



Evaluation Instruments Bank (EIB)

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March 13



What is an Evaluation Instrument

- An evaluation instrument is typically a questionnaire, an interview script, or a set of observation guidelines, used to evaluate one or more aspects of an intervention in the drugs field.
- Depending on what is being evaluated, an instrument may be used only once during the intervention, or several times.
- It may administered by or to a professional, by or to a parent/teacher, or directly to the target group



What is an Evaluation Instrument Bank

In 2000, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) introduced the Evaluation Instruments Bank (EIB), an online archive of over 200 instruments for evaluating drug-related interventions.

The instruments are free to use and have been translated into 19 languages. Details regarding copyright and/or possible use restrictions are specified for each instrument.

Instruments are generally classed according to the intervention field they are designed to be used in (treatment, prevention, or harm reduction), though some instruments may be usable in more than one field.

Go to:

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/eib>



EIB Evaluation Tools

There are several aspects of an intervention that can be evaluated, each requiring specific data and instruments. Some evaluations comprehensively cover all of them, others only rely on one or two. The EIB has tools for:

- **Needs assessment and planning**
 - **Mediating and risk factors**
 - **Process**
 - **Outcome**
 - **Satisfaction**
- 



Needs assessment and planning

- **Needs assessment and planning evaluation** aims to assess the situation of the target group before and possibly during the intervention. The evaluation can range from assessing personal status (e.g. one patient) to environmental social conditions (e.g. an entire neighbourhood).
- **Why:** measure the starting and framing conditions of an intervention, in order to accurately plan and eventually justify it.
- **When:** The assessment is typically made at the beginning, although interim assessments can be conducted to assess the ongoing implementation and to plan adjustments and changes if necessary.
- **Instruments:** Very different data, instruments and sources can be used, from focus groups with community stakeholders or use of local statistics, to in-depth interviews with clients at uptake.



Mediating and risk factors

- **Mediating and risk factors evaluation**– to assess factors that influence and condition the response of the target group to the intervention.
- **Why:** measure how behavioural or personal factors influence the results of the intervention or are themselves altered by it.
- **When:** Often before starting an intervention to find, at baseline, different risk profiles and other influences that may alter the final outcomes. More often, to see how mediating factors change along the intervention and in relation to outcomes.
- **Instruments:** e.g. questionnaires to or observation of the target group, interviews



Process evaluation

Process evaluation – to assess the level of performance of the intervention itself, i.e. the outputs (sessions, materials, structures created, services provided) and implementation (e.g. acceptance, retention).

Why: measure the achievement of operational (structure and functioning) objectives for the project itself.

When: The assessment can be made frequently (e.g. each session) or once.

Instruments: e.g. questionnaires to the target group (acceptance, understanding), observations by professionals, questionnaires to professionals in the project



Outcome

Outcome – to assess behavioural changes in the target group, mostly drug use or surrogates like attitudes or intentions.

Why: measure the achievement of specific (behavioural or health related) objectives in the target group.

When: Ideally the assessment is made at least before and after the intervention, sometimes more often.

Instruments: questionnaires or observation guidelines to teachers or parents, or questionnaires, interviews to the target group.



Satisfaction

Satisfaction – especially relevant in the evaluation of treatment, it assesses whether the intervention is suitable to a specific client.

Why: measure whether the personal needs of a client are met.

When: After or during the programme

Instruments: e.g. interviews and questionnaires

A stethoscope is placed over a stack of colorful books. The books have various colored spines (green, blue, orange, red, yellow).

Guidelines for the evaluation of treatment in the field of problem drug use (2007)

The main objective of the EMCDDA guidelines is to provide a European audience with basic information on the options, elements and procedures of drug-related treatment evaluation.

