Many things can come to someone’s mind when reflecting on what addictions are; these can range from pleasure to pain, from political to economic and health implications, from biology to different lifestyles. Addictions are multidimensional issues and the ways in which different societies conceive and implement their answers to them can vary a lot. If we take, for example, a realistic assessment of the costs and benefits of the current drug policies in contemporary Europe, we find that many of them are associated with large societal and economic costs and have failed to change the harms done by addictions. ALICE RAP, a five year European Commission FP7 co-financed research project, starting 1st April 2011, aims to provide scientific evidence to inform and reframe the public dialogue and to stimulate a broad debate on current and alternative approaches to addictions. Bringing together scientists from more than 30 countries, ALICE RAP is divided into seven areas and twenty one work packages through an integrated multidisciplinary research strategy.

Addiction, as a social and collective phenomenon, directly implies a positioning on the part of governments, especially concerning the use of public resources. Governance, or the act of governing, traditionally consists of decision making, management or leadership processes, typically administered by governments. ALICE RAP on its side, encompasses a much broader understanding of governance, as 'the way in which a society or organisation steers itself, including the response to outbreaks and the course of events', something which involves many players, multiple agencies and sites, with action on many levels, from global to local. Area 5, coordinated by Franz Trautmann, from the Trimbos Institute, will be devoted to the study of the governance of addiction.

1. Bridging the gap (or, what area 5 is going to do)

Most current drug policies have failed to understand addiction complexities, which has resulted in late, often inadequate, and sometimes counterproductive policies. There is a need for further investment in the governance of addictions in order that we can better understand what incentives would be needed to change the approach of stakeholders or individuals to better manage addictions. Bridging this governance gap is a challenge that Area 5 will address taking a macro (geopolitical) and meso (policymaking) approach to governance issues.

WP 13, governance view - will be coordinated by Dr. Joan Colom, from the Health Department of Catalonia. This WP aims to document the typology of different views of the
governance of addictions in all European Member States and Norway, undertaking a theoretical overview embedded in broader frameworks of governance. Using qualitative in-depth studies, this WP will try to elaborate a reconsideration of our understanding of addictions and re-design our approach to managing them. As substitution treatments are widely spread among European countries, WP13 will also compare living conditions among clients in drug substitution programmes in four European countries or regions (Catalonia, The Netherlands, Poland and Sweden).

Franz Trautmann, the Area 5 leader, will also lead WP14, on governance practice. WP14 will describe and analyse current practices and trends in governance implementation (programmes) in the fields of licit and illicit substances and non-substance related addictions (gambling, compulsive internet use). Addiction policy processes are likely to deviate from a linear model (problem-options-solutions-implementation), which ignores the dominant aspects of policy-making besides the availability of research evidence (e.g. politics, lobby groups, public opinion). Therefore, in this WP, qualitative methodologies will be used to analyse the forces and factors operating in the implementation of governance/policy. Quantifying and scaling policies on various addictive substances is an additional aim of this WP, which will develop an instrument that measures the comprehensiveness and integration of public health measures and policies.

WP15, redesigning governance, will be coordinated by Dr. Svanaug Fjaer, of the University of Stavanger. Analysis of innovations, translation processes and convergence in European regulation policies will be conducted in this WP, which aims to formulate a vision for the future governance of addiction and lifestyles, based on the knowledge and evidence generated. Case studies are part of this WP, being practical experiments for the creation of lines of collaboration between the fields of practice and research.

2. The partnership approach (Area 5 integration with the other areas)

Reinforcing the partnership approach of ALICE RAP, the three work packages in Area 1, ownership of addiction, will inform the three work packages in Area 5, which are also integrated with Area 4, business of addiction.

There will be strong interdependencies between Area 5 and Area 7, coordination and dissemination, especially due to the elements of translation and dissemination of research finding and new approaches of governance into political visions and real world situations.

3. Reframing the governance of addiction

Area 5 includes systematic reviews, expert colloquia, document analyses, surveys of clients’ living conditions, scaling of policies, stock-taking, country case study descriptions, and policy advice and foresight. The findings of this area will certainly contribute to produce lines of collaboration and to communicate a vision for future governance in the field of addictions and lifestyles.
Addiction, as a social and collective phenomenon, directly implies a positioning on the part of governments, especially concerning the use of public resources. Governance, or the act of governing, traditionally consists of decision making, management or leadership processes, typically administered by governments. ALICE RAP, for its part, uses a much broader understanding of the term ‘governance’, encompassing ‘the way in which a society or organisation steers itself, including the response to outbreaks and the course of events’, something which involves many players, multiple agencies and sites, with action on many levels, from global to local.

