European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Reitox Development Framework

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Contents

Introduction

During the early 1990s, harm caused by illicit drugs, mainly heroin, in European Union (EU) Member States (MS) was one of the biggest concerns of European citizens. These years saw an increase in drug-induced deaths and other health-related consequences, as well as growing concerns regarding the impact of illicit trafficking and organised crime related to drugs, which were perceived as causing a substantial threat to MS. Although MS have always been aware of the international character of drug-related issues, countries did not know much about the overall European drug situation, and there was a lack of reliable and comparable epidemiological data and data on the burden caused by criminal activities and quantifiable effects on public health. At this time, almost no comprehensive national reporting systems existed and there was only limited capacity for monitoring the drug situation at national — never mind international — level. Available information was scarce and did not allow either comparisons between countries or regions or systematic scientific overviews.

To tackle this situation, EU MS decided to establish a European drug information system, headed by a European monitoring centre — the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) — based on a network of national drug observatories (national focal points (NFPs)) and national drug information systems. This was the beginning of the European information network on drugs and drug addiction (Reitox), initially based on expertise and resources available in the MS, and intended to further develop national and international capacities to monitor the drug situation in individual countries and at EU level, as well as to generate added value to societies through the sharing of experiences and knowledge among its partners. During its first years, the network, consisting of NFPs in EU MS and the EMCDDA, dedicated its resources mainly to setting up indicators and methodologies to properly monitor the drug situation. Over time, this methodological expertise has attracted many partners in neighbouring countries of the EU and throughout the world, following standards and procedures initially developed by Reitox. In addition to investing in the expertise required to properly describe the drug situation, investments were also made in the training of partners, in tools to evaluate strategies, in projects and in policy development. Reitox moved towards becoming an analytical and advisory resource for MS and the EU as a whole. Recent developments have required new instruments to monitor, describe, evaluate and tackle new phenomena like new drugs, new patterns of use, new consumer groups), and once again it is Reitox that is spearheading the search for answers to the questions of various partners.

Setting up this European drug information system required two main actions in parallel. First, the identification, definition and harmonisation of eligible indicators with well-defined standard reporting procedures; and, second, the development and strengthening of a network for data collection and reporting at national level. Quite early in the process, it became obvious that a European overview of the drug phenomenon could be as good only as the individual contributions from MS; furthermore, MS were articulating their individual interests in learning more about the situation in their countries to better address all kinds of challenges related to drugs. Accordingly, MS agreed to set up a network of NFPs for data collection, interpretation and routine monitoring, which contributes to the overall European picture of the situation. There was added value for MS in that they were able to learn from the experiences of other countries encountering similar problems. The basic principle of this simultaneous bottom-up and top-down mechanism has always been at the core of Reitox, serving the needs of both individual MS and the EU as a whole.

More than 20 years later, Reitox provides a unique example of a regional data collection system gathering national information on the drug situation in 30 countries. Reitox is the cornerstone of the European drug monitoring and reporting system, to which it contributes by collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating data at national level, as well as by defining the tools

for monitoring. Reitox is simultaneously a partner and an integral part of the EMCDDA, and a recognised key player at EU and international levels and a place of new ideas and development.

For more than two decades, Reitox has provided added value for national and international partners with regard to the development of methodologies for data collection, management, interpretation, and the provision and dissemination of examples of good practice. The functions of Reitox as a whole are complex and manifold; NFPs serve both EU and national information needs, as well as the needs of policymakers and practitioners in the field, while meeting scientific requirements, developing standard methodologies, and abiding by bureaucratic procedures and rules. In effect, NFPs are in the centre of a network of networks represented by state institutions, regional and local administrations, research bodies, service providers and the scientific community, all of which are both data providers and recipients of information through products prepared by the EMCDDA and Reitox NFPs. Given the heterogeneity of EU MS, Reitox also serves as an example of how diversity management can be successfully applied to an international network.

Having continuously developed over a period of more than two decades, Reitox has not only successfully managed to adapt to several political, social and scientific changes in Europe but also developed several approaches to tackle new phenomena and questions. Over the years, the network has assumed some particular features, namely that it is:

- Trusted and neutral: Reitox carries out scientific and non-opinionated work, translating scientific knowledge into policies and responses using understandable language for decision-makers and the general public.

