



**Document: REITOX/44/01b**

**Final conclusions 43<sup>rd</sup> Reitox Heads of Focal Points meeting**

**1. Introduction & welcome address**

- Draft conclusions of 42<sup>nd</sup> RTX meeting HFP adopted and to be published on the EMCDDA public website.

**2. Feedback and updates**

a. Reitox Spokesperson

**FONTE**

- Not the best tool for collecting qualitative info such as structured questionnaires
- Training in May 2011 to have two sessions: process-related discussion, how you really work with the offline tool, etc..., and another one which would be like a technical training for FONTE users (50% HFP willing to attend).

**CONTENT-RELATED MEETINGS**

- Suggestion to change the organisation of meetings and use some different techniques for subgroups workshops

**SUPPLY INDICATOR CONFERENCE**

- NFPs are interested and motivated to follow-up the conclusions of the conference and to provide input for further reflection
- Working groups (3) presumably EMCDDA will be involved, NFPs should be involved too.
- In 2011 it would be good to have possibly a half-day discussion on this issue at the next HFP meeting of May 2011

**EDDRA and BEST PRACTICE**

- Acknowledge the fact that developmental work is under way in this area
- The role of the NFPs on the whole is remaining quite unclear
- NFPs are very interested to know more about the proposal of common definition for Best Practice

**QUALITY FEEDBACK**

- Standard formal letter sent by EMCDDA regarding the deadlines and the missing info and/or questionnaires can sometimes have unexpected negative impact
- The point was made to RTX Spokespersons that this could matter when or if the letter was sent to a member of the Management Board (could adversely affect the way support is provided).
- EMCDDA should start by informal communication

## GUIDELINES 2011

- There were a couple of request for clarification that remained unanswered
- Selected Issues: the Mandatory selected issue has lost its way compared with what we agreed a few years ago (it should be focused, etc...).
- SI on Prisons should be more focused and more limited, NFPs consider there is too much being asked.
- To some extent, the SI on drug tourism is also a problem, while the third SI seems to be more acceptable.

## OVERALL STRUCTURE REPORTING AND REPORTING CYCLE

- The amount of info requested to NFPs has increased over the recent years
- Using a variety of tools and instruments that have developed over time
- There is a general feeling that it is now time to have a look at the general national reporting package (probably there will be a range of balance to be struck, e.g. between regular routine monitoring and asking new questions and new topics - taking into account the ability of NFPs to provide the data and the ability EMCDDA to use and to analyse the data).
- There is a general feeling that the workload increased substantially, that there are plenty of interesting questions, but that it would be necessary to look at the whole package and to prioritize, and to realize really that there is always more being asked. Tasks should be more realistic.

## Proposal REITOX Coordinator:

### FONTE

- To be dealt with during session on FONTE
- Practical issues to be analysed from both RTX ACA perspective and concrete organisation of RTX HFP meeting

### CONTENT-RELATED MEETINGS

- RTX Coordination and RTX Spokespersons to work together on an alternative proposal for the organisation and animation of RTX HFP meetings to be presented at the next RTX HFP meeting of May 2011.

### SUPPLY INDICATOR CONFERENCE

- Topic to be dealt with during session on Supply Indicators, and on WP 2011, when the Scientific Director will be present.

### EDDRA and BEST PRACTICE

- Comment was already taken on board and will be discussed during workshop on Thursday afternoon

### QUALITY FEEDBACK should be replaced by GRANT MANAGEMENT

- Topic will be discussed during Friday morning session on Grant Agreements

## GUIDELINES 2011

- Comments will be dealt with on Thursday morning.

## OVERALL STRUCTURE REPORTING AND REPORTING CYCLE

- Those questions deserve a careful attention and should be discussed together with the Director and the Scientific Director
- Other comments to be discussed in the session of Thursday morning on WP 2011 and guidelines
- EMCDDA is aware of the need to reassess the whole reporting system, both from the side of the inputs to the system (national reporting packages), and from the side of the outputs (publications from the EMCDDA). To be discussed with Scientific Director.

Proposal adopted by the NFPs

b. Challenges and perspectives 2010-2011: EMCDDA

Participants welcome the overview provided by the Director and by Margareta Nilson on the EMCDDA, Management Board, and Scientific Committee.

Comment Deputy-Spokesperson on behalf of NFPs: fully support the idea that we should keep and maintain reputation built over 15 years. At the same time would like to share views about how to strike a balance between consolidation of results and developing new topics (and taking into account the new structure of the Centre, new units, new approaches like technical meeting with some GPs, etc...). Would like to debate with EMCDDA how to do more with same resources and at the same time to keep all quality and all activities.

