



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

The EMCDDA: Transfer of Research Results through an EU Agency?

Drug Addiction: From Mice to Mind to Society

Roland Simon, EMCDDA

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The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

- EU agency since 1993
- Supervision: EC, Member States,
 Scientific Committee
- Location: Lisbon
- Staff: 34 in scientific units
 94 overall

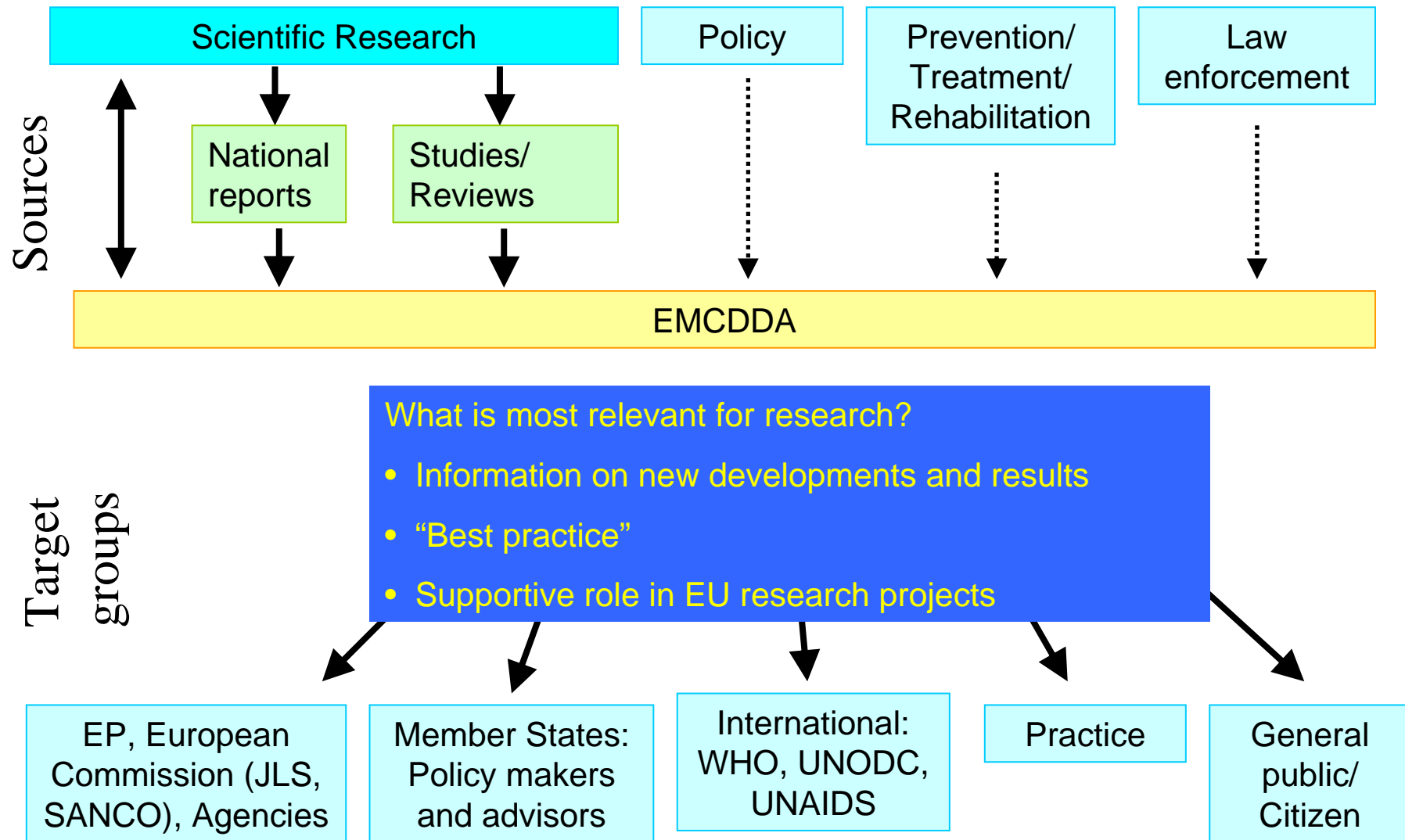


The EMCDDA: Mandate

- Provide European Community and Member States with
“ .. objective, reliable and comparable **information** (..) concerning **drugs and drug addiction** and their **consequences**“, which should ...
- .. help decision-making at EU and national level and
- .. improve the quality of interventions (“best practice”)
- .. help to monitor the EU Drug Action Plan
- Work on common standards in monitoring



