



Government of the
Republic of Croatia



OFFICE FOR
COMBATING
DRUGS ABUSE

Legal and institutional framework of combating drugs abuse in the Republic of Croatia

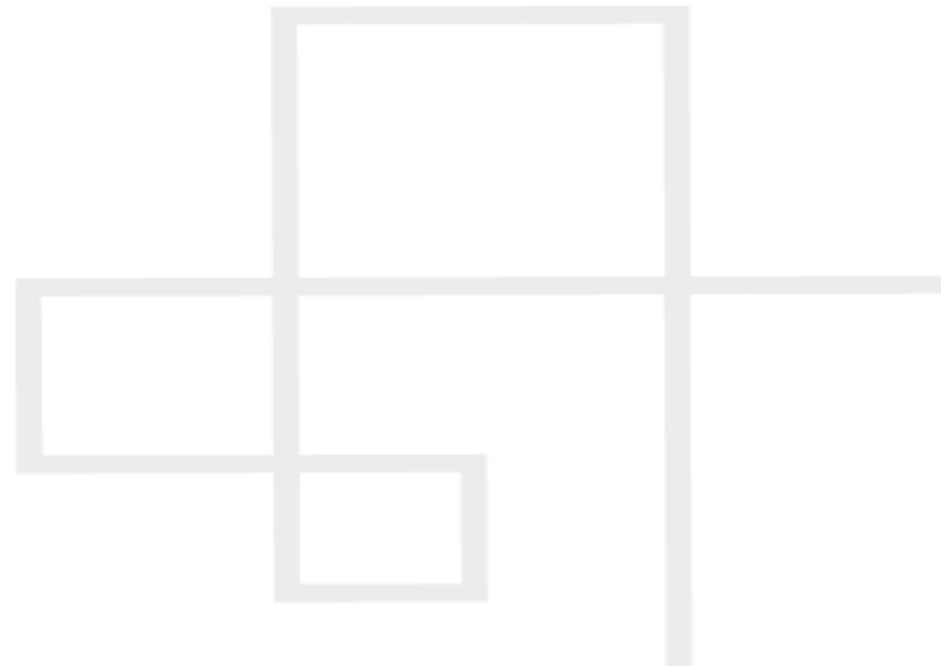
9th EXASS Net meeting

Zagreb, 11-12 October 2012



Content of the presentation

- ❖ **Drugs situation in brief**
- ❖ **Institutional framework**
- ❖ **Legal framework**
- ❖ **Strategic documents (national and local level)**

