R15: Innovative methods for data collection

Purpose for collecting these data:

The technological advances taking place in many fields, including forensic and statistical sciences, increase at an exponential rate. Technologies that are not currently available, or which are not widespread, can become common practice in a matter of a few years. Similarly, technologies being used in other fields can be utilized in an innovative manner in collecting information on drug trafficking or use.

This module aims at providing a space where countries can share information on innovative methods used for data collection on drug related matters, which may not be covered in other parts of the questionnaire, such as wastewater analysis or big data related methods. Sharing this information in this context can also encourage other Member States to implement similar methodologies.

Items	Type	Description	Response options	Definitions / Specific instructions	Disaggregation	Metadata	Justification
Availability of innovative drug-related data collection methods in country	I	Availability of data collection methods that make use of available infrastructure	Wastewater analysis (city level, portable toilettes at event level), used syringes analysis (city level, other level), web/darkweb scraping (prices, trafficking, other), other methods based on big data (specify), other methods (specify)	If no information on innovative methods available, finish module.	*Not applicable*	*Not applicable*	**EWG:** - While experts recognized the value of waste water analysis as a complementary method to understand the drug market, they were in agreement that the methodology needs further developments before methodological guidelines can be produced. - Experts supported the implementation of less costly methodologies, such as rapid assessments, risk assessments, wastewater analysis, and the use of indirect estimation methods. - Experts also considered the use of the Internet and handheld devices as cost-effective solutions to population surveys.
Information on the data collected	I	Description of the specific data/indicators collected on drug supply and/or drug demand issues	Free text	Glossary	By data collection method: see list in Response Options of item above	*Not applicable*	
		Description of the methodology used to collect the data	Free text				
Availability of studies / research / surveys	III	Link to any studies, reports, publications, surveys or other research resulting from the data collection initiatives mentioned above.	Provide link		*Not applicable*	*Not applicable*	