

# ESSD

European Society for Social Drug Research

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

in Prague / Czech Republic

**\*EXTENDED DEADLINE\***

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The European Society for Social Drug Research (ESSD) was founded in 1990 to promote social science approaches to drugs research, with special reference to the situation in Europe (<http://www.essd-research.eu/>). The society holds an annual conference providing scope for collaboration and co-operation among researchers working in the drugs field. We are excited to announce that the 2025 conference will be held in Prague in the traditional in-person conference format. We invite researchers to submit their abstracts and join us for an enriching and engaging event.

## ABSTRACTS

ESSD members and other researchers who wish to attend the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference are invited to **submit abstracts** of their conference papers **no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2025**. Abstracts (see themes and details below) should be sent as a word file (following the 'abstract layout' guidelines set out below) to [ESSD2025@vlada.gov.cz](mailto:ESSD2025@vlada.gov.cz). If you wish to attend the conference without giving a presentation, please inform us. For any correspondence, please, use the above e-mail address.

## CONFERENCE FEE AND REGISTRATION

**The standard fee is 100 euro.** Students (bachelor, master and PhD students) pay a **reduced rate of 50 euro**. This fee is used only to support and ensure the output of the annual conference, and you can find more information on the financial policy of the ESSD here: <http://www.essd-research.eu/about.html>. All conference participants will receive a free copy of the latest ESSD publication.

Further **details on conference registration will be announced** via e-mail and at <http://www.essd-research.eu>.

## CONFERENCE VENUE

The annual ESSD conferences always take place in close collaboration with **local organisers**; this year's local organisers will be **Pavla Chomynova** (National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic), **Tereza Cernikova** (Drug Policy Department, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic), **Michaela Roubalova** (Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention) and **Hana Preslickova** (Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention).

The **venue** is located at the **Liechtenstein Palace** (Lichtenštějský palác) in the historical centre of Prague. The address is U Sovových mlýnů 506/4, 118 00 Prague 1. Further information regarding the conference venue, public transport, accommodation etc. will be announced shortly via e-mail and at <http://www.essd-research.eu>

## DATE, START AND END TIMES

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 9:00am CET – Friday, 3rd October 2025 at 14:00 pm CET.

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

This year, a pre-conference event in the form of a **writing workshop** with the Editors-in-Chief of *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy* is planned for early career researchers and anyone interested in improving their writing skills. The pre-conference workshop will be open to conference participants on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Further information will be announced via e-mail and at <http://www.essd-research.eu> after the call for abstracts deadline has passed.

## CONFERENCE THEMES

Presentations should preferably include a European dimension (such as reporting on research or issues from more than one European country and comparisons between data from European studies), and/or theoretical analysis that draws inferences from the local to the global. Presentations restricted to the description of interventions or (local) policies will not be accepted. **Qualitative** studies are particularly welcome. Each presentation will last for 10-15 minutes, followed by ample time for jointly discussing the presentations of each session. The conference language is English.

The accepted abstracts need to conform to one or more of the following **themes**:

### 1. HUMAN RIGHTS, HARM REDUCTION AND DRUGS

Impact of drug policies on human rights • Access to drug services • Human rights violations related to drugs • Engagement of people who use drugs in drug policy • Marginalised groups • Stigma related to drugs • Participatory engagement in services • Peer-led interventions • Harm reduction barriers to implementation • Human rights in drug research • Hidden stigma and harms

### 2. CHILDREN AND PARENTS AFFECTED BY DRUG USE

Impact of parental drug use on children • Women who use substances • Drugs and women victims of gender-based violence • Policies and practices that support parents who use substances • School settings and children affected by drug use • Services for people who use drugs and their families • Trauma-informed approaches • Multidisciplinary and participatory work with families and children • Innovations in harm-reduction and prevention strategies

### 3. CHANGING DRUG POLICY APPROACHES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Legal/policy changes and their impacts on drug situation • Evolving cannabis policies • Blurring boundaries between regulated substances, illicit drugs and new substances • New risks associated with new policies and products • Evaluation of drug policy approaches and regulatory frameworks • Critical reflections on drug demand and supply interventions • Comparative drug policy analysis • Public health approaches and strategies in different cultural and social contexts

### 4. DRUG MARKETS

Digital technologies and drug markets • Emerging trends in drug concealment and distribution • Global and local trends in drug markets • Social supply • Drug distribution and cultures of illicit drug markets • Social and economic consequences of drug trafficking • Impacts of supply control and law enforcement measures • From “home-made” production and manufacturing to organised crime • Methodological innovations in researching drug markets

### 5. TRENDS IN DRUG USE

Emerging drug trends • Societal and cultural context of the use of legal and illegal substances • Poly-drug use • Exploring drug use motivations • Drug use related consequence • Impacts of availability on drug use • From analysing the prevalence of use towards studying the contexts and harms • Methodological innovations in researching drug use

## ABSTRACT LAYOUT

1. Max. 1 A4 page
2. Theme (from the list on the previous page)
3. Title of the presentation
4. Author(s): name(s), qualification(s), job title(s) [\*Where there are multiple authors, please make clear who will be the presenter(s)]
5. Contact details: full postal address, telephone, email address(es)
6. Keywords
7. Abstract (**not more than 300 words**), including objectives, methodology, significant results and conclusions
8. Funding sources
9. Technical equipment required for the presentation
10. Short bio (**maximum 100 words**)
11. A photo of the presenter(s) to be included in the book of abstracts is appreciated but is not mandatory

## ABSTRACT REVIEW

Abstracts will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Overall quality
- Relevance to the conference themes
- European dimension
- Theoretical reflections
- Added value with respect to earlier contributions at ESSD conferences

In general, not more than two presentations from members of the same institute or affiliation will be accepted. **Acceptance of papers will be communicated by 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**