
- Facilitate translation
- Format-neutral: mobile, desktop, print
- Search engine friendly
- Modular



Managing the change

- Changing the format fun mainly technical and designorientated. Agile approach and worked in sprints.
- Changing processes harder: early and regular stakeholder consultation highly recommended!









The European Drug Report 2024

Open data in action. The structure of the report and behind the scenes.

European Drug Report 2024: structure

On this page Introductory note	European Drug Developments
Content The drug situation in Europe up to 2024 Drug supply, production and precursors	The European Drug Report 2024: situation in Europe. Focusing on il comprehensive set of national dat reduction interventions.
 Cannabis Cocaine Synthetic stimulants 	TABLE OF CONTENTS SEARCH WIT
 MDMA Heroin and other opioids New psychoactive substances 	European Drug Report 2024 – home
Other drugs Injecting drug use Drug-related infectious diseases	Coc
Drug-induced deaths Opioid agonist treatment Harm reduction	
 PDF version of full report List of figures	Cannabis Other
Data visualisationsAnnex tables	



THIN THE BOOK



- Structured as thematic modules, that can be read in isolation
- Good for search and web metrics
- Also works as a single report (the 'traditional report') — important for researchers and stakeholders



Modules ('chapters'): 14 + annexes

European Drug Report	Drug supply, production and precursors – the current situation in Europe (European Drug	. Durepoin Drug Report	Figure 1.3. Drug seizures in the European Union - (2012 = 100)	quantity of drugs seized, indexed trends	European Drug Report	Source data
+ 2024 main page	Report 2024)	* 2024 main page	1216	× .	4 2024 main page	The data used to generate infographics and charts on this page may be found below.
On this page	Download as FDF	On this page	2100		On this page	The <u>complete set of source data for the European Drug Report 2024</u> including metadata and methodological notes is available in our data catalogue.
High drug availability fuelled by large-volume imports and production within the European Union Orug availability within the European Union	Analysis of the supply-initial indicators for commonly used flats: drops on the Curponent livine suggestion the availability remains the availability and the availability remains the supervise of drops supply in futures haves of the binary tables that as warened to be instan- tises brends in drug excesses and drug two offencess tagsteries with 2022 data on drug supply-induction and processor segment.	High drug availability fuelled by large-solurne imports and production within the European Union Drug availability within the European Union	100 219 0 2012 2013 2014 2013 2014		 High drug availability fuelled by large-volume imports and production within the European Unlen Drug availability within 	Indust is substation in our brack casesquite. A subject of this data, used to generate infographics, charts and similar elements on this page, may be found below. Deventional all free (r/s) b
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EU production and precensors data for 2022 Source data	High drug availability fuelled by large-volume imports and production within the European Union	Orug law offences trends EU production and precursors data for 2022 Source data	The indexed trends presented reflect relative changes in drug actual amounts. MCIMA tablets were converted to mass equivalents by assum	Same and the second second	 Drug supply trends Drug law offences trends EU production and precursors data for 2022 	 _1000 Initis EDR24-Sup-1, Drug seitures in the European Union — number of estrues in 2022 Table EDR24-Sup-5, Drug seitures in the European Union — owardbit veitad in 2022. (Ironea) Table EDR24-Sup-6, Drug two dimons — possession/van offences, indexed tunels (2012 – 100)
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	Figure 1.1. 'Operation Nano', 9.5 tonnes of cocaine selzed in August 2023 at the Port of Algeciras (Cadiz), Spain		E Show data table			
		in a new tab			Was this page helpful? Yes No	is there an issue with this page?

