



Lisbon International Invitational Consultation

Summary Report
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1. Introduction

On 1-2 October 2014, 85 stakeholders and experts gathered in Lisbon to discuss possible areas and themes for future drug-related research. The Lisbon International Invitational Consultation (LIIC) was organised by ERANID, the European Research Area Network on Illicit Drugs. The conference aimed to gain feedback on these themes and identify research priorities in preparation of the ERANID Strategic Research Agenda (SRA).

The LIIC acted as a further stage of SRA validation and played an important role in ensuring that the SRA is inclusive and represents a consensus across countries. At the conference, ERANID partners requested experts' input in developing research themes and their opinion on the most important areas to be included in the SRA. Experts were asked to take into account their own existing knowledge of the evidence base around each theme and on what type of research is ongoing and or lacking.

The LIIC gathered a select number of stakeholders from the six ERANID countries, as identified by project partners from the individual countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Italy and UK). There were approximately 10 stakeholders invited to attend from each country. In addition, members of the ERANID Advisory Committee were also invited to participate and an extra session for funders from the Member States was organised. The invited stakeholders were drawn from across the illicit drugs field and represented each of the main ERANID stakeholder types: policymakers, researchers, drug-related professionals and civil society. Representatives worked across demand and supply including treatment, harm reduction, prevention and law enforcement. This led to a wide variety of viewpoints, vivid discussions in the workshop sessions and valuable feedback for ERANID.

The results of the LIIC will feed into the development of the final SRA. The SRA will set out research priorities for the next stage of the ERANID project, namely the organisation of two common calls in 2015/2016. We also hope it will be useful for external funders in the European Union, including the European Commission to help direct future research efforts in this area. The SRA was presented at the Horizontal Drugs Group meeting which took place in Brussels on December 10th, 2014.

This report provides brief summaries of the keynote speeches and plenary and workshop sessions held during the Lisbon International Invitational Consultation. The presentations of the plenary sessions were sent to the stakeholder experts prior to the meeting and have also been made available in PDF or PowerPoint format on the dedicated ERANID webpage.

The ERANID consortium looks back on a successful and highly relevant meeting, which has proved to be an important step in writing the SRA.

On behalf of ERANID, we would like to thank all 85 stakeholders for their presence and valuable contribution during the Lisbon International Invitational Consultation. And we would like to add a special word of thanks to the keynote speakers.

The ERANID consortium

Day 1 October 1st 2014**2. Summaries – Plenary Opening sessions****2.1 Welcome: João Castel-Branco Goulão**

General Director – General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD)

Mr. Castel-Branco Goulão welcomed all participants to the Lisbon International Invitational Consultation on behalf of SICAD, the host of the meeting. He commends the ERANID initiative to involve such a wide array of stakeholders in the process of identifying priorities for research. In his opinion this is unprecedented and will lead to research themes that will focus on the variety of stakeholders needs.

2.2 Opening speech: Henk Garretsen

Scientific Coordinator of ERANID and Professor Health Care Policy, Director Department Tranzo – Tilburg University

Mr. Garretsen provided an introduction on the project partners, goals of the ERANID project as well as the main aims of the Lisbon International Invitational Consultation. Stakeholders were informed on the process that preceded the consultation, including: a survey amongst almost 1000 stakeholders and experts, followed by National Consultations in the six ERANID countries focussing on their needs for research. This has led to identifying the draft themes which are presented in the key documents for the consultation.

In addition to the consultation on the research needs, a review was undertaken to gain knowledge on existing, ongoing and planned research. These different elements will provide input for SRA, as shown in the illustration below.



Key documents summarising the results so far have been disseminated for the preparation of the consultation.