These guidelines are designed to facilitate the preparation and implementation of evaluation studies and to help professionals to assess critically the value of evaluation research for their everyday practice. The chapters in the manual are:

- Why evaluate treatment
- Preparing for treatment evaluation
- Quantitative evaluation
- Qualitative evaluation
- Implementing and assuring the evaluation process
- Communicating and presenting your results
- Evaluation and research networks



Why evaluate treatment

The ultimate goal is to gather credible evidence on

- programme implementation
- treatment results
- cost-efficiency

that will help in the decision making process to improve quality of care.



Preparing for treatment evaluation

Be clear of Goals and purposes of treatment evaluation e.g.

- Programme and service improvement
- Quality assessment
- Testing of new therapeutic approaches or methods
- Client placement strategy/matching
- Administrative controlling
- Monitoring treatment policy



Goals and purposes of treatment evaluation

Programme and service improvement

Evaluation is designed to initiate a process that is directed towards identifying deficits and weaknesses and towards facilitating the testing of modifications to overcome these.

Quality assessment

Evaluation measures the conformity of a given service to quality criteria and standards, as a basis for enabling adaptations to be made. Achieving satisfactory quality assessment can be made a condition of funding or can act as a trigger for remedial action.



Goals and purposes of treatment evaluation continued

Testing of new therapeutic approaches or methods

Evaluation has to determine how and to what extent the new approach is superior to existing approaches; this is achieved mainly through using a comparative design and following the rules of good clinical practice (GCP).

Client placement strategy/matching

Evaluation contributes to better knowledge on what treatment is most suitable and has the best chances for which clients under which conditions.



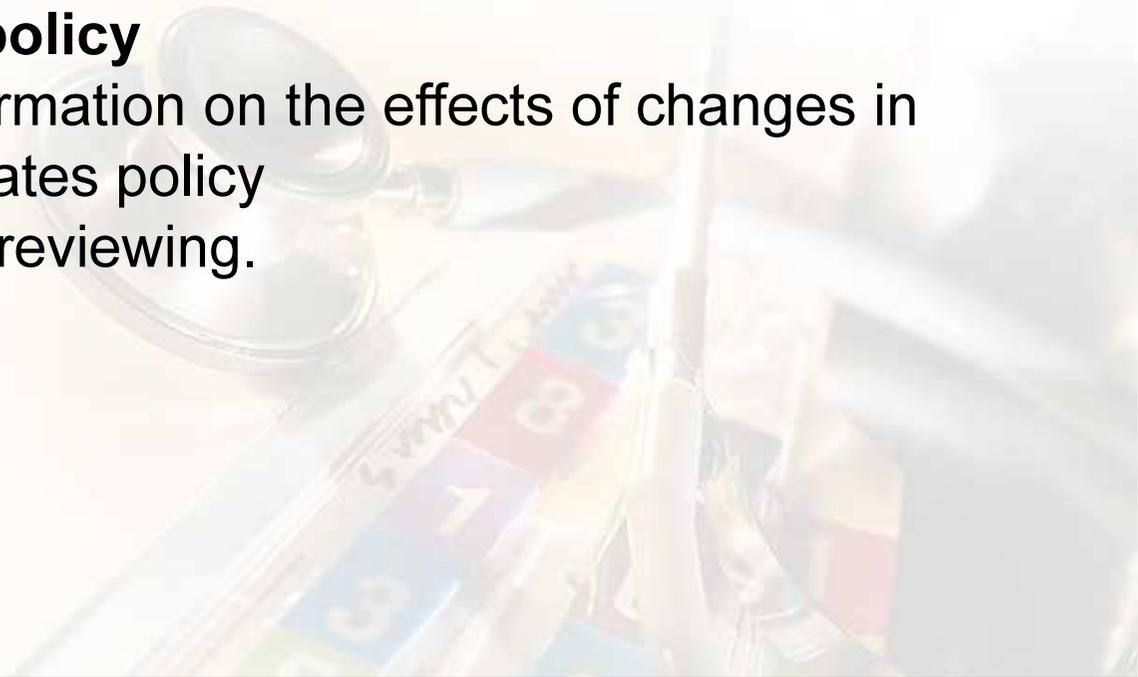
Goals and purposes of treatment evaluation continued

Administrative controlling

Evaluation provides transparency on the use of resources (e.g. working hours, finances) as well as on the appropriateness of procedures and structures.