- Side menus for in-page navigation
- Data visualisations generated dynamically from source data
- Source data for graphics always available on page



HTML and PDF



- A PDF can be generated 'on the fly' from any module
- PDF preserves structure and graphics
- Full compiled version from main page (new for 2024)
- Unlike traditional PDF, easy to make changes as needed



The 'mosaic'

- The 'mosaic' is a visual motif linking the modules
- Shape, pictures and size of tiles can be easily changed in the backend
- Also serves as the main navigational tool between each module
- Incorporates a powerful tool to search within entire report (new for 2024)



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Making it easier to find and re-use the data

- Clear re-use license (CC-BY-4.0)
- All modules contain source data for the page
- The full data set is also contained in our Data Catalogue
- All data is now in CSV format (new for 2024)
- CSV bulk downloads (new for 2024)
- Data tables can be shown with copypaste under each graphic (new for 2024)

Show source tables

The complete set of source data for the European Drug Report 2024 including metadata and methodological notes is available in our data catalogue.

A subset of this data, used to generate infographics, charts and similar elements on this page, may be found below.

Prevalence of drug use data tables including general population surveys and wastewater analysis (all substances)

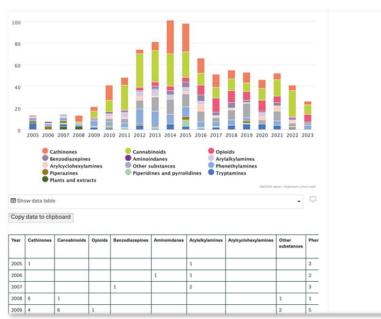
Download all files (zip)

- Table EDR24-GPS-1. Prevalence of drug use in Europe, based on most recent general population surveys
 (2022 or most recent year)
- Table EDR24-GPS-2. Prevalence of drug use in Europe, trends
- Table EDR24-WW-1 Mean weekly measurements by targeted substance from wastewater analysis in selected European cities in 2023. In

Other data tables including tables specific to cannabis

Download all files (zip)

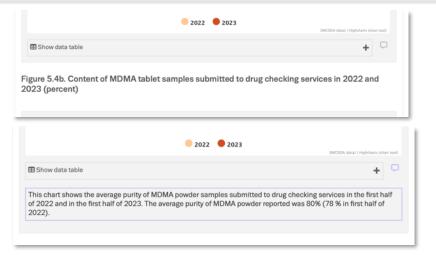
- Table EDR24-TDI-1. Treatment demand indicator (TDI) source data, client characteristics, European Drug
 Report, 2024. Percentages except where otherwise stated
- Table EDR24-Cannabis-3. Trends in first-time entrants, cannabis, selected countries
- Table EDR24-Cannabis-4. Cannabis markets seizures source data





Improving accessibility for data visualisations

- Static images (e.g. photos) are assigned with 'alt' text
- Dynamic data visualisations are embedded with <div> tags and role="img" and alt attributes
- Alt text is dual-purposed to provide a description beneath each data visualisation (new for 2024)
- Text versions of complex graphics are provided









Backend: managing data

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New Yorking Process of the second sec	

- Data is provided by data management team (110 CSV files)
- Custom-made Drupal data node assigns metadata to each file, auto-generates list and zip archive
- Easy 'drag and drop' updates
- Single source: data is embedded on pages
- Versioning (new update = new URI)



Translating content

to cart There are 0 items in 1	the translation cart.			
		Status	Peorting Translations	Operation
English (Original language)	Drug-related infectious diseases – the current situation in Europe (European Drug Report 2024)	Published	Source	Edit
Arabic	n/a	Not translated	None	Add
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Czech	n/a	Not translated	None	Add
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- Use CdT (EU Translation Centre) module in Drupal
- Easy 'shopping cart' process to select and submit translations
- Translated items are sent back directly to Drupal to be published on website



Translating data and visualisations

Language		
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- Translated data is needed for data visualisations
- Custom-code extracts terms and reduces size of translation
- A 'constraints' feature allows us to exclude columns
- Numerical data is not sent
- Data tables reconstructed as translated CSV files