An EU agency to transport research results



Groups reached beyond core target groups

Policy makers, administrative staff, NGOs, and experts in

- Candidate countries and other EMCDDA Members
- Third countries e.g. in Eastern Europe and South America

Experts through development of standards in monitoring and best practice



Dissemination of results through publications

Series (extract)	Examples	Per year	Pages	Copies	Languages	Target group			
						Policy	Science	Practice	Citizen
Print and Web									
Annual report ⇒ press articles	2007	1	96	35,000 1,300	23	x	x	x	x
Selected issues	Vulnerable groups of young people	2-3	~ 50	~ 15,000	1	x	x	x	x
Policy briefings	Drug use and old age	4-6	4	~ 5,000	25	x			



Dissemination of results through publications

Series (extract) Print and Web	Examples	Per year	Pages	Copies	Languages	Target group			
						Policy	Science	Practice	Citizen
Scientific Monographs	A cannabis reader	Max 1	200 - 800	~ 6,000	1		x	x	
Insights	Assessing illicit drugs in wastewater	2-3	150-180	~ 3,500	1	x		x	
Risk assessments	BZP	1-2	~ 50	~ 5,000	1	x			
Technical papers	- Volatile substances: a review of the data - Manuals	10-15	20 - 50	www only	1		x	x	



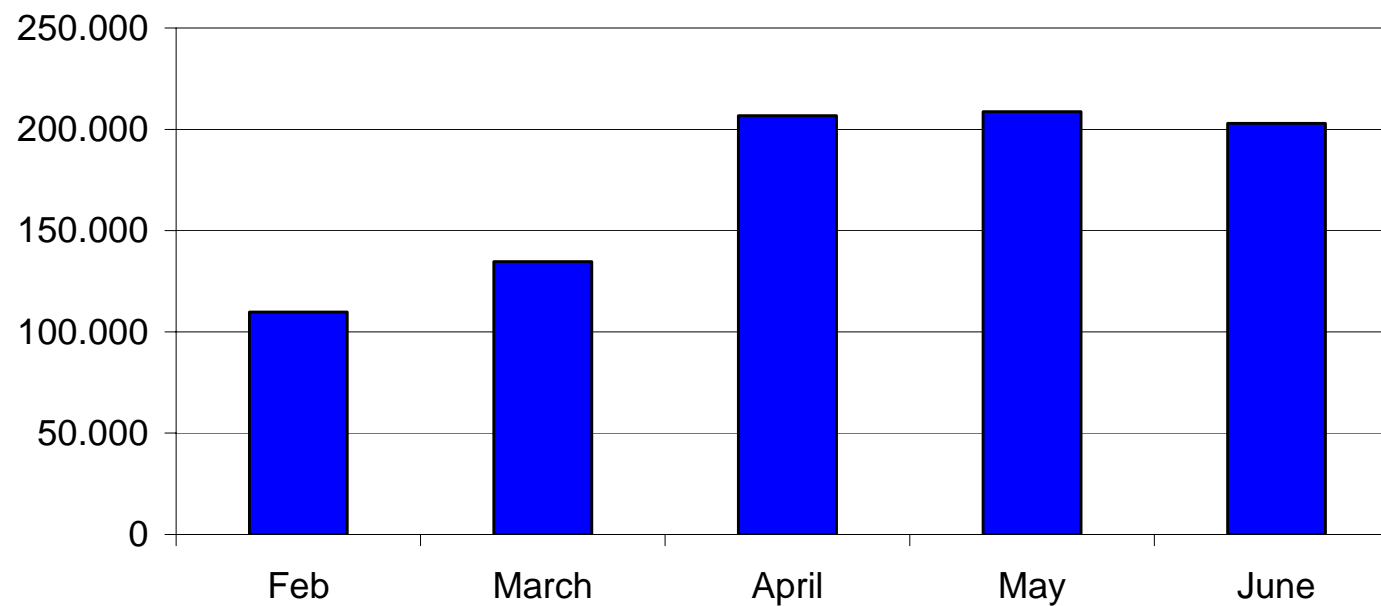
Dissemination of information through information resources