2.3 Keynote speech: Edvard Beem

Co-director – The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)

On behalf of the Coordinator of ERANID, ZonMw, Mr. Beem presented background information on the ERANID project and ERA-NET, the specific EU tool to which ERANID belongs. An overview explaining that the vast majority of research funding is based at national level and that much can be gained in working across countries was addressed. Key highlights indicated that the drug-related research exposed through ERANID will help to solve major societal problems that are prominent in all countries. Both practitioners and researchers will benefit from such cooperation using the knowledge and experiences from across borders. It will also broaden policy maker's perspective and help validate decision making based on robust evidence. Furthermore, funders will benefit as it will help to ensure a leverage of research budgets and enhance the implementation of results. The ERANID research themes will lead to research that can fill knowledge gaps and will help to improve practice and policy.

2.4 Keynote speech: Cristina Marcuzzo

Research Programme Officer – European Commission Unit B.6 – Reflective Societies

Due to circumstances the European Commission was not able to send a representative on behalf of the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation. However, a formal letter was written by Cristina Marcuzzo as contribution to the Lisbon International Invitational Consultation. This letter was read by Els van Gessele, Project Coordinator of ERANID.

The letter from Ms Marcuzzo stressed that research is essential to offer a better understanding of the drugs phenomenon and that evidence-based findings are crucial in devising effective policy responses.

She noted that, while the health implications of drug use are clear to all, the drug problem is an important social issue and a daunting societal challenge. Socio-economic determinants are central in explaining drug use and the socio-economic impacts of this phenomenon are sizable. More importantly, policy interventions at the socio-economic level, if well-construed, can have a very direct and tangible impact in reducing drug use and related problems. It is expected that the SRA will build a solid basis for cooperation and better integration of research funding.

2.5 Keynote speech: Paul Griffiths

Scientific Director – European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

Due to delays in flights the keynote speech "*Current situation on drug research in Europe*" was not presented by Paul Griffiths as planned. Maria Moreira (Principal Quality Officer, Scientific Committee, EMCDDA) stepped in and presented an overview explaining the goals and activities of the EMCDDA and the range of products which they deliver. Ms Moreira discussed information on the dissemination tasks which the EMCDDA perform regarding funding programmes and research projects on both European and national level, and also the relevance of scientific research on (illicit) drugs in general. Furthermore, the advantages of collaboration at a multinational and European level were highlighted. This presentation was then concluded by addressing the underlining importance of the activities which ERANID have been performing and will perform during its next phase; the development of the SRA, distinguishing information and research gaps and the necessity of an overall drug-related research coordination mechanism at EU-level.

2.6 Introduction to the draft research priorities and the workshops: Aziz Naji

Programme Manager – Federal Research Programme Drugs – Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)

The first plenary session of the LIIC was closed by Mr. Naji who presented an overview on the development of the SRA, the activities that have preceded it and the elements of which the SRA is composed. Stakeholders were advised of their involvement and the goals of the workshops that were held on the second day of the conference, and how their contributions would feed into the SRA.

2.7 Discussion, practical information and closure

The chair, Mr. Garretsen, opened the floor for questions and remarks from the audience and as a result addressed the following questions:

Does the focus of ERANID on Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) imply that the involvement of other sciences is impossible?

In response, Mr. Garretsen explained that the involvement of other sciences is not implicated. The focus on SSH implies that the research themes and topics should be in this domain. If it is felt helpful to involve sciences from other domains and there was no objection. The call will not be open however to applications that start from a research question that is not in the SSH domain.

Does the focus of ERANID on illicit drugs imply that no research on licit drugs or on addiction that is not related to substances is impossible within the boundaries of the project?

The answer to this question was very similar to the previous one. Including research on licit drugs could be helpful in answering research questions on illicit drugs. If this is the case, such research can be included in the application. The call will not be open for research in licit drugs per se. The same goes for addiction that is not related to substances.

On closure of the opening meeting, Mr. Garretsen addressed the programme for both meeting days and some further practical information. He wished all participants fruitful discussions on the forthcoming workshops, and invited all to attend the evening programme.

Day 2 October 2nd 2014**3. Summaries – Workshop sessions**

Two rounds of workshop sessions were delivered, each session was dedicated to one of the seven priority themes presented in the *Discussion Paper* which was provided to experts beforehand. On the first day of the meeting participants were given the opportunity to choose which two themes they preferred to attend. All workshop sessions were attended between 9 to 15 individuals, coming from different countries and from different fields of research, work and expertise. These stakeholders discussed the themes in an attempt to identify the main subtopics and the gaps in the description presented within the discussion paper.