- Highly stable: even in changing political environments, NFPs very often manage to continue their work. However, sustainability and sustainable development, which are required to meet new monitoring and reporting needs, continue to be a crucial issue for the network as a whole and individual NFPs.

- Flexible and adaptable: the network manages to embrace new developments and cover new topics (e.g. new psychoactive substances (NPS)).

- Diverse and integrating: NFPs provide a single entry point for a wide range of knowledge regarding illicit substances in each participating country, creating a shared reference network.

- Unique: each NFP has a privileged and unique status at national level, as a body gathering information of various natures and origins and having the means to put the information into the national context and make use of it, including through drawing comparisons over time and with other countries, in a meaningful way.

- Expert in information management: NFPs are experts in managing information (collecting, analysing and disseminating data) in a relatively quick, reliable and comprehensive manner. This has secured the good reputation of the NFPs, Reitox and the EMCDDA.

In December 2016, the EMCDDA Management Board adopted, at the proposal of the new Director, a long-term strategy for the EMCDDA covering the period 2017-2025. This strategy 'provides the overarching framework for ensuring, first, that the EMCDDA's work continues to reflect the reality of the external environment that Europe faces with respect to drugs issues and the evolving needs of the stakeholders; and, second, that the EMCDDA's substantive activities are supported by an internal business model which adopts a forward and integrated approach to planning, promotes appropriate and efficient working practices, and ensures that core processes are optimised'.

To achieve its strategic objectives, and in particular to strengthen the European drug information system, the EMCDDA needs to establish effective and mutually beneficial partnerships with its data providers and communities of knowledge. As the main partner for data collection and for maintaining a dialogue with national experts and data providers, Reitox has a key role to play in strengthening the system. In line with this, the EMCDDA's long-term strategy explicitly envisages that the Centre will create, jointly with the NFPs ([1]), a new Reitox Development Framework to (re) define the main priorities of the network in fulfilling its roles and functions in the future. As such, it represents a commitment of all parties involved for the development of the network.

As an integral part of, and a key actor to, the EMCDDA, Reitox has translated the new strategic orientations into its own to fully contribute to the EMCDDA's mission, that is, a healthier and more secure Europe through better-informed drug policies and actions.

([1]) Joint working group consisted of 3 representatives of EMCDDA and 3 representatives of NFPs drafted the document during 2017, then the document was adopted in the Reitox meeting in November 2017 and endorsed by EMCDDA's Management Board in December 2017.

Framework

Legal and policy framework

The European information network on drugs and drug addiction (Reitox) is the main interface between all EMCDDA participating countries and the Centre, through which data and methodological information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe is exchanged. It operates within a regulatory and institutional framework that clearly defines its role and mandate. The basis for the definition of the role and tasks of the Reitox network is provided by Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the EMCDDA (recast).

This regulation, and in particular Article 5, lays down both the mandate and the mission of the national focal points (NFPs) in each country that participates in the Reitox network. In accordance with the EMCDDA Regulation, the NFPs have a horizontal role, collecting and analysing, at national level, all relevant information on drugs and drug addiction as well as on policies and solutions applied, bringing together health, justice, law enforcement in cooperation with experts and national organisations active in the field of drugs policy. The regulation also stipulates that the NFPs are the EMCDDA's primary source of information and expertise and that recourse to additional expertise and sources of information has to be made in close cooperation with the NFPs.

The agreements that the European Community signed with Norway in 2000 and with Turkey in 2007 on their participation in the work of the EMCDDA are also part of this regulatory framework. Each of the agreements explicitly specifies the linkage between the country in question and Reitox, and the existence of a national monitoring centre as one of the main elements of the national information network.

In addition, NFPs contribute to the EMCDDA's key role in the detection and assessment of NPS in the EU under the terms of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA on the information exchange, risk-assessment and control of new psychoactive substances. The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Amending Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 as regards information exchange, early warning system and risk assessment procedure on new psychoactive substances which entered into force in November 2017 and which will be applicable in November 2018. The amended EMCDDA Regulation provides for a stronger and faster EU early warning system and a robust and faster risk assessment process. The implementation of the new legislative instrument will be a new core task for the NFPs, resulting in new reporting requirements. This will entail the adaptation of guidelines and of reporting and monitoring tools, including the European Database on New Drugs (EDND).

Reitox is explicitly identified in the EU drugs strategy 2013-2020, in which EU MS are asked to continue their efforts to maintain the achievements made within the EU in terms of monitoring and information exchange — including through the network of NFPs — while supporting the further development of EU standardised data collection and analysis in the areas of drug demand and supply.

