CALL FOR OUTLINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 2026 ESSD PUBLICATION

EXTENDED DEADLINE

The European Society for Social Drug Research (ESSD) wishes to continue a fruitful tradition and, as in previous years, will publish a peer-reviewed collection. Inspired by the presentations and discussions at the 2025 annual ESSD conference in Prague, the theme of this year's publication is:

European drug markets in a changing world

European drug markets are evolving faster than ever, driven by digital platforms and encrypted communication, by geopolitical instability and shifts in global supply chains for heroin, cocaine and opioids, by global and European changes toward drug policy reform and by the emergence of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances that challenges traditional control systems. In this collection we will look to interrogate the evolving landscape and nature of local, national and transnational drug markets in Europe.

We are interested in contributions on empirical studies, theory and critical reflections related to one or more of the following topics (or other areas related to drug markets):

- **Drug markets and novel trends:** Defining and conceptualising 'drug markets' and 'drug dealers'; explore how technologies, including artificial intelligence, reshape crime, risk, and regulation; investigating emerging new markets for e.g. psychedelics, opioids and cannabinoids; new approaches to marketing of illegal drugs (e.g., how suppliers advertise, recruit customers, and distribute drugs).

- **Market structures and organisation:** How are drug markets organised, from street-level dealing to transnational trafficking networks, including hierarchies, supply chains, and modes of coordination; how do geopolitical tensions, economic crises, global knowledge flows and migration reshape drug sales, trafficking routes, production centres and methods; intersections between global supply chains and local markets.

- **Drug markets and socioeconomic and cultural dynamics:** how do poverty, inequality, identity, and culture shape participation in drug markets; what socio-economic, cultural, or political factors sustain underground economies; how do drug traders and drug trading differ depending on contexts and socioeconomic structures; links between drug use normalisation and drug supply normalisation; relationships between normalisation, stigma and marginalisation in representations of drug dealers/trading in media, policy and research.

- **Drug markets, policy and law enforcement:** Policy reactions to drug markets; the effects of prohibition, shifts towards legalisation or decriminalisation on market behaviour; intersections between illicit, grey and licit markets; Police use of digital data and surveillance; drug market adaptations to police approaches; critical analysis of

sentencing regimes; how the proliferation of lab-made drugs challenges existing control systems and toxicology frameworks.

- **Drug markets and harm reduction**: The effects, nature and challenges of harm reduction measures in illicit markets such as informal regulation, anonymity, trust, and reputation systems or users' priority of off- or online social supply markets; new approaches to drug checking, safe supply programs, and health-based interventions that interact with or disrupt illicit markets.

- **Drug markets and research:** Methodological challenges and opportunities in drug market research; the advantages and limitation of novel research methods such as nethnography, big data scraping or network analysis; reflections on researcher positionality or biases in representations; discussions of what constitutes 'quality' and 'in-depth' in drug market research; ethical challenges in drug market research, including protection of participants, researchers and data, dilemmas about observing or reporting illegal activity, and reflection on how researchers' reporting may influence policy, stigma, and public perceptions.

Qualitative and cross-national studies are particularly welcome. All submission should include a European dimension.

The editors will be: Thomas Friis Søgaard, Bernd Werse and Michaela Roubalová.

The collection will be published by Pabst Science Publishers (www.pabst-publishers.de), or another well-established publishing house.

OUTLINES FOR ABSTRACTS

Those who are interested in writing a contribution for the publication are kindly requested to write an outline of **600 – 800 words**, including:

- Title of the manuscript
- Author(s): a maximum of three.
- 3-5 key words
- Sections, with brief summary of content per section
- When applicable: method(s) and data to be used
- Theoretical framework
- European dimension

Outlines should be written in **UK English** in a size **12 Ariel font**. They should be double-spaced with ample margins.

Please send your outline no later than **Sunday, December 21st, 2025** to essd.research@UGent.be

Outlines will be discussed and commented on in a meeting of the ESSD board in January 2026. Applicants will receive decisions, comments and suggestions for improvement no later than **January 23rd**, 2026.

CONDITIONS

All outlines are subject to editorial review and are received with the explicit understanding that they are not under simultaneous consideration by any other publication.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR OUTLINES

Please set the language you are writing in to **English (United Kingdom)**: this means 'behaviour', 'organisation' and 'realised', for example, NOT 'behavior', 'organization' and 'realized'. Quotes and references using English (United States) should of course be left as they are. Before submission, you must have your outline proofread by a native English speaker, preferably one who is familiar with academic writing. If you do not have access to a native speaker, please use one of the professional services (for example, http://www.proof-reading-service.com/ which costs approximately 16 Euro per 1,000 words).

Avoid the words 'abuse' and 'misuse' in relation to drug use. Use 'drug use', 'problematic drug use' and 'dependent drug use.' If you use the term 'problematic drug use', there should be a clear definition.

Outlines in poor English will be returned to the author for proofreading