3.1 Drug use in the life course

In this workshop theme all participants agreed that the description of the topic was containing all important elements, but some dimensions needed to be highlighted and refined.

Experts stressed the necessity to develop a holistic approach in the comprehension of drug use. A dynamic - life course - perspective is one element of this approach. Experts felt that more attention should be drawn to all possible pathways (non-use to use, use to abuse, use to non-use ...) but also to trajectories within use. In terms of pathways, the onset of use was considered a key transition that should be studied in priority. A holistic approach of drug use cannot be confined to illicit drugs and should open to legal substances as well within a dynamic perspective. Experts also acknowledged the importance to link environmental (both socio-economic and subjective factors) and biological/genetic factors in a comprehensive approach to understanding drug use. The complex interplay of both dimensions can help understand different pathways and multiple outcomes to a given risky behaviour (which was felt particularly relevant for studying onset of use by adolescents). The interaction should also focus on unveiling protective factors next to the more classical approach focusing on risks. In terms of environmental factors, life events were seen as an important factor in understanding transitions in use. The role of motivation was put forward and required to shift the perspective of analysis from the substances to the effect sought. Additionally, variations of responses to a given life event was also largely attributed to cultural differences, a dimension understudied. Intergenerational aspects were also discussed: the family environment plays a role in use (or non-use) both at the social (e.g. negative or positive effect of parents using drugs) and the genetic level (effect of exposure to drugs during gestation on future consumption). Finally, the experts considered that a global approach on drug use cannot omit two important elements: criminal behaviour and mental aspects. These elements are largely associated to drug use, either as correlates or consequences of drug use, and their interaction requires more attention from research.

Within this general setting, experts discussed some focused areas of attention. Firstly, they stressed the necessity to improve knowledge of drug use across the whole population and not only to the often studied sub-group of high-risk users. They argued that a lot can be learned from people who naturally recover, from people with a moderate and recreational consumption who are functional in all their life domains (job, family etcetera) and enjoy positive effects of drug use. Non user populations should be studied too to understand protective factors. Studies should also span to the less studied user group of 65+. Some specific groups who are affected by life events more than others are understudied and deserve more research: asylum seekers, migrants, homeless people and the military. Another area of focus was on NPS: experts insisted not to create an artificial distinction (NPS versus other drugs) but to consider them as one element of a poly-use context. Several research questions concerning NPS were highlighted: what are the acute long term harms associated to their consumption? What explains spatial

differences in consumption? What is the role of internet in availability and how do users deal with these substances?

Methodological issues were also raised during the discussions. Experts agreed that one should enable life sciences and SSH to cooperate more in order to generate better insights in the life-long perspective. Long term longitudinal panel studies were considered difficult to put in place given the difficulty to approach problematic users. Some experts argued that retrospective analysis can be a response to this problem as it can pinpoint critical life events; others think that new communication tools can reduce attrition in panel studies. Such longitudinal studies are also a valuable tool for following up recovery and long term outcome of treatment and to capture the multidimensional aspect of recovery (including medical and social elements).

3.2 New Communication Technologies

The main consensus on the theme of New Communication Technologies (NCT) was an over emphasis on NPS. Participants felt that NCT were implicated in a number of drug related research areas, including both the online and physical drug markets, e.g. the dark net and illicit drugs. Thus, participants felt the theme should not only cover legal markets, but also the role of the internet in the illegal market. Participants were not aware of any/much epidemiology carried out on online drug markets and identified The Dark net as an emerging issue that requires further research. Questions included 'how big is the dark net?' and 'how easy is it for users to find drugs on the dark net?' However, according to the experts this area could fit within the theme "better understanding drug markets and supply".