EMCDDA Director's vision of things is to plan on the basis of the outputs that we would like to produce, not only talking about resources. Starting point is or should be "what we would like to produce?", to have a first list of products that is then confronted with resources, priorities, likeliness (old and new ideas on same basis).

In addition to that, it is foreseen in the 2011 Work Programme to launch a systemic review process where all those issues will be discussed, in consultation with the Reitox Heads of Focal Points.

c. Challenges and perspectives 2010-2011: European Commission

Need to make results of EU-funded projects more visible, a publication is foreseen by the EC over the next 6 months.

Cooperation with EMCDDA for dissemination of Research info and outputs is considered as very important.

### 3. Conference on Supply Indicators

Comments from FR

- Monitoring topic: could be defined as a set of indicators
- Drug related crime: believe it is more a matter of research, rather than a set of standard indicators

Comments from HU

- Good idea to invite experts from other countries
- Has the feeling that it will be almost an impossible task to make indicators for all the topics described
- Question: on which basis EMCDDA will select the participants in the working groups?

Comments from PL

- Would be very interesting to have an half-day meeting at the next May meeting.
- Topic for concern are the guidelines for National Report. Chapter 9,10.

Reactions EMCDDA

- OK with comments from FR on DRC, one of the objectives of the working groups is to assess what is to be covered by indicator or what can only be a matter for research.
- Very small working groups, not thinking about appointment by MS, will be competence-

based.

- The question is beyond standard recurrent data collection like the system in place with the Reitox network, so EMCDDA and scientific partners need to build a broader framework.
- NFPs will be regularly informed and consulted during the process
- In each working group an expert from a NFP will be invited, but on basis of competences
- NFPs asked for a special discussion/workshop on their experience and difficulties at the May 2011 meeting, would also appreciate to receive a detailed feedback of their contribution to data collection in this area in the last 15 years.

#### **4. Reitox: recent developments and perspectives**

##### Glossary project

- NFPs that have not yet provided the EMCDDA with their contribution have committed to do so as soon as possible.
- The Glossary exercise was a first step in the process, more words and more topics should be included in the future, the means and methods to do so will be discussed at the May meeting.

##### RTX Development Strategy – Handbook on National Drug Observatories

- NFPs welcome the overview and the latest developments presented.
- Reitox Coordination to make a proposal for follow-up in consultation with the Reitox Spokespersons through written consultation by end of February, to be further discussed at May meeting.
- Italian NFP presented the project of Reitox Academy for the National Network of Regional Drug Observatories (NIOD), based on the Handbook on Building National Drug Observatories, to take place in Lisbon in December.

##### EMCDDA cooperation with ENP partners countries

- Reitox & International Cooperation unit to organise a consultation of Reitox Coaches early in 2011 for consolidation of the RTX Coaching System and its future extension to ENP and other non-EU countries. Methodology to be presented at the next May meeting.

#### **5. 2011 EMCDDA work programme**

NFPs welcome the presentation made by the EMCDDA Director and by the Scientific Director.

##### Main comments:

NL

- Very interesting and comprehensive work programme, sometimes difficult to perceive how and to which level of detail the EMCDDA intends to do some of its things.
- Request for some details about Data warehouse, data labs, database on national OST: are there enough data background for this?
- Best practice portal module: maybe some info on what GREAT system is?
- What is planned about Treatment services ?

UK

- Overall comment always made about the WP is that it is ambitious, and this comes every year – and it is right to be so.
- Challenge: keep the balance between three things: maintain regular programme, new

areas, and review.

- Role of NFPs in development of Drug Supply Indicator: NFPs want to contribute to this work centrally and could potentially become the unique entry point for that;
- Second question is Best Practice and EDDRA and role NFPs;
- Systemic Review came out as something that NFPs very much welcome and share the diagnosis to assess both inputs, processes and outputs. NFPs look forward to participate actively in this process. Of all points mentioned this is probably the most important point in the WP.

FR

- Supply Indicators: some NFPs have expertise and interest and would like to be involved or associated and would like to know what they can do and how?
- Internet surveys: what are the projects of EMCDDA in this area?

DK

- Welcome very much the work on the DRID protocol, it is an important indicator and a difficult one. Good to gather experts and NFPs and finalise the protocol.
- Cooperation with ECDC is interesting, would like to know more about it.
- KHAT: interesting survey in DK on prevalence and consequences, and changes of use among Somali population, results are presented in the National Report.