Embedded in a broad framework of governance, Work Package 13 (WP13), coordinated by Dr. Joan Colom, from the Health Department of Catalonia, Spain, aims to document different governance views of addictions in all European Member States and Norway, undertake a theoretical overview, and compare living conditions in drug substitution programmes in four European countries.

1. Mapping and comparing governance views (or, what WP 13 is going to do)

Governance actors adopt a variety of views and approaches in managing addictions, but the majority of current drug policies have failed to understand the complexities of addictions, a fact which has resulted in belated, often inadequate, and sometimes counterproductive policies. There is a need for comparable and accessible data across European countries, encompassing a broad view of governance as the way in which society as a whole, as well as governments manage and steer addiction policy.

Using systematic reviews of published literature, qualitative in-depth studies and analysis of stakeholders’ perspective, this WP will try to elaborate a reconsideration of our understanding of addictions and re-design our approach to managing them. As substitution treatments are widely-spread among European countries, yet with varying outcomes, WP13 will also compare living conditions among clients in drug substitution programmes in four European countries or regions (Catalonia, The Netherlands, Poland and Sweden). The work will comprise of three main tasks:

Firstly, WP13 will undertake a theoretical overview of governance views, starting from in-depth systematic reviews on governance views of addiction and also taking a historical perspective. This will be strengthened and broadened through meetings and colloquia, to
include a wide range of stakeholders. A publication detailing a broad theoretical overview of governance views on addiction will result from this work.

Secondly, the Work Package will document the typology of governance views in all EU Member States and Norway. This will be achieved through a review of existing databases and literature and questionnaires completed by key contact points in each country. These data will be compared and analysed within a theoretical framework of four types of governance strategies in welfare politics: social-democratic (Nordic), liberal (Anglo-Saxon), conservative (Continental Europe), familialistic (Mediterranean) (Gösta Esping-Andersen, 1996)

Finally, WP13 will undertake a comparative study of the living conditions of clients in long-term substitution treatment in four countries or regions: Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Catalonia (Spain). This will draw upon existing data sets and methodologies in the countries, adapting the questionnaire and the sampling procedures as required. Staff members in substitution centres will also be interviewed to enrich the study and add the dimension of their perception to the living conditions of the clients.

2. The partnership approach (WP13 integration with the other work in ALICE RAP)

In line with the partnership approach of the ALICE RAP project as a whole, the work of WP13 will be strongly synergistic with the work of the other work packages in Area 5, as well as forging links and collaboration with other project Areas 1, Ownership of Addiction, 4, the Business of Addiction, and 6, Addicting the Young.

The historical perspective taken in the first task of WP13 will be informed by WP1, Addiction through the ages, in Area 1. WP 12, Addiction’s web of influence will inform the theoretical overview of governance views and prison-based interviews carried out in WP10 in Area 4 may contribute to the comparative study on living conditions in substitution programmes. WP16, Adolescents as customers, in Area 6, will add the youth dimension to the theoretic overview on governance of addictions.

In addition, there will be strong interdependencies between WP13 (as with all work packages in Area 5) and Area 7, Coordination and Dissemination.

3. Reframing the governance view of addiction

Work Package 13 includes systematic reviews, expert colloquia, document analyses, surveys of clients’ living conditions. The findings of this WP will open channels of collaboration for the Area and provide a theoretical basis for governance work in addictions. The work package will also contribute a multi-stakeholder and inclusive understanding of addiction governance, recognising the many recipients of policy on addiction and accepting the complexity of governance in this field. It is important that a client-centred study is also included in this work on the governance view.
1. Developing policy scales on addictive substances

The objective of task 14.1 (Developing policy scales) is to perform a comparative analysis on national level policies on addictive substances in Europe. This is done by developing and implementing an instrument that measures the comprehensiveness and integration of public health measures and policies that aims to reduce the harm done by addictive substances in Europe.

A quantitative scale measuring the comprehensiveness and strictness of policies on addictive substances will be developed drawing on experiences from previous and ongoing studies. After the scale is completed it will be applied to the countries included in Alice Rap. An important aim is to assess the effectiveness of different policies in minimizing harm caused by the substance at hand, and to analyze how the regulation of different substances differs from each other.

Quantifying and scaling policies on various addictive substances enables us to get a state of the art overview of formal policies on addictive substances in several countries at a glance. It offers also an easy device for comparing countries with each other and ranking them according to how stringent or comprehensive their policies on addictive substances are.