Data visualisations

in the European Drug Report

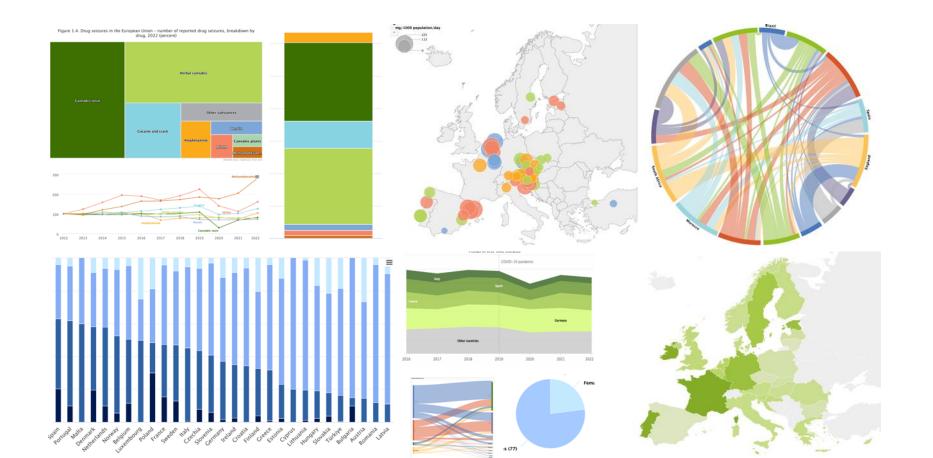
Ensuring that the graphic-rich quality of the original printed version was maintained but with open data to the fore.

Dynamic data visualisation library

- Generate directly from data
- Runs on browser (not server solution)

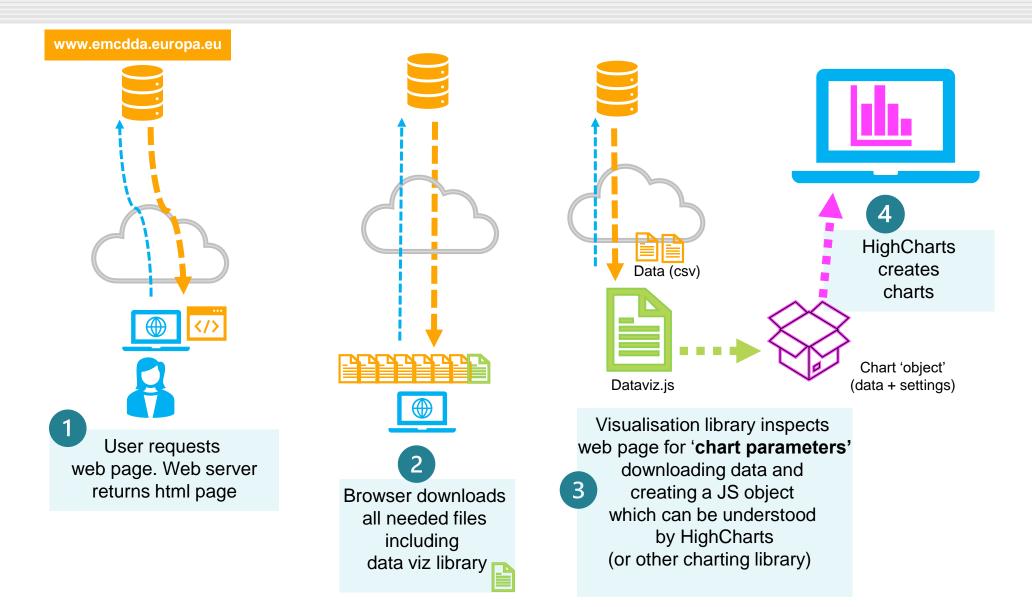
• Easy to update

• 'No code' (uses data attributes in HTML)





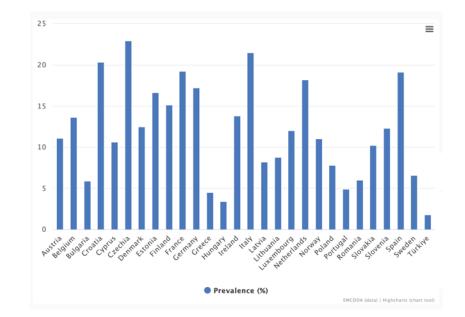
Data visualisation library



- Chart parameters are standard HTML embedded on web pages
- Based on data-* attribute which can be used to embed custom data (instructions to build data visualisations in our case)