The Reitox NFPs' contribution to the EU drugs strategy is accounted for in the data collection and assessment mechanisms of the EU drugs action plans 2013-2016 and 2017-2020, through the submission of their yearly national reporting package to the EMCDDA in the areas of (i) drug demand reduction; (ii) drug supply reduction; (iii) coordination of drugs policy; and (iv) information, research, monitoring and evaluation. Hence the data and statistics collected through Reitox contribute directly to monitoring and evaluating the effective implementation of various objectives of the EU drugs strategy as defined in the EU drugs action plan.

In addition to the EU legal and policy framework, national legal and policy frameworks in various MS also have implications for the work of the Reitox NFPs. These national frameworks may differ substantially, which results in significant heterogeneity of national missions and mandates, locations in national administrations, data collection processes and scope, which may include legal substances and 'behavioural addictions'. This heterogeneity has to be taken into account in the Reitox development framework.

Strategic and other statutory framework

Further to the relevant EU regulations and policy documents, the Reitox network is bound by the decisions of the EMCDDA statutory bodies. This is the case for some of the key documents adopted by the Management Board, such as the Centre's strategies and programming documents, as well as other, ad hoc, documents, including the Operating Framework for the Reitox system adopted in January 2003 and the Reitox Development Strategy 2010-15. As a cornerstone of the work of the EMCDDA, the activities of Reitox play an important role in the implementation, by the EMCDDA, of its annual and multi-annual work programmes, as reflected in the Centre's programming documents. These documents define the framework in which the activities of the network will take place during the periods in question.

The EMCDDA's Strategy 2025 indicates clearly that the NFPs are the Centre's main partners in maintaining an ongoing dialogue with national experts and data providers; that the network must act as the central conduit for the structured data sets required by the EMCDDA and support the development of harmonised and comparable data collection tools; and also that the NFPs provide an important resource

for supporting the standing technical expert groups needed for EMCDDA activities.

In line with the priority given by the EMCDDA's Strategy 2025 to added value for the Centre's key primary customers, and the emphasis on the notion of service provision, the work of each NFP should provide tangible benefits and value at national level.

Key tasks of the Reitox network — state of play

Every year, the Centre and the NFPs adopt, together and by consensus, at the heads of focal points meeting, technical guidelines and time schedules. These guidelines and schedules are included in a grant agreement that defines the standard delivery expected from each NFP for that year.

As standard, under Member States' responsibility and EMCDDA guidance alike, NFPs have been responsible for:

- collecting, harmonising and analysing national information according to EMCDDA standards and providing it to the EMCDDA;
- monitoring and analysing national scientific, legal and policy developments;
- coordinating and animating the national drug information network(s);
- participating actively in the EMCDDA's tasking processes;
- ensuring the production and dissemination of NFPs' outputs nationally;
- cooperating in the improvement of existing EMCDDA working areas;
- cooperating in the conceptualisation of new key indicators and core data sets;
- language checking and proofreading of EMCDDA products and publications; and
- disseminating at national level EMCDDA and Reitox outputs.

Every year, each NFP has been requested to produce a series of outputs and actions, such as:

- collection and analysis of information at national level, with a special focus on the national reporting package, but also including many other outputs;
- dissemination at national level (distribution of EMCDDA reports and other products as well as responsibility for media relations at national level);
- reports on the implementation of the Council Decision on information exchange, risk-assessment and control of new psychoactive substances;
- financial implementation reports; and
- participation in meetings and activities organised periodically by the EMCDDA, such as heads of focal points meetings, EU technical meetings, ad hoc working groups, studies, surveys and pilot projects.

Vision and mission

Vision

The Reitox network fully shares the vision of the EMCDDA, that is, a healthier and more secure Europe through better-informed drug policies and actions, with each NFP aiming to contribute to making its own country healthier and more secure through the data it collects, its analysis and the information it provides.

Mission

The mission of the Reitox network as an information interface between the EMCDDA and national level stakeholders is as follows.

- to provide the Centre and national stakeholders with the best, most reliable, comparable, recent and comprehensive information on the drug situation;
- to meet the specific information needs of the primary customers at European and national levels, that is, decision-makers and practitioners working in the drugs field;
- to enhance the key role of evidence in European and national drug policies and responses, to further develop relevant methodologies and to represent the Centre at national level; and
- to exchange knowledge and expertise among MS and in particular to support NFPs in fulfilling their national mandates going beyond the Centre's mandate.