Answer EMCDDA Scientific Director

- we are ambitious, yes, but EMCDDA Director takes care there is an internal monitoring of the implementation of what we announced, and overall we do quite well in implementing those activities (by "we", we mean both EMCDDA and NFPs).
- What is sometimes difficult is to reflect the scope and the importance of things, there may be some need to see how to mention those activities without having them appearing with the same size or importance of some major activities.
- Also important to reflect in the WP the routine data collection, this takes an important part of the work of the centre.
- Supply Reduction: we started a process in tandem and in cooperation with the Commission. We need to draft a roadmap and see how to work, how to organize the work etc... but at this stage we are too short after the conference to get already a concrete answer to all those questions. We try to work out how to go on with this work, more info will be available in the coming months, and NFPs who have interest could make suggestions.
- There are methodological issues on sampling in Internet studies. It is an all new methodological area; there should be some small methodological work group in this area.
- Data warehouse: term we use for internal tools used for analysing data, like the backbone of FONTE
- Data Labs: to do more interesting data when need de-aggregated data, while respecting needs for copyright, ownership, etc... The idea is to invite on voluntary basis experts for a data lab exercise allowing for a new analysis that would not be possible in any other way.
- Need to work on total treatment coverage. There is very much trying to work out what is available and what is feasible.
- In terms of auditing, we collect non-standardised studies on drugs situations in prisons, without having the opportunity to critically assess their quality and what we can do with them.
- Case level data: individual data anonymous can be very interesting but is very sensitive. So we think that what we could do is case-level analysis. EMCDDA has found a methodology in which experts prepare their data at home in a harmonised way, the

working group compares and analyse the data together, and then the experts go back home with those data. What has been tried is to send an SPSS routine to the experts, so they can check and prepare their data for analysis, without having to bring the data in Lisbon.

- Best Practice Portal. There are two aspects in the work in this area: the first is to answer to the questions what works ? This is the work of Marica Ferri and coll. The second is monitoring the quality of the provision of services, and this is where EDDRA is playing a role.

#### General comment Spokespersons

Complexity and comprehensiveness looks overwhelming to the NFPs, but are also very interesting. It is difficult to see in all those activities which ones will have an impact on the work of the NFPs. We may improve in smaller scale meetings to see what belongs to the work of the EMCDDA without necessarily affecting the work of NFPs, except that they benefit from that, and those things and activities for which there might be consequences for the organization of the work of the NFPs.

#### Overall conclusion

“LET’S BE AMBITIOUS TOGETHER”

To be further elaborated by RTX Coordination in the working paper on the implementation of the RTX Development Strategy (not only in reaction to the difficult situation of some NFPs, but also in anticipation of future changes in the environment of the NFPs).

RTX Spokespersons to summarize comments to WP 2011, that will be included in the doc to be presented to the MB.

## 6. Guidelines 2011

### SELECTED ISSUES 2010

Need to have a more in-depth discussion on the quality of the information provided by the countries, could be done in a workshop or in a small technical meeting with those countries the day before the RTX meeting of May.

Broader reflection should take place in the framework of the Systemic Review, and should include an assessment of the results of the new system put in place for the Selected Issues in November 2007.

### SELECTED ISSUE 2011

#### MANDATORY SI ON PRISONS

##### Main comments

- Chapter 9 of National Report is not mentioned as one of the sources.
- Is too comprehensive, and some data collection are just impossible. What was suggested yesterday was to cut partly the SI.
- It was said a few years ago that SI should be based on existing sources, should be quite easy to get, the length of a SI should in principle not exceed 10 pages. Having seen this mandatory one, even the checklist is 2-pages long. The checklist was supposed to give some guidance, instead of saying “Should be”, contents: 43 topics,

most of them are quite problematic; you have to search for it.

- This Selected Issue is not in line with what we had agreed a few years ago.
- Topic is very interesting, but we should start with the institutional or organisational thing, that could be very interesting.
- Talking from the experience of drafting a report, it would be easier to write on the provision of services.
- We need to strictly define things and make a distinction between drug use in general population, drug users in prisons, or drug use in prison.
- There is a clear need to make better use of data that is collected already, and NFPs provide already a lot of information. The problem is probably the concept of Selected Issue, which is differently understood by different persons. This can have a negative impact on the quality report of the SI, while it can be said that part of the problem is linked to the non-availability of data.
- Other problem is in the interpretation of data available, e.g. the drop in HIV cases in EE
- Would like to have an overview of the strategic paper on data collection on Prisons. Such SP could be more reflected in the WP, this would be very useful.
- Lack of instructions about on what we should focus our reporting, to be considered for the revision of the reporting system.