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<div role="img" class="chart-
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```

Country	Prevalence (%)	Survey year	Substance	Recall period	Age	Sample size	Males (%)	Females (%)
Austria	11.1	2020	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1712	10.7	11.4
Belgium	13.6	2018	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	772	19.5	7.8
Bulgaria	5.9	2020	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1401	5.7	6.1
Croatia	20.3	2019	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1967	26.8	13.4
Cyprus	10.6	2022	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1540	13.6	7.4
Czechia	22.9	2020	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	927	31.9	13.3
Denmark	12.5	0000	0			4070	15.8	9.3



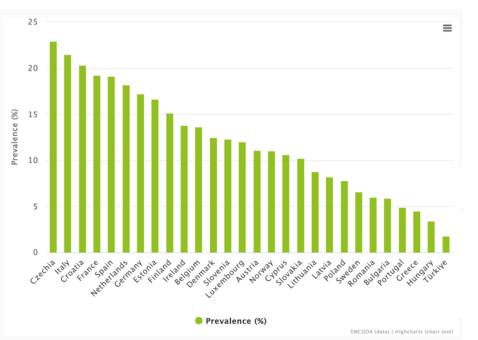


- Colours can be changed (scheme or choice of colour within scheme)
- Data can be sorted by column, ascending or descending

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Country	Prevalence (%)	Survey year	Substance	Recall period	Age	Sample size	Males (%)	Females (%)
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Cyprus	10.6	2022	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1540	13.6	7.4
Czechia	22.9	2020	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	927	31.9	13.3
Denmark	12.5	2023	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1872	15.8	9.3

edr24-table-1

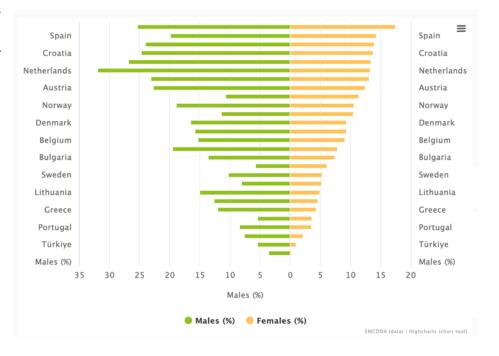




- Chart types can be easily updated
- Target columns for value and category data can be changed through API

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data-chart-table-col-pre-sort="9,asc"
data-chart-colour-order="2,5" ></div>

Country	Prevalence (%)	Survey year	Substance	Recall period	Age	Sample size	Males (%)	Females (%)
Austria	11.1	2020	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1712	10.7	11.4
Belgium	13.6	2018	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	772	19.5	7.8
Bulgaria	5.9	2020	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1401	5.7	6.1
Croatia	20.3	2019	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1967	26.8	13.4
Cyprus	10.6	2022	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1540	13.6	7.4
Czechia	22.9	2020	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	927	31.9	13.3
Denmark	12.5	2023	Cannabis	Last year	Young adults (15-34)	1872	15.8	9.3



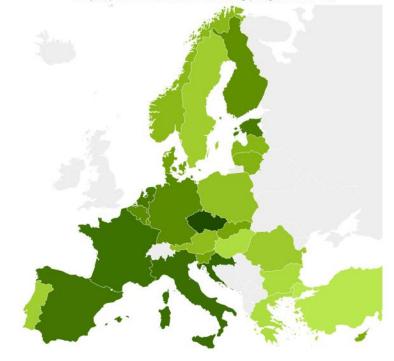


 Text can be added directly in attributes but for translation purposes this is actually done with translation lookup tables (not used here) as HTML data attributes are not translated

+

<div role="img" class="chart-parameters
chart" data-chart-table="edr24-table-1"
data-chart-type="choroplethQuantitative"
data-chart-table-transform-keepcolumns="1,8" data-chartcolour="sequential-emcdda-green-hc-9"
data-chart-legend-text-column="Percentage
(%) " ></div>

