



Conclusions | 54th meeting meeting of Reitox Heads of Focal Points

Date meeting 14–16 June 2016

Update on key recent and future policy and institutional developments (Plenary Session II)

EMCDDA and Reitox network long term strategies

- The Director presented the main lines of his strategy/vision for the next decade, in advance to the presentation that he will do at the EMCDDA Management Board on 23 June and he renewed his intention to associate closely the NFPs to the process of conception of the strategy;
- The revision of the Reitox Development Strategy 2010–2015 will be done in the framework of the broader context of the EMCDDA 2025 Strategy;

Action points:

- EMCDDA to send the draft strategy to HNFPs for consultation after the presentation to the Management Board of 23–24 June;
- Both items to be included in the agenda of the Technical meeting to be held in autumn 2016 (18–19 October). 10 NFPs have volunteered already for the meeting: BE-DE-EL-CZ-HR-CY-MT-PT-SI-SE.

Institutional developments (Plenary Session II)

- Evaluation of the EU AP: EC contractor will contact NFPs to provide input;
- Data sharing and flows with UN agencies: EMCDDA is still working on cooperation agreements with them (UNODC); NFPs will welcome any improvement regarding the ARQ and the NPS smart global smart project.

EMCDDA outputs, meetings and projects highlights (Plenary Session III)

- Launch of the EDR: Some FPs voiced the need to be provided more in advance with information about the EDR package;
- Information about agendas of Key indicators meetings such as DRID and TDI not available enough time in advance;
- Some experts at the DRID and TDI meeting were unaware of the KI assessment and asked to be informed by the respective Head of NFP about this exercise;
- NFPs suggested to include a session on cross-indicators analysis at the next HFPs meeting of November if possible; if not, for the next one;
- Discussion about the PDU/HRDU acronyms;

Action points:

- EMCDDA will inform the NFPs about the topics of any new PODs planned for 2017 as soon as possible after the decision is taken to be better prepared at national level content and planning wise;
- EMCDDA will inform as soon as possible NFPs on the topics that will be highlighted in the 2017 EDR press releases, to help them to be better prepared;
- EMCDDA to provide the FPs the draft agendas of upcoming technical meetings shortly after they become available;
- EMCDDA to consider the inclusion of a session on cross-indicators analysis at the next HFPs meeting of November 2016 if possible; if not, for the June 2017 meeting;
- PDU/HRDU acronyms in Fonte templates need to be checked.

Reporting Package: Workbooks – Feedback on 2015 exercise (Plenary Session IV)

- Feedback was felt as positive, useful and providing clear guidance to NFPs on what to improve for the next round. Transparency of the process was also appreciated. Some practical issues need to be solved asap, including how to deal with the T5 questions and track changes.
- Track changes - some FPs are not able to provide the EMCDDA with WB indicating in any way changes in relation to previous year WB. Other FPs consider it useful or are willing to indicate changes in track changes or highlights. Although it would be more convenient for the EMCDDA that NFPs would submit the WB in October 2016 in track changes or highlights when possible, FPs declared a preference for submitting

a clean version in October 2016, in which case the EMCDDA will use 'compare documents' to identify changes.

Action points:

- EMCDDA to draft a guidance document to clarify practical issues for the integration of new information by the NFPs in the next WB submission. Topics to be addressed: a) the purpose of the cross-references; b) handling of changes (changes, highlights or clean) c) handling of comments/ questions; d) use of regional information; and e) cycle of the information in the WBs (when information should be moved from the section on new developments to the national profile for example);
- In 2017 similar process for the EMCDDA to provide the NFPs, but the EMCDDA will try to further harmonise the feedback procedure.

Reporting Package: Workbooks/ST & SQ / Protocols (Plenary Session V)

- Draft key principles of the revision of the WB explained by the EMCDDA. Light revision with the objective to keep the WBs as stable as possible;
- FPs agreed with the timeline, principles and process of the revision of the workbooks proposed by the EMCDDA;
- FPs will not consider any changes to the WB guidelines for reporting in 2017 once these guidelines adopted at the November 2016 meeting. The T5 questions can be replaced by rapid assessment queries sent to FPs in spring of the following year through the ad hoc mechanism;
- EMCDDA presented the principles and main lines of the revision of the SQ;
- NFPs asked if the RTX Forum is the best tool to collect the comments of the NFPs on the revision of SQ. EMCDDA to decide on the most appropriate method;

Action points:

- EMCDDA to consult the NFPs (deadline for the latter by 1 September) on their suggestion for changes they would like to propose; Revision will be addressed in the Technical meeting foreseen to take place 18–19 October;
- EMCDDA to look at the possibility to help NFPs in need to have guidance on evaluation of public health services (not only evaluation of programmes /projects such as the ones available on the Best Practice Portal);
- EMCDDA to reconsider most appropriate tool to collect comments from Focal Points on SQ revision.

Ongoing projects (Parallel Sessions I)

- It was presented the increasing cooperation between ESPAD and EMCDDA, including future hosting of the project in the Centre and the necessary adaptation of ESPAD governance;
- The on-going work on the revision of the European Model Questionnaire (EMQ), namely on the alcohol, NPS and 'perceived availability' modules was discussed and agreed that the EMCDDA suggestions will be presented in the next GPS meeting in September and then a 'plan of action' will be presented in the next HNFPs meeting;
- The projects on mapping the existing drug use surveys in recreational settings, as well as the European Web Survey on Drugs were presented and the FPs raised no objections.

