

**Keywords** : sociotechnology – sociotechnical systems – STS - addiction - cocaïne - crack - psychostimulants – harm reduction – pandemic - lockdown

**Abstract title :**

**Percolation of non-adjacent expertises during pandemic : a case study on the development of harm reduction tools**

**Author's contact details :**

F. Destombe, Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Lille, France

**Main authors's contact details :**

François Destombe  
Institut d'Etudes Politiques – Lille  
Lille, France  
+33.6.25.56.07.91  
francois.destombe@sciencespo-lille.eu

**Objectives :**

This study focuses on the tools, means and methods applied by a virtual team during pandemic and lockdown in order to design harm reduction devices. With antagonistic starting points, the rôle and evolution of each stakeholder has been documented and analyzed .

**Materials and methods :**

Further to the works of Madeleine Akrich, deployment of STS analysis methodology

**Results :**

Harm Reduction has strong legal constraints and is often morally tainted or shortsighted ; The pandemic lockdown has worsened the situation of drug users and lessened the ability of social centers to support them ; testing of devices is prohibited ; Meetings are forbidden....

Given this dire background, a virtual team comprised of experts from University, Industry, Social care and users has been able to devise a set of tools and the relevant methodology to pursue their developments. User centered, these tools have proved efficient, ethical and ecofriendly. Our study exposes the different steps in overcoming initial distance up to concurrent engineering without any physical gathering and within a short time frame, each participant able to pinpoint his own trademark in the end product, and advocate the benefits of the methodology.

**Conflicts of interest :**

The author of the communication must certify that the work presented has no connection with the pharmaceutical, tobacco, alcohol, electronic cigarettes and gaming companies. This study is part of a project funded by Hauts de France Innovation Développement (HdFID) focusing on the development of prophylactic tools for harm reduction.