Working group A.2

Priorities for new methodological developments
- drug supply data

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Guidelines on supply indicators

- Seizure data
  - counting rules for seizure cases
  - definitional issues concerning provenance (country of production/manufacture versus departure), transit and destination
  - recording and providing microdata (IDS)
  - how to aggregate information on provenance
  - classification issues

- Price and purity data
  - how to collect price data
  - how to aggregate price and purity data (typical values, common ranges)
  - purity-adjusted prices

- Putting it together
  - Differentiating retail and "wholesale"; breakdowns by market level
  - Adjusting seizures for purity
  - What does all this tell us?

- Open question: Estimating the quantity of drug present in the illicit market

Methodologies for cultivation, production and manufacture

- Illicit crop monitoring of outdoor cultivation
  - best practices to consolidate experience of multiple joint monitoring projects with countries
  - how should a country go about setting up a crop monitoring programme?

- Cannabis – indoor versus outdoor cultivation
  - how to quantify indoor cultivation and associated production

- Recording and collecting data on clandestine laboratories
  - Definitional issues
  - Classification issues

- Open question: synthetic drugs

Wastewater analysis

- Relies on detecting the residues of drugs and drug metabolites in sewage treatment facilities

- Developed mainly as a technique to glean information on drug use in urban centres, but can also be applied to detect residues of chemical by-products of illicit manufacture

- Numerous challenges: catchment areas, numerous chemical/pharmacological parameters, variability of metabolisms. Highly technical and interdisciplinary area.

- Work by groups based in Americas, Africa, East and South-East Asia, Europe, Oceania.

- Need for consolidation of the experience of different regions into international guidelines to further support the production of metrics based on wastewater analysis

- To what extent can wastewater analysis be used to enhance information gaps on drug supply?