2. Connection of the scaling exercise with other parts of Alice Rap

The scale created in WP 14.1 can be used as a tool in gathering and categorising basic knowledge on policies on addictive substances and their legal framework. The scale can be useful especially for WP 14.2 (Description and analysis of addiction governance practices), but provides valuable information also for WP 14.3 (Understanding changes in governance practice). The information gathered in WP 14.1 can further be used to analyse upcoming trends in policies for addictive substances.

The three WPs in Area 5 form quite a coherent entity. Work Package 14 is especially important for the two other WPs (13 & 15) as it provides an important knowledge base of empirical information on governance of different addictions for the whole Area.

On the other hand, both WP 13 and 15 give much needed support and backing for the empirical parts of WP 14 by providing both a theoretical overview of governance views
3. Reframing the governance practice of addiction

Quantifying and scaling policies on various addictive substances enables a state of the art overview of formal policies on addictive substances in several countries at a glance. The created instrument can be used both as a tool in gathering and categorising basic knowledge on policies and the legal framework as well as a numerical indicator on the strictness of policies for addictive substances. It offers an easy device for comparing countries with each other and ranking them according to how stringent or comprehensive their policies are. Combined with data from earlier years we can study trends in policies and track breaks and transitions that have occurred in previous decades. Furthermore, the gathered information can be used as a base for conducting similar studies in the future, with the aim to describe and analyse upcoming trends in policies for addictive substances. One important aim of our study is to assess the effectiveness of different policies in minimizing the harm of the substance or activity at hand, and to analyze how the regulation of different substances differs from each other in the studied European countries.
The theme of this WP deals with future politics and governance of addiction problems in Europe. What will be the scope of political interventions in the different problem areas, what could be the means of regulation and how should services be designed and provided? The studies of the WP will focus especially on transnational dimensions, such as trends and processes of convergence in politics and practices at European level. In WP 15 we also do case studies of innovations in practices and policy forecasts. The aim is to understand more of present regulation policies; how it differ between countries and topic areas, but also how ideas and trends spread in international policy arenas and among professionals.

The principal question about what the state should do, is important in governance. What is within the sphere of welfare and health policies and what could be left over to the market or the individual? Regulation of food, alcohol and drugs has a long history – we are eager to understand more of the ongoing changes and the future prospects of this regulation.

The work is coordinated by Dr. Svanaug Fjær, University of Stavanger, Norway.

The work of the WP 15 is organised as three main tasks.

**Literature review:** There are produced a large literature on EU regulation and policy making in the field of social and health problems the recent years. This literature should be reviewed with a special focus on governance strategies, convergence in methods and the spreading of ideas and methods in the regulation of addiction and lifestyles. The review should also elaborate on the science-policy relation and the balance between market, state and civil society in governance strategies.

**Case studies of innovations:** Innovations are usually not produced through political decisions. Even though, we see innovative practices and methods developing as result of new policies and changes in political goals, or as practical response within the services. A sample of 4-5 cases will be selected for in-depth qualitative studies. The cases should cover innovations related to the use of new technologies and changes in service provision in order to improve user influence. We’ll search for cases providing insights in new practices in regulation of new markets on the internet and strategies for non-substance related addictions. Furthermore the “University social welfare office” (HUSK) at the
University of Stavanger will serve as an arena for action research in strategies for user involvement and user influence in service provision. In this way we’ll use the innovation studies to elaborate on the translational processes between governance, practice, education and civil society.

**Policy advice and foresight:** The last out of three e-lab workshops should be carried out as part of WP15. This workshop will undertake a stakeholder analysis confronted with future images of who owns addiction and how addiction is perceived by media and the public. Policy advice for future governance should be an important part of the report from the workshop.

**Output:** Two publications will present the results of WP15; an anthology presenting the literature review and the case studies, and a report presenting a foresight vision.

**Connection to other parts of AR:**

WP 15 has its main focus on how politics, ideas and knowledge are spread within international organisations and epistemic communities. We acknowledge that our influence on the policy process is rather limited, while our main task should be to understand the driving forces behind changes in politics. By using the concepts contextualization and decontextualisation (Røvik 2007), we recognise that ideas and knowledge move in top-down as well as bottom-up processes in organisations.

This WP will contribute with transnational perspectives to the work of WP 1 (Addiction through the ages), WP 2 (Stakeholder analysis) and WP 13 (Governance view) and WP14 (Governance practice).

The studies of innovations should connect to the studies of the market in WP11 (Impact of suppliers) and WP 12 (Addictions web of influence).

The foresight workshop will connect closely to the foresight activities within the WP 20 (Integration and communication).