Country	Prevalence (%)	Survey year	Substance	Recall period	Age	Sample size	Males (%)	Females (%)
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Last year prevalence of cannabis use among young adults (15-34)



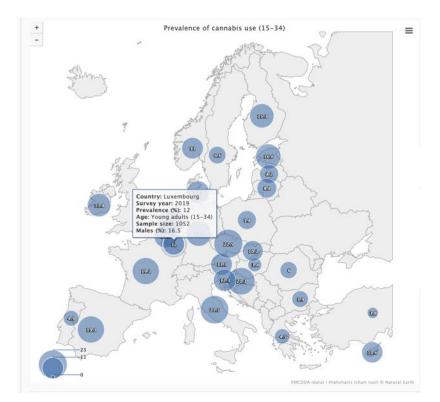


- Geocoding can be done with country codes, names or lat, lon coordinates
- Labels can be customised, and set to different values
- Interactive tooltips can be configured to show specific columns

<div role="img" class="chart-parameters
chart" data-chart-table="edr24-table-1"
data-chart-type="countriesBubbleMap"
data-chart-header-keys="4=z" data-chartcolour="sequential-emcdda-blue-hc-9"
data-chart-labelsize="7pt" data-charttooltip-keys="1,3,4,7,8,9"></div>

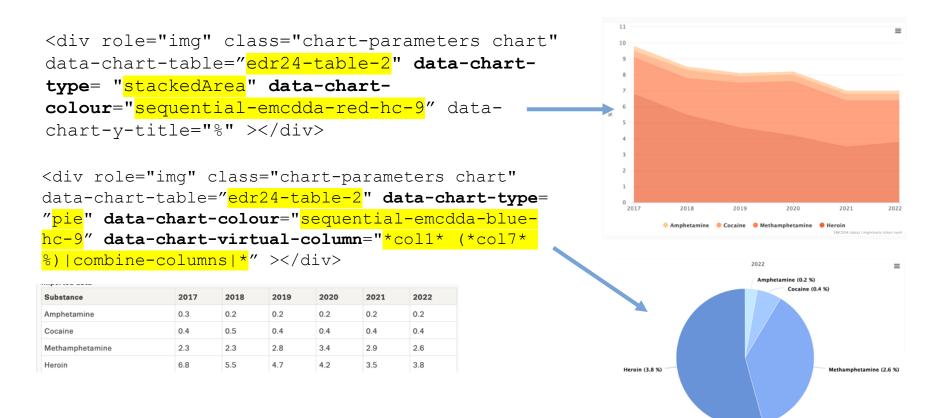
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edr24-table-1

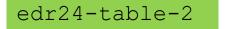




- Data table can be transformed, sorted, filtered, mixed with other tables, etc.
- Non-destructive: same data table can be used for any number of charts







• Using the same principles, more complex visualisations can be built

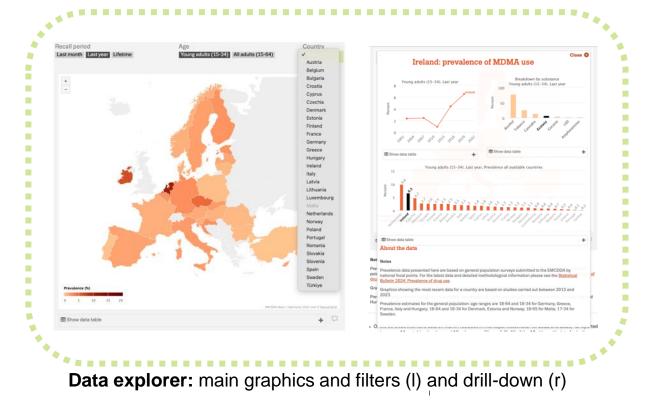


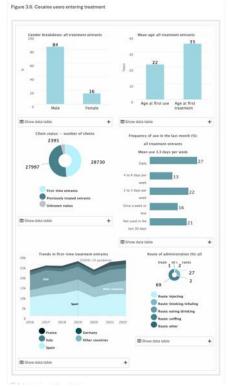




Data explorers and dashboards

- Data explorers: allow users to explore larger data sets (always dynamic) using filters and drilldowns
- Dashboard: simpler view of multiple charts within a pre-defined frame (fixed or dynamic)
- Both fully customisable (and support templating to facilitate creation)