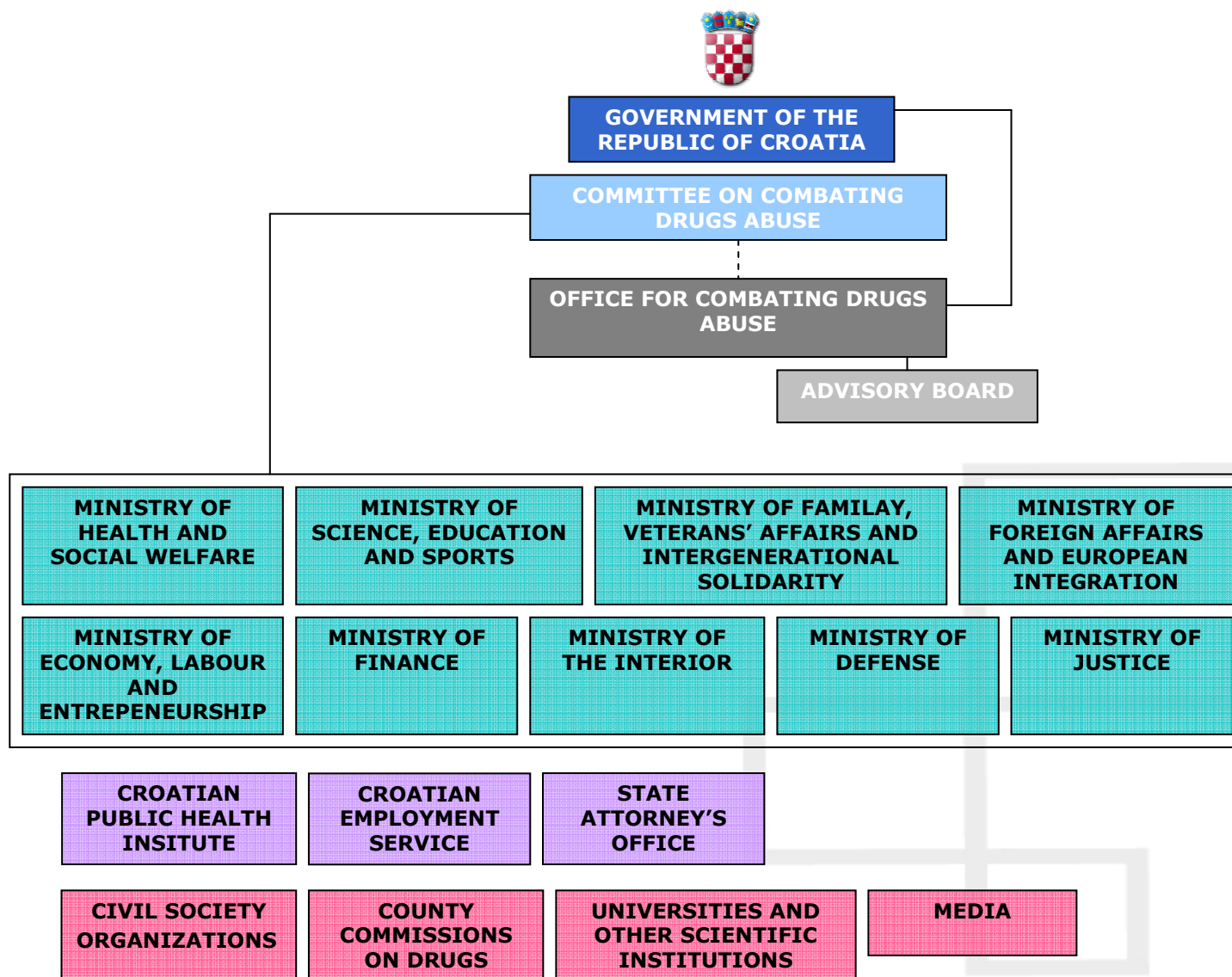


Drugs situation in brief (2011)

- ❖ Croatian population (Census 2011): **4 290 612**
- ❖ No of treated drug addicts: **7 665**
 - newly registered: **1151**
 - opiate addicts: **6 198** (80.9%)

(last decade observed decreasing trend of new opiate addicts)
- ❖ Problem drug use estimates (multiplier method): **between 6 600 and 12 553 PDU addicts**; multiplier method for IDU: **between 1 184 and 1 833 addicts that at least once a week intravenously take drugs.**
- ❖ Drug related infectious diseases
 - HIV: **0.5%**
 - HCV: **40.5%**
- ❖ Drug related deaths (2010): **61 opiate overdose; 152 DRD**
- ❖ General population survey – key findings: **LTP 16%, mainly cannabis** (LY 5%, LM 3.1%); LTP of young population (15-34) is **25.7%**

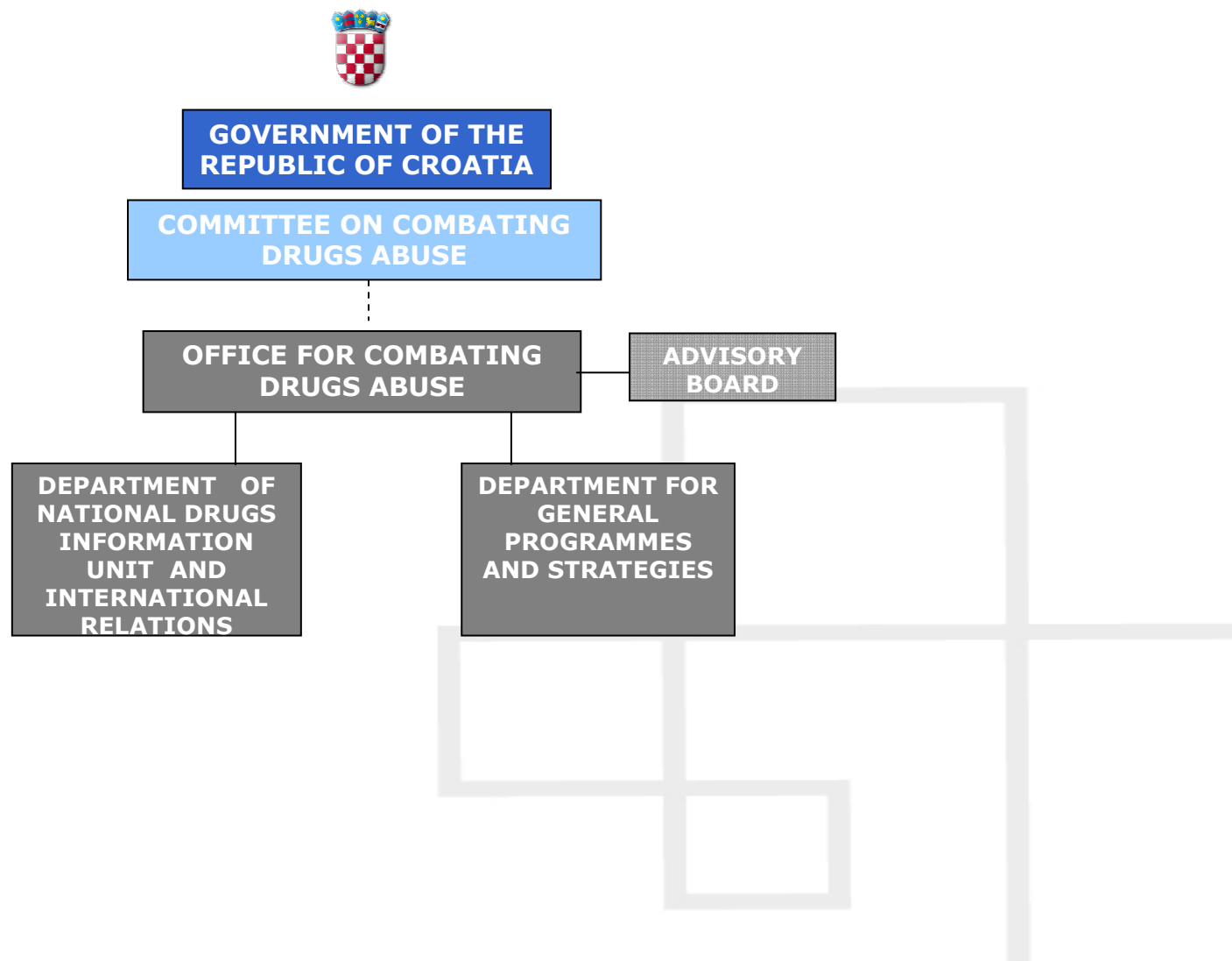
Organization scheme of the national system on combating narcotic drugs abuse in the Republic of Croatia