Reflecting the law enforcement and monitoring background of the group, monitoring of the drug markets in relation to NCT was felt to be more of a priority area than primary research into user perspectives. With regards to the role of communication technologies and health responses, participants felt this was a much needed area of research in terms of measuring the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of such approaches. Research aimed at providing quality standards for designing and implementing e-health were felt to be needed. Participants also felt that research was needed into how such approaches can target and engage hard-to-reach groups. However, they felt that there was sufficient evidence in this area regarding online treatment approaches.

There was consensus that such areas posed methodological challenges and as such innovative methodological research is needed to enable monitoring the online market and predicting new trends. Research methods in monitoring online markets included drug forum analysis, yet more advanced methods using techniques such as Google analytics were felt to be required.

In general participants felt that this area was worthy of being prioritised and it was noted that NCT are related to other priorities within the SRA, particularly drug markets. As such, NCT could perhaps be an overarching theme within the SRA.

Other specific areas of research related to NCT and the drug markets included:

- Monitoring the life line of the internet – begins online before the traditional route takes over.
- The use of smart phones in the physical street market and the implications for policing.
- The role of the media and its impact on user internet searches for drugs online.

In general, experts felt that the ERANID project needs to place the priorities within the context of gaps in evidence and other existing funding streams at International level. They felt that the theme is vague and should state what it will not include. The group discussed the terminology used in the theme and agreed that the word 'new' should be dropped, as this may potentially exclude technology such as mobile phones and the internet which are not necessarily new developments.

3.3 Social correlates and consequences

There was a high level of consensus on views between the workshop participants, despite their diverse backgrounds and disciplines, comprising public health, public order, sociology, psychology, non-government organisations, drug treatment sector, policy and academia. Participants supported the current proposed priorities within the area of social correlates and consequences including agreement on terminology, such as avoiding terms such as 'drug addicts' and 'addiction'.

The importance of research into protective factors rather than risk factors was emphasised. Much can be learnt from research into reasons for not using or for not accepting offers to buy drugs. This was in relation to both individuals and at the wider community level, with a focus on the role of social capital and resilience. Differences in Social Economic Status should be considered, such as data that may indicate if drug experimentation by those less disadvantaged differs and has different consequences than drug use by those more disadvantaged. Participants also identified that some risks are more difficult to reduce, e.g. poverty, wider public policy. The need was felt to research non problematic use and abstinence in high risk environments together with social responses as protective factors. Further research on how different communities perceive different levels of drug related harm (including all aspects of anti-social behaviour together with crimes such as violence and drug trafficking) and its impact on these communities was also considered to be important.

Participants supported the exploration of drug user identity, self-perception and peer support in regards to how they differ in different communities and how they can impact on social consequences. Likewise, the impact of how wider society (including professional groups, media and general population) perceives drugs and drug users, the role of stigma and the effect of drug related policies.

Participants raised the issue of developing the evidence base and cost/benefit of all drug related interventions such as drug prevention, harm reduction, treatment and relapse prevention. It was discussed that a particular area of importance should focus on the cost/benefit of interventions for hepatitis C prevention and treatment.

The opportunity for ERANID to examine specific cross national issues was emphasised. One particular area that was highlighted was drugs and travel. This included migrant populations, the 'left behind populations' following migration and drug use and tourism. The issue of drug trafficking and dealing was considered important, with the varying impact and levels of harm caused by drug markets on specific communities and the fact that some communities were resilient and resistant to these harms.

Participants felt it was important that ERANID strengthens the theoretical approach to investigate the social consequences of drugs. It was also identified that there was a need to develop drug research methodologies, particularly in the case of comparative studies. The importance of robust selection criteria to allow comparisons of issues and outcomes across the EU was emphasised. The development of sentinel communities and longitudinal studies for a better understanding of longer term consequences of drugs and drug policies was cited as a potential outcome of improved research methodologies.

Qualitative research (including ethnographic and biographic studies) was considered an important area for development as was the development of 'action research' projects to examine multiple themes associated with social consequences. Involving drug users' expertise and experiences at all stages of research was thought to be essential as was the development of a specific framework for measuring 'quality of life' and 'health and wellbeing' in populations of drug users. The exploration of alcohol and wider drug use (prescription drugs and 'over the counter medicines') when accompanied by illicit drug use was considered to be essential in drugs research as was partnership working, collaboration and data sharing amongst health, criminal justice/public order (including police), civil society and drug users to gain a full picture of drug use consequences.