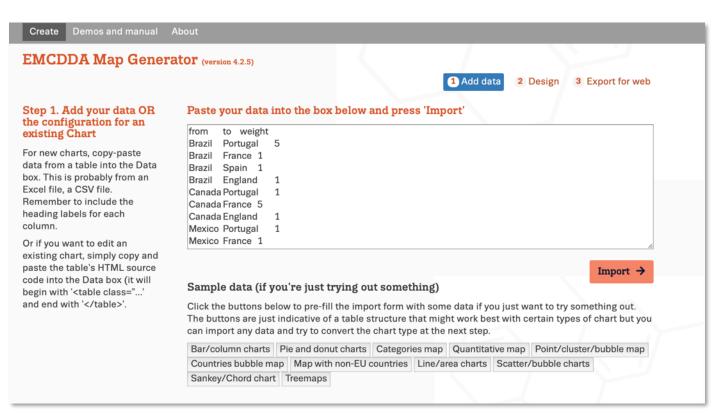






Map and Chart Generator 1

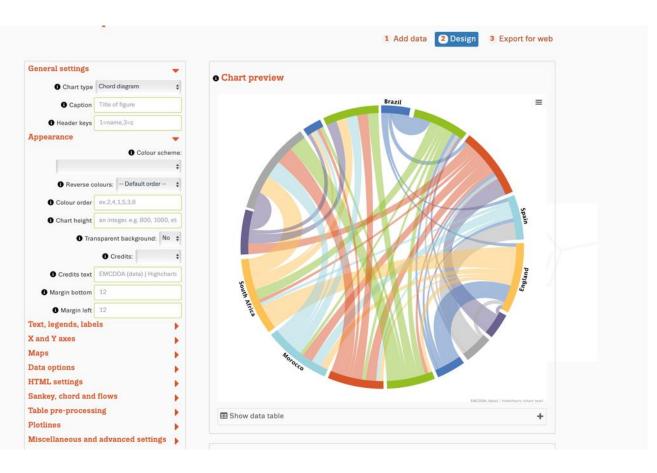
- Map and Chart Generator: 'no code' tool for creating visualisations
- Data can be copied-pasted





Map and Chart Generator 2

- Settings panel allows users to quickly create visualisations
- Final code snippets ('chart parameters') are exported to be embedded in Drupal alongside data
- Open data by design: data is not embedded and must be available through a public web call





Data visualisations: lessons learned so far

- Open data approach: makes it **much easier** to create, update and translate visualisations
- Use a single source for the data and embed where needed
- Data explorers: use to complement story but remember they will not work in PDF or print
- **Dashboards:** visually nice on desktop and PDF but on mobile can be tricky for users
- Keep text and related graphics near each other good for accessibility
- Helps if writers can see text and graphics as they are drafting







Case studies: data re-use by media and press

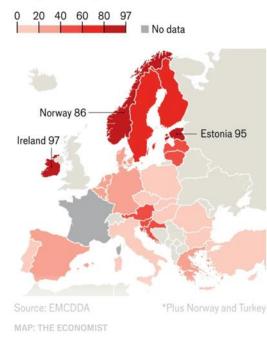
How an open data approach makes it easier and more likely for journalists and others to reuse our data

The Economist, June 2024

The Economist

Killer highs

Drug-related deaths per m people aged 15-64 European Union*, 2022 or latest available



