

Akkon Aspekte Abend “Let’s talk about drugs“

June 20, 2024, 5:00 – 7:30 pm (CEST)

**Venue: Akkon University of Applied Human Sciences
Colditzstr. 34-36, 12099 Berlin, SR 10, Ground floor
& online**

Aim and content

The relationship between substance abuse and mental health have recently become a sizable health issue world-wide. In a post-pandemic world with rising national and international conflicts, more and more people are becoming vulnerable to substance abuse to help them cope. Substance abuse more often than not, can actually aggravate or worsen pre-existing mental health conditions, making substance abuse and mental health important, emerging global health problems.

Between the years 2011 and 2021 the number of patients with drug disorders has increased by almost 50 percent as reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Similarly, their World Drug Report of 2023 shows that almost 300 million people used recreational drugs in 2021, a 23 percent increase compared to 2011. Due to this, the international community has been and continues to be urged to action.

During the Akkon Aspekte Abend “Let’s talk about drugs”, we would like to further discuss this complex issue with our international and interdisciplinary panel consisting of researchers and students from North & South America, Asia and Europe. They will shed light on pressing topics such as alcohol abuse, smoking, sugar consumption, marijuana legalization, as well as adverse health effects of khat, and their associations to mental health. International cooperation may be the only way to solve this public health issue and promote real solutions and preventative health measures, where the root of the problem, mental health distress, is more directly addressed.

Organization/Registration

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. PH Timo Ulrichs & Gaby Feldmann
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Program

- 5:00 pm **Welcome** by Prof. Dr. Andreas M. Bock
President Akkon University of Applied Human Sciences
- 5:10 – 6:45 pm **Presentations**
Facilitator: Prof. Dr. med. Dr. PH Timo Ulrichs
Director Institute for Research in International Assistance (IRIA),
Vice President Akkon University of Applied Human Sciences and Head of
Study Program Global Health & International Emergency and Disaster Relief
- Burkhard Blienert, Commissioner of the Federal Government for Drug and Addiction Policy
title to be announced
 - Tracey Pierog, BA, BCR, Global Health Masters student, McMaster University, Canada/Maastricht University, Netherlands, intern Akkon/IRIA:
Marijuana legalization in Canada and subsequent challenges/ health effects in youth population
 - Mateo Jamarillo, Director Escuela de Estudios Técnicos de Enfermería AC, Mexico:
Context of the demand for illicit substances in 2022-2023 and actions on mental health and addictions in Mexico
 - Dr. Dalia Hyzam, Fellow Humboldt Foundation at Akkon/IRIA; Aiman Hani, Research Associate Akkon/IRIA:
Khat use in Yemen
 - Gaby Feldmann, Co-Head IRIA; Hani Nasr, Research Associate Akkon/IRIA, Germany; Nida Amalia, Head of Faculty Public Health Universitas Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur (UMKT), Indonesia:
Awareness, attitudes and social determinants of smoking behavior among University students: A cross-sectional study from Akkon/IRIA, Germany & UMKT, Indonesia
 - Philipp Endler, International Health Masters Student University of Applied Sciences Fulda, intern Akkon/IRIA, Germany:
The accustomed Epidemic? The value of alcohol to Germany in an international comparison
- 6:45 – 7:00 pm **Discussion & Wrap up**
- 7:00 – 7:30 pm **Reception and get-together**