3.4 The interplay between mental health and drug use and responses to it

The stakeholders attending the workshop dedicated to this theme were mostly from treatment services and many were involved in basic research and neuroscience.

Stakeholders stressed the need for research to take into account the positive effects of drug use on mental health in addition to the negative effects. They also recommended that research is more nuanced, considering mental health issues as a continuum rather than adopting a dichotomous approach (mental health problem or not). All types of mental health issues including internalising disorders should be studied.

Stakeholders identified a better understanding of the nature of the relationship between mental health issues and drug use as a research need and stressed the need for research to determine causality rather than just association. This should include among under-researched populations (non-users, non-problematic users) not just drug users who present to services. Longitudinal research was mentioned by many stakeholders and life history approaches were another suggested method. Many stakeholders mentioned the need to explore the concepts of quality of life and functioning in society and how they relate to recovery. This would broaden the concept of recovery to include personal as well as clinical recovery. A few stakeholders mentioned the impact on families and communities. Stigma was also mentioned as a research topic on a number of occasions both among the general population and professionals. There were many stakeholders who focused on neuro-biological aspects of the topic and called for more biological research. The extent to which this would be covered by ERANID was discussed. The interaction between genetic predisposition and social environmental factors on outcomes was also an identified research need.

In terms of responses, the effectiveness of treatment interventions was prioritised as a research topic. In particular, stakeholders mentioned research looking at the effect of service configuration and the extent of integration between mental health treatment and drug treatment. Research using more qualitative methods and eliciting client views was seen as important and a way to aid client empowerment. The trajectories of treated people was mentioned. Stakeholders also mentioned treatments for different settings such as in prison and the aligning of treatment to individual needs. Other topics included early identification and the identification of protective factors not just risk factors. The effectiveness of aftercare was also discussed and felt to be an important research gap.

3.5 Tailoring prevention and treatment responses

Aims for prevention and treatment

Most participants agreed that experimenting with (illicit) drugs is to be considered as normal behaviour in human life. In the experts' opinion the goals for prevention should be the prevention of problem use and dependence. Most participants agree that the view that all drugs are bad is not the right starting point for tailoring interventions. In addition to this there is much agreement on the notion that the separation that is suggested in the discussion paper between prevention, treatment and harm reduction is artificial. The interventions should rather be seen on a continuum, just as the types of drug use.

There was no full agreement on what should be the aim for treatment. The Italian experts see abstinence as the aim, experts from the other countries mention the ability to function in life and harm reduction as the desired outcomes for treatment. A different approach of 'treatment' is not to think in terms of 'cure', but to find out what is needed for someone's quality of life to reach or be kept on an acceptable level.

Tailoring to the spectrum of types of drug use

In general it was argued that it is important to understand what the life cycle of drug use and addiction looks like and how it develops, to better grasp on which point in the total continuum of drug use and addiction prevention and treatment interventions will be useful.

Most participants agree that it is clear from research that there is no substantial effect of primary prevention interventions; they recommend not investing any budget in them. By contrast, selective prevention for high-risk groups is needed. Interventions should focus on changing behaviour, taking into account not only risk factors but also protective factors; so-called 'life skills', or 'recovery capital'. Despite the substantial knowledge available, there is a lack of implementation of the available knowledge and there is still a need for more research in questions like: What is going to work for people/clients and why? Which socio-economic risks and pay-offs are relevant? How to increase one's life skills? What learning processes do you aim at? There is also knowledge needed on how to approach the target groups. Translational research is pleaded for, like follow-ups of promising (small) trials. For the evaluation of interventions a so-called 'Realist Evaluation Approach' is recommended, in which the context is taken into account. Some experts also asked for uncovering ineffective interventions. Special attention was asked for prevention of relapse into use after treatment.