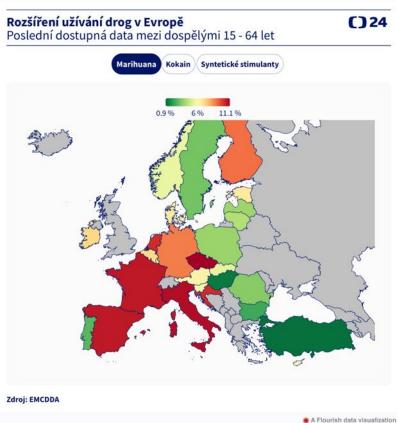
- Article: 'The drug-overdose capitals of Europe'*
- Original graphic in Drug-induced deaths chapter of European Drug Report 2024 and supplemented with open data from EMCDDA Statistical Bulletin (and Eurostat population data)
- Journalist reached out and worked with relevant expert and data manager before publication

*https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2024/06/12/the-drugoverdose-capitals-of-europe



Czech television, June 2024

() Česká televize



- Article: 'Narůstá hrozba syntetických drog, varuje nová zpráva'*
- Mini-data explorer made with
 Flourish and using drug prevalence
 data from the European Drug
 Report
- Good example of reaching a wider audience, helped by making our data open and easy to re-use

*https://ct24.ceskatelevize.cz/clanek/domaci/narusta-hrozbasyntetickych-drog-silnejsich-nez-fentanyl-varuje-ve-zpraveevropska-agentura-350141

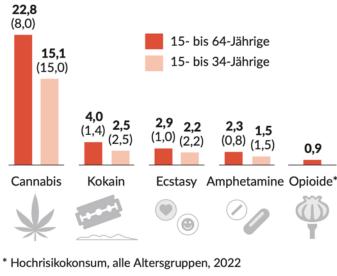


Austria Presse Agentur, June 2024

Tiroler *Tageszeitung

Drogenkonsum in der EU

Konsumenten im vergangenen Jahr, in Mio., geschätzt (Anteil an der jeweiligen Altersgruppe in Prozent)



Grafik: © APA. Quelle: Europäischer Drogenbericht 2024

Tiroler#Tageszeitung

- Austria Presse Agentur, recreating the 'At a glance' dashboard from the European Drug Report 2024
- Data is included in source directly on the page
- Infographic appears in multiple other Austrian media outlets
- Good example of how a press agency can multiply a message

*https://www.tt.com/artikel/30884565/drogengefahr-steigt-durchneue-mischungen-und-veraenderten-konsum



The Guardian, June 2024



Cocaine residues found in the wastewater of European cities

Selected European cities in 2022-23, daily mean mg, per 1,000 population

Belgium			0	Brussels				0
Spain	0		0)		🛛 🔵 Tarrag	ona
Netherlands				00	0	0		
Switzerland			0 (🔵 Base			Antwerp
Portugal			\odot	Lisbor	ı	The	e Zuid neight	
Denmark	😑 Copenhagen							e highest
Iceland			(0			concentrat	
France							site	s studied
Austria	0 0		0 0					
Croatia	Zagreb							
Slovenia	0000 0 0							
Germany	000		😑 D	ortmund				
Czech Rep		D	Pragu	e				
Italy								
UK			Bristol	l				
Luxembourg	0	0						
Estonia	0	0 0						
Finland								
Latvia		0						
Lithuania	00	0						
Slovakia	0	0						
Romania		0						
Sweden	00							
Greece	0)						
Cyprus	000							
Poland	•							
Turkey	00							
Hungary	0							
	0	250	500	750	1 000	1 250	1 500	1 750
	0	250	500	/50	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,750

Guardian graphic. Source: EMCDDA, Sewage analysis CORe group (SCORE), 2022 and 2023. Note: study measures levels of Benzoylecgonine, the main metabolite of cocaine excreted in urine