As the backbone of the EMCDDA's monitoring and reporting system, Reitox will play a vital role in strengthening the EU drug information system and further developing the quality and comparability of the data gathered, and thus in attaining its key long-term goals.

Strategic objectives

To fulfil the key role that the EMCDDA's Strategy 2025 has assigned to Reitox and its NFPs, and to ensure that they remain central to the EU drug information system, in the next 8 years, Reitox will direct its activities through the following four strategic objectives (SOs):

1. maintain the Reitox monitoring system fit for purpose;
2. strengthen the role of the NFPs in supporting decision-making and action at national level;
3. improve the overall quality of the processes and deliverables of the NFPs;
4. improve the coordination of, and cooperation within, the Reitox network.

SO1. Maintain the Reitox monitoring system fit for purpose

The availability and comparability of the data gathered are central to the EMCDDA's strategy. Some data are not available in some countries — either not available at all or the NFP is not in a position to collect them — and this impairs the network and its capacity to understand the drug situation as a whole and report on it.

While there is a continuous need to further develop the network and to evaluate existing tools and procedures in terms of their appropriateness for providing MS and the EU with useful information, there is also a need to maintain, consolidate and improve the reliability and completeness of the routine data collection, as this is at the core of Reitox's activities.

Furthermore, routine data only (registries, population surveys) providing information on long-term trends are not enough to inform and support policymaking at present, owing to the increasingly fast-changing situation in the drugs field. Routine data are not designed to detect real-time changes and there is an urgent need to reflect this fact in data collection and analysis practices.

Reitox must therefore also address the implications of new and complementary sources of information that are emerging, such as web surveys, trendspotting methodology and project-based network-originated data. Synergies should be sought regarding the information flows between the Centre, the NFPs and new data sources. Changes in the nature and the increased quantity of information received in the last 5 years creates important challenges for the EMCDDA (the Centre and Reitox alike), which need to be jointly addressed.

An additional element to be considered is the need to adjust to the adaptations to guidelines and reporting and monitoring tools resulting from the new legal framework on NPS, which is expected to enter into force in 2018.

Finally, the two long-term goals of contributing to a healthier and more secure Europe are relevant to both the Centre and Reitox. However, the current focus of most NFPs is on public health, which implies that rethinking the network to make it more balanced may be required to meet both these goals.

Objective 1.1. Improve the completeness and quality of routine data collected through the Reitox network
Activities and milestones
Update the mapping of all sources of information at national level and ensure that there is a (direct/effective) link with them.
Maintain, consolidate and improve the reliability and completeness of routine data collection, through gap analysis and identifying means to fill the gaps.
Increase capacity to collect data, and engage in capacity development activities in that area.

Objective 1.2. Increase the capacity of the NFPs to track and report on new developments, emerging trends and real-time data
Activities and milestones
Set up a reporting procedure that makes it possible to share with the whole network data on new developments that might have a harmful impact on health or security.
Improve/reinforce the sharing of mutual information between the Centre and the network about the use of new data sources and new projects at European and national levels.
Identify and establish new partnerships at national level with new sources of information.
Adapt to the entry into force of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Amending Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 as regards information exchange, early warning system and risk assessment procedure on new psychoactive substances, and revise the reporting and monitoring tools and instruments — including but not limited to the reporting forms, the early warning system and final reports — as necessary to implement the information exchange mechanism.

Objective 1.3. Increase the capacity of the NFPs to collect and analyse data on public safety and security
Activities and milestones
Assess and work towards partnerships with supply- and crime-related data sources at national level.
Strengthen the analytical capacity of NFPs to work with supply- and crime-related data.
Further clarify the responsibilities of the NFPs and the Centre with regard to data collection and analysis in the supply/security area.

SO2. Strengthen the role of the NFPs in supporting decision-making and action at national level

Client service and the concept of added value are at the heart of the EMCDDA's Strategy 2025. If national stakeholders do not clearly perceive the added value provided by the system, the EU and national drug information systems and the NFPs risk not being sustainable in the long run.

