E S S D

European Society for Social Drug Research

36th Annual Conference

1st – 3rd 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 36th Annual Conference are invited to **submit abstracts** of their conference papers **no later than 23rd 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. 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** (Lichtenštějnský 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, 1st 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 30th 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 27th June 2025.**