Information resources (extract) Web English	Target group			
	Policy	Science	Practice	Citizen
Statistical bulletin		X		
Best practice portal			X	X
Evaluation instruments		X	X	
Drug profiles			X	X



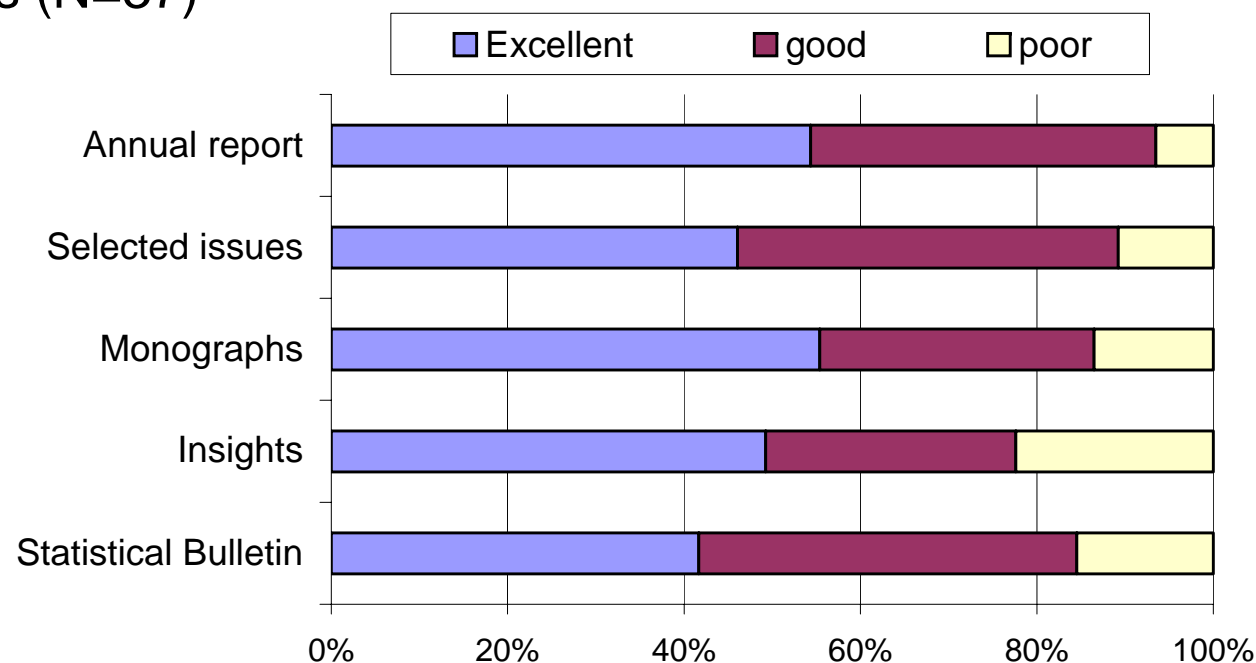
Dissemination via internet

EMCDDA Website: Visits per month in 2008



Credibility of EMCDDA information

Quality as rated by users from European Commission and national ministries (N=96), NGOs (N= 48), researchers (N=35) and others (N=37)



CSES (2007): External evaluation of the EMCDDA



Transfer of Research Results through an EU Agency?



Strength

- Excellent access to policy makers and decision makers
- High Credibility
- Well developed position
- Commitment to scientific standards



Weaknesses

- Over-simplification and over-generalisation sometimes hard to avoid
- Language barriers
- More consumers than producers of scientific results
- Few direct links to research



Opportunities

- Improve collaboration with scientific community
- Influence methodology of monitoring
- Expand subject: “best practice”
- Further develop a neutral, evidence based position in the political debate



Threats

- Prone to changing focus in EU policies
- Research is just one element of our work
- No role as a funding organisation
- Limited mandate: illicit substances and polydrug use



Conclusions

- Good starting position to further develop our role as a bridge between research, practice and policy making.
- A closer relationship between decision making and production of evidence could be quite fruitful
- Links to the scientific community and research will be further developed and strengthened



Thank you for your attention

- Acknowledgements to Silke Vitt
- More details to be found at

www.emcdda.europa.eu