#### Provisional conclusion

- EMCDDA take note that NFPs ask to review the guidelines, and also to clarify separately the topic and objective of the Selected Issues.
- Proposal to have a small working group during the workshops to discuss these issues and come back to the group with an updated proposal. Agreed, this will replace one of the workshops.

## SELECTED ISSUE ON TRAVELLING, DRUG USE AND DRUG SERVICES

### Main comments

- Is Schengen convention included?
- Two separate topics: recreational drug users, and PDUs.
- Is it cross-border travelling or travelling at all?
- Many topics covered (47), would be interesting to have an idea of what EMCDDA needs to know and what would be nice to know.

### Feedback EMCDDA

- For Schengen certificates, the EMCDDA will look at the info available from the European Commission, and will focus more on drug users in substitution treatment.
- Two separate groups and profiles of users (UK remark) makes sense and was carefully assessed by the EMCDDA. The variety of situations in the EU is justifying that the EMCDDA tries to cover both groups.
- Checklist is there to help, nothing is mandatory, it was prepared in describing more in details the scope of the SI.
- HDG is disseminating a questionnaire on Schengen, it might be interesting to see if the EMCDDA can get and make use of this information.

## SELECTED ISSUE DRUG USERS WITH CHILDREN

Norway, UK and other countries congratulated EMCDDA for the quality of the preparation of the Selected Issue.

### Conclusion

Guidelines for optional Selected Issues adopted, guidelines for Mandatory Selected Issue to be discussed in a separate workshop.

## 6. Guidelines 2011: Structured questionnaires

### HARM REDUCTION (SQ 23 and 29)

Overall presentation of main changes by Dagmar Hedrich.

#### Main comments

- Many thanks to EMCDDA for taking into account suggestions/requests from NFPs.
- FR
- Some data are collected through different instruments; this should be improved in the future.
- Treatment guidelines: you refer to the same definition.
- Question about questionnaire 23-29, section 5: are we collecting info only on Harm Reduction of on Prevention, and if only on HR, where can be used info on prevention?

#### Answers EMCDDA

- prevention in recreational settings.
- from analytical side, the point is very valid. Here we talk about interventions, not about settings, but this is obviously taken into account for analysis.

(Comment to be kept in the last version of conclusions of this meeting, could be taken into account in the context of the Systemic Review, that will most probably last over a longer period than one year).

Conclusion: Revised Structured Questionnaire adopted

### POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

#### Main comments

- In NL the budget 2011 was already adopted before the new government took on duty, but it is expected that budget 2012 will be cut, maybe the question could be rephrased so to encompass also this case.
- Very good idea to use some light and simple and clear way, being able to get a fresh info.
- Very pleasant process for the revision of the SQ.
- Links between strategy and action plan: it is difficult to assess that.

Conclusion: Revised Structured Questionnaire adopted

## 6. Guidelines 2011: Mandatory Selected Issue

### SELECTED ISSUE PRISONS

Final proposal

Focus on "Prison health services"

Will cover short introduction on prison services, then go to chapters 6 to 9, finishing with



methodological limitations and gaps.

The section on prevalence will stay in chapter 9, which should be updated as usual when there is new information available.

NFPs are ready to give bilateral feedback on specific datasets provided by the EMCDDA.

Conclusion

RSI and LM to draft outlines decision before Friday 11 AM.

Final version to be sent to NFPs by 8/12

Feedback from NFPs through Spokespersons by 16/12

Final version formally adopted by 18/12.

## 6. Guidelines 2011: national reporting guidelines

Guidelines adopted, provided that a few more boxes are added to the checklist.

## 6. Guidelines 2011: quality assurance and Final Activity Reports

Main comments

- It is part of the obligations of the NFP to contribute to the implementation of the 5KI, and is useful for some NFPs, each section being used and forwarded to the national experts.
- Questions on the KI are quite similar to the questions for the assessment of the key indicators.
- It should help in the key indicators implementation, but what is the link with the national abstract to be produced by some of the national experts.
- Do not understand some of the questions, and the way they are formulated, e.g. did you disseminate any publication, if yes which ones? Some of the questions are irrational, e.g. those on the legal basis for some surveys such as GPS.
- FAR should focus on the activities of the NFP, and not on national experts activities. Also problem with some other important networking activities that are not mentioned but are necessary to do our work. Same problem than others for sections 3 and 4.

Conclusion

A revised version will be drafted by the Reitox unit and will be sent to NFPs by 8/12

Feedback from NFPs through Spokespersons by 16/12

Final version formally adopted by 18/12.