Tailoring to the person involved

The need to tailor prevention and treatment to the person involved was agreed by all. This needs to lead to a 'recovery oriented paradigm', in which the practitioner and user should together design the therapy and support that the user needs; shared decision making, instead of top down decision making. Starting from the needs of the user also involves taking into account his/her expectations and motivations and the intervention should be chosen to fit these expectations and motivation. There are guidelines available to organise the work along such lines. Nevertheless professionals seem to find it hard to work in this way. Research is needed on how to better implement the knowledge available. It's also not sure that everyone has the same understanding of words like 'recovery research'.

An important research need is to understand the infrastructure of prevention, treatment and recovery institutions, how effective this structure is and what seem to be impediments for being more effective. Here the role of professionals is also questioned: how come that they don't adhere to existing guidelines and use evidence-based interventions? In the discussion paper the role and position of the user and his environment (peers, community) was felt to be under stressed. Research is needed on what (social) factors are relevant in treatment and also in prevention.

Other issues

A special target group mentioned were problem users that are not in treatment. Research is needed about the legal status of drugs and its consequences for the social environment of use. Furthermore, long-term economic research is pleaded for to learn about the cost effectiveness of prevention, cure and care. How basic research is or can be translated into practice is also worth attention. According to the experts there is a need to have a clear definition of the goals of prevention, treatment and harm reduction interventions across the EU Member States, and to work together to reach guidelines for working on these goals. Another proposal for research on European level is to investigate good practices in several countries and to compare the experiences of EU communities. Participants commonly discussed that ERANID should cooperate with other initiatives in the EU. A general recommendation is to make (more) use of the available databases of treatment settings/ organisations for broader research, because there is a lot of information about patients available and to execute more long term research. Finally, several improvements have been proposed regarding the interconnectedness of certain research topics in the different SRA themes.

3.6 Better understanding of drug markets and supply

During this workshop experts opened by identifying that the drugs market is one of the biggest current existing consumer markets, yet not enough is known about it. Some of the growing concerns have been identified in the latest EUROPOL publication, thus was drawn upon during this discussion. Experts discussed the realms of Organised Crime Groups (OCG) and further knowledge needs in regards to their illegal business structures, the impact of corruption in trafficking and the lack of law enforcement research and cross boarder support. This was considered a snapshot representative of the growing concerns and still leaves the complexity of measuring the actual size and diversity of the drugs market as well as, the scale of importation and the fluctuation of consumer markets.

The Internet

The internet was considered to play a central role in the trade and development of licit and illicit drugs, as well as an area of growing concern in terms of how OCG use this function as a source of information, sale, purchase and communication. The internet provides a means of monitoring online drug activity; however it also poses some problems. For example experts identified the lack of response to the continuing development of online software and activity of secure websites, thus research should maintain a par with this development in order to improve monitoring online activity. Participants felt that this is closely interlinked with the "New Communication Technology" theme of the SRA.

Supply Indicators

The main consensus and research priority for delegates was to identify a better understanding on the elements of drug supply and to identify the right indicators to help do this. There is a continuing need to know and understand the emerging/existing trends within the drug market. Although delegates agreed that a measurement of good quality supply indicators is a research need, it should however be explored in other research areas within the SRA e.g. Evaluation of drug policies and response. Moreover, the experts discussed the need to better study the EMCCDA and EUROPOL indicators to evaluate the drug markets, therefore this area should be consulted with them to better place which needs are a priority within evaluation.

Drug related crime (DRC)

A need to clearly define drug related crime was discussed, once agreed the necessary monitoring of the drugs markets can be investigated. Such as: Monitoring drugs and the drug market, internet activity, the black market, links associated with DRC and the evaluation of DRC. Furthermore, experts discuss the need to compare cross boarder data in relation to DRC and the natural globalisation and networking of the drug trade. Lastly, due to open boarders in the EU there was a need to identify the fluctuation of drug supply and how restrictions impact supply and demand, how users adapt to substitution and the impact of importation from international markets e.g. Russia and Latin America.