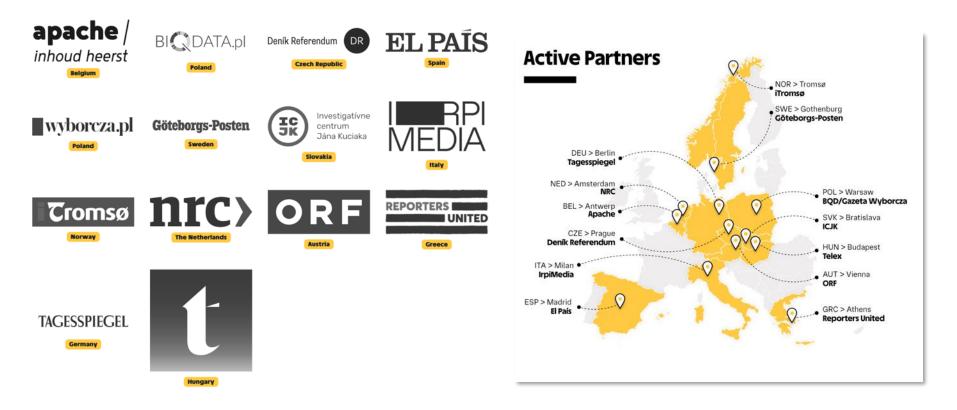
- Article by The Guardian* uses multiple sources about Cocaine in Europe, following launch of Drug Report
- Uses open data published by the EMCDDA, including data published in partnership with the SCORE network on wastewater analysis
- Good example of collaboration between different organisations using multiple data sources
- Good example of how we can use data visualisations by others to inspire our work

*https://www.theguardian.com/globaldevelopment/article/2024/jun/11/how-big-is-europes-cocaine-problemand-what-is-the-human-cost



Urban Journalism Network

The Urban Journalism Network aims to promote high-quality digital journalism by collaborating across European cities to investigate urban issues



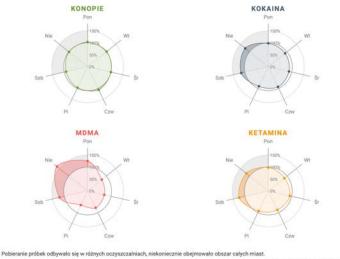


Urban Journalism Network, March 2024



Trawa do pracy, MDMA na weekend: Jak zmienia się spożycie narkotyków w ciągu tygodnia

Dzienne stężenie pozostałości narkotyków w miejskich ściekach (średnie dla miast biorących udział w badaniu). 100% odnosi się do średniego tygodniowego stężenia



European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. SCORE / Tagessolegel Innovation Lab, Urban Journalism Network, Gazeta Wyborcza

Example article form Wyborcza.pl (Poland)

- Worked with us* prior to the release of our annual wastewater analysis publication in collaboration with the SCORE network
- Sharing the data prior to launch was easy and did not require specific extractions. Data management team formatted the data for us to use in the publication, exactly as needed, and this format also worked for the data journalists
- Resulted in a lot of coverage across multiple quality European press outlets
- Nice example of European wide data collaboration: SCORE-EMCDDA-Urban Journalism Network







Lessons learned and next steps

Benefits of digital-first approach

- Production process very efficient compared to print/PDF
- Much less error-prone (less manual intervention)
- Easy to update data and visualisations (single source)
- Good search engine ranking for most pages
- Positive feedback and more buy-in for open data from stakeholders
- Data journalists are directly using the data
- Changes are generally system-based so the benefits are across all products and can be re-used



Lessons learned

- Involve stakeholders early in process and update regularly
- PDF is still very important for many stakeholders
 Be aware of impact on upstream workflows with data management teams, editors and writers (digital transformation) as well as external partners for consultation
- Be aware that translating data can require a different approach to text



Next steps on our open data journey

- Provide data in more formats and additional view modes for visitors
- Explore more automation for data updating
- Improve accessibility of our visualisations
- Continue digital transformation across our range of products and publications
- Keep raising awareness with colleagues and partners of benefits of, and need for, open data
- Keep improving our open data offer, following data.europa.eu guidance and uploading our data sets



Thank you!



Questions & Answers



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Sonia Vicente Digital production manager, European Drug Report, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)



David Penny Web manager,European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)





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Your opinion is important to us



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Thank you!