Organization scheme of the Office for Combating Drugs Abuse of the Government of the Republic of Croatia



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Legal framework

Law on Combating Drugs Abuse

-basic legal act in this field

- ❖ Production and possession of illicit drugs;
- ❖ Drugs abuse and trafficking ;
- ❖ Controlling of psychotropic substances;
- ❖ Cultivation of plants that are under control;
- ❖ Prevention of drugs abuse;
- ❖ Treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;
- ❖ Monitoring of drugs situation;
- ❖ Control of precursors.

Criminal Code

Criminal Procedure Act

= EU acquis

Evaluation of the National Strategy on Combating Drugs Abuse 2006 – 2012 (1)

- ❖ Currently valid strategy expired with the 31 December 2011
- ❖ The OCDA as an expert service in charge of monitoring implementation of policy papers on drugs initiated evaluation of this strategy to assess its effectiveness and to identify priorities and recommendations for drafting new national drugs strategy
- ❖ Trimbos Institute (Netherlands) was selected as independent evaluator
- ❖ Co-financed by the EMCDDA, TAIEX and OCDA
- ❖ **Methods used:**
 - Collecting and reviewing the literature
 - Exploratory interviews
 - Web based survey
 - Clarification interviews
 - Focus groups with selected experts/stakeholders

Evaluation of the National Strategy on Combating Drugs Abuse 2006 – 2012 (2)

Key findings :

