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**EMCDDA, Reitox Heads of Focal Points
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**50th meeting
Agenda item:
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49th Reitox Meeting Heads of Focal Points – Final conclusions

Work programme and budget 2014

The Reitox Focal Points thank the EMCDDA's Director for his presentation of the budgetary situation of the Centre for 2014, and of the reasons leading to the decision to reduce the Reitox co-financing system by 20%. However, they express their concerns about the potential risks that such decision will have on their capacity to fulfil their reporting obligations and to support or implement the data collection at national level, and the risk of a decrease in the quality and added value of the whole system for European and national stakeholders.

The Reitox Focal Points ask the EMCDDA Director to maintain his efforts to improve the situation for 2015 and beyond.

The EMCDDA and the Reitox Focal Points call the Management Board members to intervene to their national authorities with the view to maintain the national financing at sufficient level, independently from the reduction in the EMCDDA's contribution.

The EMCDDA and the Reitox Focal Points ask the Member States to maintain their overall commitment to the development of a sustainable European and National Drug Information System, in line with the expectations and objectives of the European Drug Strategy.

The Reitox Focal Points take note of the feedback provided by the EMCDDA about their comments, questions and suggestions regarding the Work Programme 2014, and welcome the proposal made by the Centre to make available on the Reitox Extranet a summary table with their comments and the way they have been addressed.

New National Reporting System

The Reitox Focal Points welcome the proposal for a new Reitox National Reporting System (NRS), which should allow the Centre and the National Focal Points to better address the needs for information of European and National Stakeholders.

Both the EMCDDA and the Reitox Focal Points understand that the change implies a reflection about the overall purpose of the EU reporting, taking into account national needs, which should drive the whole exercise.

Building and implementing such a new system will require to re-think the objectives and the contents, not only the format of the information collected.

The common agreement for the developmental phase can be described as follows:

- Countries who are volunteers to contribute to the design of the new NRS will be invited to participate in a working group that will meet twice in March and September 2014, with the aim to have the final and comprehensive proposal ready for adoption in November 2014.
- the objective of the working group will be to contribute to the reflection about the purpose of the new national reporting system, and then to work on the content and format of the

different components of the new NRS, in particular the National Update and the Workbooks.

- In principle, there will be no double, nor any alternative reporting requested to the participants in the working group, but testing of some options on the basis of their existing national reports might contribute to the preparation of the final version of the NRS.
- The participation in the working group is free, and will be covered by the budget of the Reitox unit, for about 7 participants per meeting.

It is also understood that, while we need to reach an agreement on the whole National Reporting System in November 2014, the implementation may require more than one year, and that an implementation plan will be presented together with the new National Reporting System.

Regular updates after each intermediary step and the provision of a detailed and comprehensive proposal by 1st of November will be needed so as to allow for a smooth decision process and a conclusion at the Reitox meeting of November 2014.

Supply Indicators

NFPs welcome and appreciate the efforts made by SAT unit to better share information with NFPs, in particular the information regarding meetings and activities that are regularly updated on the Reitox extranet, as well as the working documents that were made available on time on the Reitox extranet. The NFPs expressed a wish that this intensive information sharing will continue as transparency is at the core of good cooperation and helps the achievement of the planned results.

There are still some questions regarding how the relationship/cooperation between the Reference Group (RG), the EMCDDA and the NFPs will be organised. The EMCDDA explained that the discussion about the role of, and the working arrangements for, the national representatives will be discussed at the first meeting of this group that will take place on 3-4 December 2013. The outcome of this discussion will be shared with the NFPs as soon as possible, but it is also important to note that few NFPs will be present during the meeting which will help achieving good transparency.

The Reference Group is not a data collection network *per se*, the vast majority of the data will continue to be collected through the Reitox Focal Points (however some data collection will be done on an ad hoc basis e.g. via Europol, and in some countries, the national member is or could become a very important resource for better understanding the national situation). The main role of the RG will be to assist the EMCDDA to contextualise and analyse better the information and the data that it receives via the NFPs. The National representatives were appointed by the Management Board of the EMCDDA, so they work following and according to the mandate of the EMCDDA.

The EMCDDA will continue to ensure that the information about the meetings and the working groups will be shared with the Reitox NFPs, while the collaboration at national level should be encouraged, and strengthened between the national representative and the NFP.

Guidelines for reporting

The revised guidelines for reporting in 2014 have been adopted, including the revised tools for reporting on Treatment and Harm Reduction and quality of interventions.

Overall, it was felt by the NFPs that it was not necessary to make big changes to the guidelines as they will be used only in 2014 and as a new National Reporting System will be developed in 2014. Therefore it was agreed to withdraw most of the changes, except those that made sense, such as the new chapter 4 and chapter 10. The sub-section 3.2 on environmental prevention is made voluntary for 2014.

However, National Focal Points have made clear that they accepted to work with more or less the same guidelines, despite the budgetary reduction, under the condition that this is only for 2014 and that a new National Reporting System will be adopted in November 2014.

Moreover, it is agreed that NFPs and EMCDDA will make better and more extensive use of the checklist annexed to the report.

Some NFPs will be more affected by the reduction in the co-financing and might see an impact on the quality and/or quantity of their national report. NFPs who will be in that situation are invited to inform in written the Reitox Coordination, so as to integrate the information in the Grant Management File for those countries, and if needed, to prepare an addendum to the Grant contract. The Reitox Coordination will take into account those limitations when preparing the Quality Report for the year 2014.

As agreed when the Charter on communication between the EMCDDA, the Reitox Focal Points and the National Experts was adopted, any request to the Focal Points should be channelled through the Reitox unit, and should be planned and announced in advance, and the Focal Points should always be informed when national experts are invited to technical meetings.

Reitox meetings in 2014

The next Reitox meetings in 2014 will be organised as follows:

- 3rd Reitox Week and 50th Reitox meeting of the Heads of Focal Points: 12-16 May 2014
- 51st Reitox meeting of the Heads of Focal Points: 26-28 November 2014

Two Reitox Technical Meetings will be organised for the preparation of the new National Reporting System: one in March and the other in September/October.