Hence the NFPs should make the best possible use of their dual role and two-way reporting lines, not only to/with the Centre but also to/with their national stakeholders, thus increasing the focus on the added value provided by the latter role. It is also important to draw the attention of the EU and national decision-makers to the fact that Reitox has huge potential to provide services beyond the mandate of the EMCDDA and their own mandates as NFPs, given that many NFPs are located in institutions and organisations that have information and expertise in areas concomitant to drugs (e.g. legal substances, gambling).

Objective 2.1. Strengthen the capacity of the NFPs to promote and support evidence-based decisions
Activities and milestones
Identify the needs of the different audience groups and ways to meet them.
Improve the capacity of the NFPs to contribute to the policy debate at national level.
Promote at network level the existing capacity to carry out monitoring on similar issues (addictions in general) and the potential for the EU to make cost savings by using the Reitox network.

Objective 2.2. Reinforce the partnership between the Centre and NFPs to improve the information service to national decision-makers and practitioners
Activities and milestones
Streamline the Centre's and Reitox's communication activities and better coordinate them (organise meetings or other contact between communications officers).
Involve the NFPs in the identification of future reporting needs (SO1.4 of the EMCDDA's Strategy 2025).

SO3. Improve the overall quality of the processes and deliverables of the NFPs

Data quality assurance is another key aspect of the EMCDDA's Strategy 2025, which defines as a central priority for the EMCDDA improving the quality and the comparability of the data collected through Reitox. This is important because the information gathered covers more and more new disciplines, using different sources and methodologies, and new ways of developing or adapting mechanisms to ensure overall control of that work are needed.

Objective 3.1. Assuring minimum quality standards for the NFPs
Activities and milestones
Consolidate the accreditation system, with elements of self-assessment and peer support/review.
Take into consideration the EMCDDA's statistical code of practice as a useful point of reference for quantitative data collection, analysis and reporting.
Implement quality assurance procedures at national level.

SO4. Improve the coordination of, and cooperation within, the Reitox network

Horizontal collaboration between the NFPs is at a good level and is to be further strengthened. There are some fine examples of mutual support and exchange of expertise (e.g. Regional Academies). However, it is clear that there is a need to enhance knowledge exchange between the members of the network. It is important to identify and address factors posing risks to the activities of the NFPs and to define a risk management approach.

Objective 4.1. Improve the coordination of the Reitox network
Activities and milestones
Create better/clearer definitions of the roles of the spokesperson and deputy spokesperson.
Identify possible ways to further improve communication and management of the network, including with regard to preparation of meetings, support to spokespersons, and the interaction between the Centre, the network and the NFPs in general.
Ensure that appropriate risk management is undertaken. NFPs need to anticipate potential risks associated with their activities and identify measures to mitigate them. The Centre, in cooperation with Reitox, can provide assistance to NFPs facing difficulties accomplishing their tasks.

Objective 4.2. Increase horizontal cooperation between the NFPs
Activities and milestones
Exchange best practices in monitoring the drug situation.
Look for more EU project funding opportunities that could help to strengthen the partnership between NFPs.
Increase the value of common capacity development activities, such as Reitox Academies, and ensure that training opportunities at national level are also considered.
Assess gaps, needs and ways for NFPs to support each other, in particular to address situations where burdens are unevenly distributed among NFPs, so as to achieve a powerful collective impact.

Objective 4.3. Increase the external visibility of the Reitox network as a whole
Activities and milestones
Increase the interaction/service provision between each NFP and its national drug coordinators, where appropriate, and the representative at the EMCDDA Management Board.
Increasing the cooperation within 'extended/broad' networks, including candidate countries to the EU and other priority third countries.
Support the Centre in preparing the candidate countries and potential candidates to build NFPs and drug information systems, and thus for full inclusion in the Reitox network, in line with the relevant EMCDDA documents.
Develop new products to increase the visibility of the network (e.g. at conferences, in EU institutional meetings, during presentations and in printed materials).
Annual summary activity report of the Reitox network.