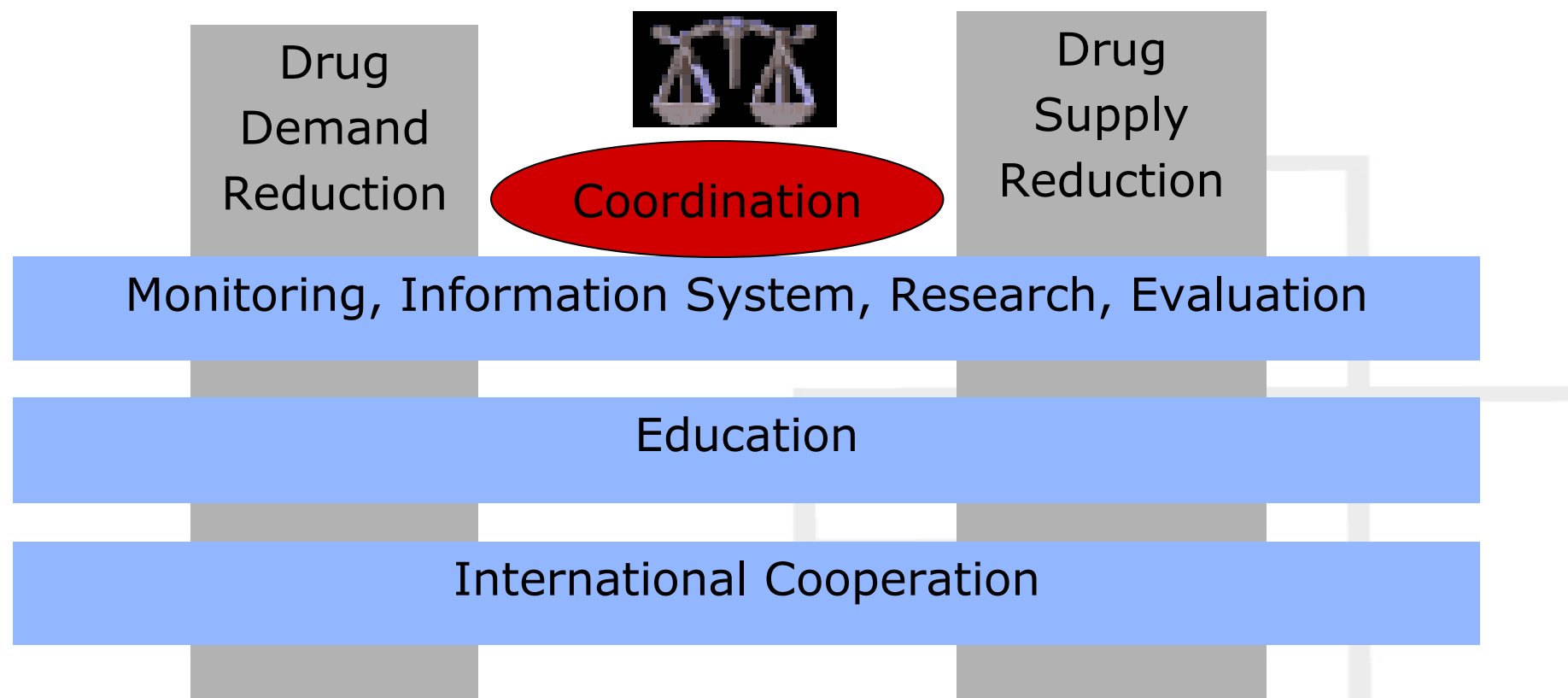
- ❖ Overall positive judgment
- ❖ Strategy is seen as good, comprehensive document but too extensive
- ❖ OCDA and County Committees on Combating Drugs Abuse contributed a lot to coordination of policy
- ❖ Insufficient communication and cooperation between stakeholders and organizations on different levels
- ❖ Treatment is overall well developed (major weak points: quality assurance, treatment in prisons, rehabilitation after treatment)
- ❖ Prevention is seen as high priority, many projects developed (major weak points: unclear definitions, lack of evidence-based projects)
- ❖ Harm reduction, treatment and prevention in prisons in need of improvement and wider implementation
- ❖ Much work done by police and justice
- ❖ Monitoring well developed, suggested more evaluation and research

National Strategy on Combating Drugs Abuse 2012-2017



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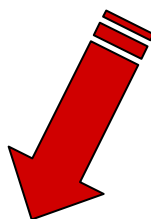
- Drafted based on the evaluation of the previous NDS (2006-2012)
- In the adoption procedure at the Croatian Parliament.



National Strategy on Combating Drugs Abuse 2012-2017



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**Action Plan on Combating
Drugs Abuse in the Republic
of Croatia
2012-2014**



**Action Plan on Combating
Drugs Abuse in the Republic
of Croatia
2015-2017**

- Annual Implementing Programmes



Action Plans on Drugs

- ❖ Each area contains several specific measures which are further elaborated through concrete activities
- ❖ Next to the activity it is specified:
 - responsible institution

Coordination	Prevention of addiction through measures for family support	Treatment, health care, (psycho) social treatment of addicts	Prevention of illicit production of drugs	
Monitoring, information system, research, evaluation	Prevention of addiction in educational settings	Implementation of the national plan	Monitoring of precursors	Cooperation with civil society organizations
Education	Prevention of addiction in the health and social care system	Therapeutic communities, centers for rehabilitation and social reintegration of addicts	Suppressing drug-related crime	Addiction prevention at the level of local community
International cooperation	Prevention at work place		Criminal policy	



County Action Plans on Drugs

- ❖ Based on the principle of shared responsibility and decentralization, all Croatian counties have County Committees for Combating Drugs Abuse (20) that are in charge for creation and coordination of local drugs policy
- ❖ In order to translate national drugs policy into the local level, a new County Action Plans on Drugs will be drafted according to the specific situation and needs of each individual county, but following the main guidelines set out in the national drug policy papers