## 7. FONTE implementation and developments

### Main comments

- Question on dashboard: will give an overview of what was uploaded and what is missing. This will be done and presented to NFPs at the next May meeting.
- Tim: is it possible to make copies of offline questionnaires....answer is yes
- Not the best tool for collecting qualitative info such as structured questionnaires

### Conclusion

- Training in May 2011 to have two sessions: process-related discussion, how you really work with the offline tool, etc..., and another one which would be like a technical training for FONTE users (50% HFP willing to attend).
- Final Activity Report will not be collected through FONTE in the future, but will have to be uploaded on the Reitox Extranet

## 8. Dialogue on scientific developments

### Conclusions workshop 1

- Document on revision of TDI uploaded on the RTX Extranet.
- Feedback requested by NFPs in written form until end of January 20 JAN.
- Next Milestone May meeting.
- Some participants found that it was the more interesting workshop ever attended at the EMCDDA. Was very useful to have input from EMCDDA and also from other HFP.
- Would have preferred to have a workshop connected only to one KI.
- All NFPs are invited to contribute to the informative consultation exercise, so as to document to the best possible extent the draft proposal that will be discussed at the May meeting.
- NFPs and EMCDDA agree that enough time should be given for an in-depth discussion on this issue at the next May meeting.

### Next steps

- Informative Consultation NFPs – 21 January
- Mid-term formal consultation – May Reitox HFP meeting
- Final decision on the revised TDI protocol – November Reitox HFP meeting

### Conclusions workshop 2

- The main questions were about the future of EDDRA and how it will fit in the Best Practice Portal. The role of NFPs in the Best Practice promotion, was also asked.
- Why a monitoring centre should carry on a Best Practice activity was also asked, and it was noted that a MoU with the Pompidou Group was undersigned and may be this group should focus on Best Practice on Prevention.
- Other questions concerned the possible need for re-shaping the EDDRA database to make sure that the quality evaluation is consistent with the grade of the evidence for the interventions that are in the Best Practice Portal.
- Some of the Countries reported difficulties in identifying projects and in motivating the practitioners to submit them.

- MF reminded that Best Practice is one of the objectives of the EU Drug Strategy and Alan Lodwick added that this is also in the EMCDDA regulation. MF introduced the idea of best practice as composed of two main elements: the Evidence and the Practice. NFPs have a role in both the aspects and particularly in the practice one, where the experience of implementation of evidence based interventions can be collected and shared with the others. The main objective is to valorise the efforts done at country level to implement the evidence based interventions.
- As it was said by the Director during the morning, the financial crisis and the consequent budgetary reduction compel for the identification and provision of effective interventions. This is an important task both for the EMCDDA and for the NFPs.
- GB discussed some aspects of the data flow in EDDRA and suggested that maintaining the quality and the quantity is feasible as it is demonstrated by some positive experiences.
- The need for some rewarding system was envisaged. And one Country mentioned the creation of a National Database which collects all the projects from which those suitable for EDDRA submission are chosen.

#### Next steps

- A meeting about the broader issue of Best Practice and the role of the NFPs will be organized in the incoming year and it will be a further occasion to share experiences and perspectives about his common activity.

## 9. Grant agreements

#### Conclusions

- Standard formal letter sent by EMCDDA regarding the deadlines and the missing info and/or questionnaires can sometimes have unexpected negative impact
- The point was made to RTX Spokespersons that this could matter when or if the letter was sent to a member of the Management Board (could adversely affect the way support is provided).
- EMCDDA should start by informal communication through an e-mail to be sent a few days before the official letter.
- The EMCDDA and the NFPs to assess on bilateral basis the situation with those NFPs who send their deliverables after the deadline, to understand the situation and take all necessary corrective measures.

## 10. Recent developments in data collection

#### Conclusions

- Very interesting presentations and debate
- It would be extremely useful to have more exchanges of this kind in a more suitable and light setting, allowing for more active participation of NFPs and exchanges with EMCDDA staff
- The Reitox Coordinator will present at the next May meeting a concrete proposal for changing the organisation of the Reitox HFP meetings, so as to facilitate and promote such exchanges.

## **11. Communication and dissemination**

### Conclusions

- NFPs welcome the presentation and the information provided
- NFPs would appreciate a feedback on their contribution to the glossary exercise, and an information about the future steps for the development of this project.

## **12. RTX Academies**

### Conclusions

- NFPs welcome the presentation and the information provided
- NFPs would appreciate a more developed strategy for the Reitox Academy training programme, in liaison with the Quality Reports, covering all kind of training/support activities that could potentially support the work of the NFPs both for data collection, analysis and interpretation, reporting and communication.