Roadmap 2020

Objectives	Milestones 2020
1.1. Improve the completeness and quality of routine data collected through the Reitox network	▪ Update the mapping of all sources of information at national level and ensure that there is a (direct/effective) link with them (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Maintain, consolidate and improve the reliability and completeness of routine data collection, through gap analysis and identifying means to fill the gaps (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Increase capacity to collect data and engage in capacity development activities in that area (Lead: NFPs)
1.2. Increase the capacity of the NFPs to track and report on new developments, emerging trends and real-time data	▪ Set up a reporting procedure that makes it possible to share data with the whole network on new developments that might have a harmful impact on health or security (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Improve/reinforce the sharing of mutual information between the Centre and the network about the use of new data sources and new projects at European and national levels (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Identify and establish new partnerships at national level with new sources of information (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Adapt to the entry into force of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Amending Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 as regards information exchange, early warning system and risk assessment procedure on new psychoactive substances, and revise reporting and monitoring tools and instruments — including but not limited to the reporting forms, the early warning system and final reports — as necessary to implement the information exchange mechanism (Lead: Centre and NFPs)
1.3. Increase the capacity of the NFPs to collect and analyse data on public safety and security	▪ Assess and work towards partnerships with supply- and crime-related data sources at national level (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Strengthen the analytical capacity of NFPs to work with supply- and crime-related data (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Further clarify the responsibilities of the NFPs and the Centre with regard to data collection and analysis in the supply/security area in order to stimulate/encourage NFPs to provide a more comprehensive picture of the drug situation (Lead: Centre and NFPs)
2.1. Strengthen the capacity of the NFPs to promote and support evidence-based decisions	▪ Identify the needs of the different audience groups and ways to meet them (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Improve the capacity of the NFPs to contribute to the policy debate at national level (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Promote at network level the existing capacity to carry out monitoring on similar issues (addictions in general) and the potential for the EU to make cost savings by using the Reitox network (Lead: NFPs)
2.2: Reinforce the partnership between the Centre and NFPs to improve the information service to national decision-makers and practitioners	▪ Streamline the Centre's and Reitox's communication activities and better coordinate them (organise meetings or other contact between communications officers) (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Involve the NFPs in the identification of future reporting needs (SO1.4 of the EMCDDA's Strategy 2025) (Lead: Centre)
3.1. Assure minimum quality standards for the NFPs	▪ Consolidate the accreditation system, with elements of self-assessment and peer support/review (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Take into consideration the EMCDDA's statistical code of practice as a useful point of reference for quantitative data collection, analysis and reporting (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Implement quality assurance procedures at national level (Lead: NFPs)
4.1. Improve the coordination of the Reitox network	▪ Create better/clearer definitions of the roles of the spokesperson and deputy spokesperson (Lead: Heads of NFPs) ▪ Identify possible ways to further improve communication and management of the network, including with regard to preparation of meetings, support to spokespersons, and the interaction between the Centre, the network and the NFPs in general (Lead: Centre and spokepersons) ▪ Ensure that appropriate risk management is undertaken. NFPs need to anticipate potential risks associated with their activities and identify measures to mitigate them. The Centre, in cooperation with Reitox, can provide assistance to NFPs facing difficulties accomplishing their tasks (Lead: Centre and NFPs)

4.2. Increase horizontal cooperation between the NFPs	▪ Exchange best practices in monitoring the drug situation (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Look for more EU project funding opportunities that could help to strengthen the partnership between NFPs (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Increase the value of common capacity-development activities, such as Reitox Academies, and ensure that training opportunities at national level are also considered (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Assess gaps, needs and ways for NFPs to support each other, in particular to address situations where burdens are unevenly distributed among NFPs, so as to achieve a powerful collective impact (Lead: NFPs)
4.3. Increase the external visibility of the Reitox network as a whole	▪ Increase the interaction/service provision between each NFP and its national drug coordinators, where appropriate, and the representative at the EMCDDA Management Board (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Increasing the cooperation within 'extended/broad' networks, including candidate countries to the EU and other priority third countries (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Support the Centre in preparing the candidate countries and potential candidates to build NFPs and drug information systems, and thus for full inclusion in the Reitox network, in line with the relevant EMCDDA documents (Lead: NFPs) ▪ Develop new products to increase the visibility of the network (e.g. at conferences, during presentations and in printed materials) (Lead: Centre and NFPs) ▪ Annual summary activity report of the Reitox network (Lead: Spokepersons)

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About the EMCDDA

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the central source and confirmed authority on drug-related issues in Europe. For over 20 years, it has been collecting, analysing and disseminating scientifically sound information on drugs and drug addiction and their consequences, providing its audiences with an evidence-based picture of the drug phenomenon at European level.

The EMCDDA's publications are a prime source of information for a wide range of audiences including: policymakers and their advisors; professionals and researchers working in the drugs field; and, more broadly, the media and general public. Based in Lisbon, the EMCDDA is one of the decentralised agencies of the European Union.

Publications Office