Action points:

- National market size estimates: EMCDDA to send to FPs for consultation/comments the available data collected through the project;
- EMCDDA to check market estimates for alcohol and tobacco for information, general comparison;
- HNFP showed high interest in the Prevention Curricula activities and encourage the EMCDDA to start developing more the training area. A suggestion was made to include it as a separate topic in the HFP meeting in November;
- FPS reiterated an interest to include training among the core activities of the EMCDDA. This topic will be included in the draft agenda of the November HNFPs meeting.

Outputs development of a new approach to presenting national data (Plenary Session VI)

- Mock-up of the revamp of the CO (Country Drug Report – CDR) presented and seen by the FPs as an useful and attractive product that could definitely serve the needs of NFPs in terms of visibility at national level; Timing an issue;
- FPs would welcome its release as part of the EDR package/time. This would bring more visibility to the EDR at national level and to the country data.

Action points:

- EMCDDA to set up an electronic survey to get feedback on the potential additional needs or suggestions of the NFPs for the future CDR;
- EMCDDA will examine the feasibility in house to replace the CO by the CDR for 2017 release and check what would be the planning before to take a final decision;
- NFPs to be involved in checking the CDR in spring 2017 on data reported to the EMCDDA in 2016.
- EMCDDA to assess possibility of providing a proposal for improved guidelines for the T0 component for the November meeting (for the 2017 submission) that could be used on a voluntary basis by the NFPs and will then clarify as well the planning, process and timing.

Supply: Reporting packages and updates (Plenary Session VII)**Drug seizures sub-indicator**

- The EMCDDA concerned by missing data from some important 'key' countries regarding drug trafficking on the drug seizures sub-indicator;
- Minor adaptations to ST 13 are envisaged by the EMCDDA and will be presented for adoption in November together with the reporting package 2017.

Drug law offences sub-indicator

- The standard protocol guidelines to be further developed: Fonte template will be improved to facilitate reporting;
- EMCDDA and Eurostat data collection discrepancies. These might be due to different data providers, different data extraction practices from the same source and difference due to difficulties in identifying administrative and criminal offences within the systems;
- The Reference group is not a reporting instance: they are appointed by the Management Board to provide input;
- EMCDDA will consider inviting the Eurostat officer or Crime EC statistics network to the November HNFP-meeting to explain the data collection processes to the NFPs and to foster the contacts and links with NFPs.

Purity and tablets composition sub-indicator

- HNFPs briefed about the proposed changes to the sub-indicator, including the benefits of a new Standard Table (ST14), combining the current ST14 & ST15;
- EMCDDA invited volunteers to pilot the new ST14 over the next month; CZ volunteered; a reminder will be circulated by the EMCDDA among the NFPs in the forthcoming days – another 2–3 volunteering countries are welcomed; no new data collection invited for this small exercise;
- EMCDDA will launch a consultation process with the NFP on this sub-indicator in the first week of October 2016 when the final changes to the purity and tablets composition sub-indicator and respective data collection tool (new ST14) will be circulated by email – ahead of the expected adoption at the at the November HNFPs meeting.

Drug prices sub-indicator

- HNFPs briefed about the proposed changes to the sub-indicator;
- EMCDDA will launch a consultation process with the NFP on this sub-indicator in the first week of October 2016 when the final changes to the prices sub-indicator and respective data collection tool (revised ST16) will be circulated by email – ahead of the expected adoption at the at the November HNFPs meeting.

RTX network issues (Plenary Session VIII)

- FPs agreed with the proposal of creation of working group to discuss the issue of the envisaged RTX network Accreditation system on the agenda of this meeting and TM for in-depth discussion
- EMCDDA fully aware that direct contacts from the EMCDDA with national experts without the knowledge of the respective FP may weaken its position at national level and therefore committed to inform quickly the respective FP every time a national expert is appointed or selected by the Centre (service contract or participation in meetings).

Action points:

- Revised FAR to be put on the agenda of the November meeting for adoption, NFPs are welcome to send their comments until then;
- EMCDDA to include Accreditation (together with the Strategy 2025/RTX development strategy and Revision of tools) in the agenda of the Technical meeting foreseen to take place 18–19 October;
- FP to inform the Centre should there be a case of involvement of national expert in the work of the EMCDDA without prior information to the respective FP.

Research projects and other cross-cooperation projects (Plenary Session IX)

- EMCDDA and the EC informed RTX Focal Points on drug-related research projects and upcoming calls.
- The call for abstract for the Lisbon Addiction conference 2017 will be launched around end of October, together with the opening of registrations. The Organising Committee is working towards making available support for young researchers and more flexible registration options, possibly including a fee for and one day attendance.
- The results of the prison project (EMCDDA-CZ collaboration project) will be presented in Lisbon in the margins of the RTX meeting in November 2016.
- A proposal to organise a RTX academy on PDU has been made. This could take place before the end of the year and 7 countries showed an interest in participating: BG, PL, LV, LT, BE, SE, EE.
- EMCDDA suggested to use the RTX forum calendar to communicate about all the conferences and upcoming meetings. Another alternative could be to use the EMCDDA public website event's page.

Action points:

- EC FP (Elsa Maia) will inform the NFPs when the call for proposals of DG Home will be launched;
- CZ FP is working with the EMCDDA on the Prison project and will organise the next project meeting in the margins of the RTX meeting in November 2016. Information and invitation will be sent to all NFPs as soon as available.

Reitox meetings in 2017

The next Reitox meetings in 2017 will be organised as follows:

- 56th Reitox meeting of the Heads of Focal Points: 30–31 May and 1 June 2017;
- 57th Reitox Week and 55th Reitox meeting of the Heads of Focal Points: 27–30 November 2017.