Key highlights:

- Relationship between supply and demand including role of user.
- How new technologies influence the market both in terms of supply and understanding demand – e.g. internet, mobile phone, social media.
- New developments in cross borders, organised crime and criminal networks.
- Indicators to better our understanding of markets and supply.
- Additionally, experts suggest a need for real time research findings as when findings are finally published they are usually out of date.

3.7 Evaluation of drug policies and responses

Participants felt that the theme should relate to the analysis of broader and overarching policy issues rather than about specific interventions. Thus, 'policy' and 'programme' evaluation should be separated. Both new and older drug policies should be studied. There was a plea for research on non-problematic and medical use of illicit drugs.

Comparative policy research at the macro level across a number of European and international countries was felt to be required and beneficial. However, participants felt that there was still a need for considering local/regional/contextual micro differences within countries. It may be these differences that explain differences in the implementation and effectiveness of specific policies.

There was consensus that researching this area poses a number of methodological challenges. As such, participants felt that a key focus of the priority could be methodological research focussing on the development of transferable tools and common outcomes in evaluating and measuring the implementation and effectiveness of drug policies across countries.

Further understanding of how a variety of policies and legislation are implemented within different countries/regions was felt to be required. It is important that such research is conducted from the experiences of individuals and communities.

One particular area of research which participants felt was required was the effectiveness and impact of differing police and law enforcement policies across countries and how they impacted on local communities. The need was felt to consider the interface with other policy areas, for example between medicines control policy and illicit drug policy as in the case of medical marijuana but which equally applies to other drugs. Also the importance of comparable outcome measurement across different pillars of drug policy, for which cost benefit analysis is valuable, was stressed.

There was felt to be a dearth in research focussing on extent and ways in which evidence is used in policy. i.e. is policy 'evidence based' or 'evidence infused'. This was regarded as a key priority area. Differences in cannabis-related policies were used as an example throughout the discussion. However, it was felt that more specific examples should be provided with the priority. There was consensus that the prevention element mentioned within this theme would be better placed within the treatment and prevention priority.

4. Summaries – Plenary Closing sessions

4.1 Presentation of the Workshop results: Charlotte Davies

A brief presentation was delivered by Ms Davies concluding the results of the workshop sessions in which the 7 draft research themes were discussed. These results were summarised by the chairs and rapporteurs in between the workshop sessions and the plenary closing session. Due to this limited time frame only the most prominent findings were presented.

The presentation addressed the general overlap between themes, the importance of finding a balance between abstraction and detail and the position of the SRA as a reference point for funders outside the ERANID project. Aggregating the workshop findings, Ms Davies reported the main results of the workshop sessions per theme: drug use in the life course, new communication technologies, social correlates and consequences, the interplay between mental health and responses, tailoring prevention and treatment responses, better understanding of drug markets and supply and the evaluation of drug policies and responses.

Further elaborated descriptions of the workshop results were processed in the following weeks after the LIIC, these have been summarised in the former part of this report.

4.2 Closing session: Henk Garretsen

Scientific Coordinator of ERANID and Professor Health Care Policy, Director Department Tranzo – Tilburg University

The next steps for ERANID were presented by the chair of the LIIC, Mr. Garretsen. Following the LIIC, results of all workshop sessions was processed by the chairs and rapporteurs and subsequently analysed. The findings will be incorporated into a draft version of the Strategic Research Agenda and assessed by the Advisory Committee during November 2014. Once their feedback has been processed a final SRA will then be submitted to the ERANID Network Steering Committee for approval. A general report of the Lisbon International Invitational Consultation will also be produced and provided to the participants of the LIIC and the European Commission.

The consultation was brought to a close and highlighted some feedback from informal conversations regarding many positive reactions on the ERANID initiative to organise this consultation. There was a general consensus from participants which discussed bringing together experts and stakeholders from very different areas of expertise that gave a special flavour to the discussions. Furthermore the opportunity to discuss in small groups was valued. The ERANID consortium therefore concluded, that the consultation be considered a success. All stakeholders and experts were thanked for attending and for their valuable contributions.