Monitoring treatment policy

Evaluation provides information on the effects of changes in treatment policy or indicates policy issues that need critical reviewing.





Preparing for treatment evaluation continued

- Scope and size of study
- Time frame of study
- Identifying participating parties; Mandating agency
- Funding Agency
- Treatment programme/service; The evaluator's rights, mandatory/voluntary participation
- Research group, internal/external
- Identifying available data/who will own data
- Disseminating findings
- Obstacles to implementing evaluation



Quantitative Evaluation

Quantitative evaluation aims to:

- Classify features, count them, and even construct more complex statistical models in an attempt to explain what is observed.
- Findings can be generalised to a larger population, and direct comparisons can be made between two corpora.
- Get a precise picture of the frequency and rarity of particular phenomena, and thus their relative normality or abnormality

Disadvantages:

- data which emerges from quantitative analysis is less rich than that obtained from qualitative analysis
- quantitative analysis may side-line rare occurrences



Frequently used quantitative evaluation study designs

- Cross-sectional:
Comparing client populations
Comparing retention and dropout rates
Comparing treatment outcome
 - Longitudinal retrospective
Natural history of addiction
Antecedents of addiction
 - Longitudinal prospective
Treatment process
Measuring outcome as change in clients' behaviour, self-perception and status
- 



Frequently used quantitative evaluation study designs continued

- Observational ('naturalistic')
Comparing outcome in client cohorts
- Randomised
Comparing effectiveness of treatment modalities/methods
- Quasi-experimental designs
Comparing effectiveness of treatment modalities/methods
- Double-blind randomised
Comparing effectiveness of medications



Qualitative Evaluation

Qualitative methods can be used to achieve at least four goals:

- to collect information for process evaluation: for example, on attitudes, programme implementation problems,
- to collect information as a basis for determining the focus and extent of quantitative evaluation studies: helping to identify the burning issues and priorities in a given situation;
- to collect information for the construction of questionnaires for quantitative evaluation studies: helping to identify the relevant questions to be asked and the categorisation of responses;
- to provide information for an interpretation of quantitative data.

Disadvantages

- findings can not be extended to wider populations
- Can be more expensive and time consuming, e.g. transcribing
- Open to interviewer bias or unreliable interviewee



Frequently used qualitative evaluation study designs

- Participant observation: Technically the easiest and least costly approach. It can provide useful information on the everyday working of a programme, e.g. staff attitudes or process
- Semi-structured interviews: This is one of the more 'classical' approaches, involving face-to-face interviews. Confidentiality is an important aspect, requiring anonymised recording, relying on honesty from interviewee and objectivity from interviewer.
- Focus groups: This is a useful and cost-effective method for collecting qualitative information. Focus groups consist of about eight participants and a moderator. Participants should represent the target groups from which information is needed.
- Narrative research: are encouraged to tell their stories and these stories are analysed in terms of their structure and content. This method can be combined with others.



Implementing and assuring the evaluation process

Checklist for the preparation and implementation of treatment evaluation:

- **Objectives:** What are the objectives of the project?
- **Scope:** What resources are available?
- **Timing:** When can the project start?
When should the results be available?
- **Partners:** Who wants the evaluation? Who pays for the evaluation? Who are the data owners?
- **Research plan:** What are the research questions and hypotheses



Implementing and assuring the evaluation process continued

Checklist for the evaluation process:

- Are staff in the evaluated treatment services adequately informed?
- Has an ethics committee accepted the research plan and the informed consent sheet?
- Are interviewers and those involved in data collection familiar with the instruments?
- Is training needed for interviewers and those involved in data collection?
- Is the infrastructure for data computing and processing adequate and ready?
- Is statistical know-how for data analysis available?
- Are all responsibilities clearly defined and accepted?
- Is the project keeping to its time schedule?
- Are all obligations being met?

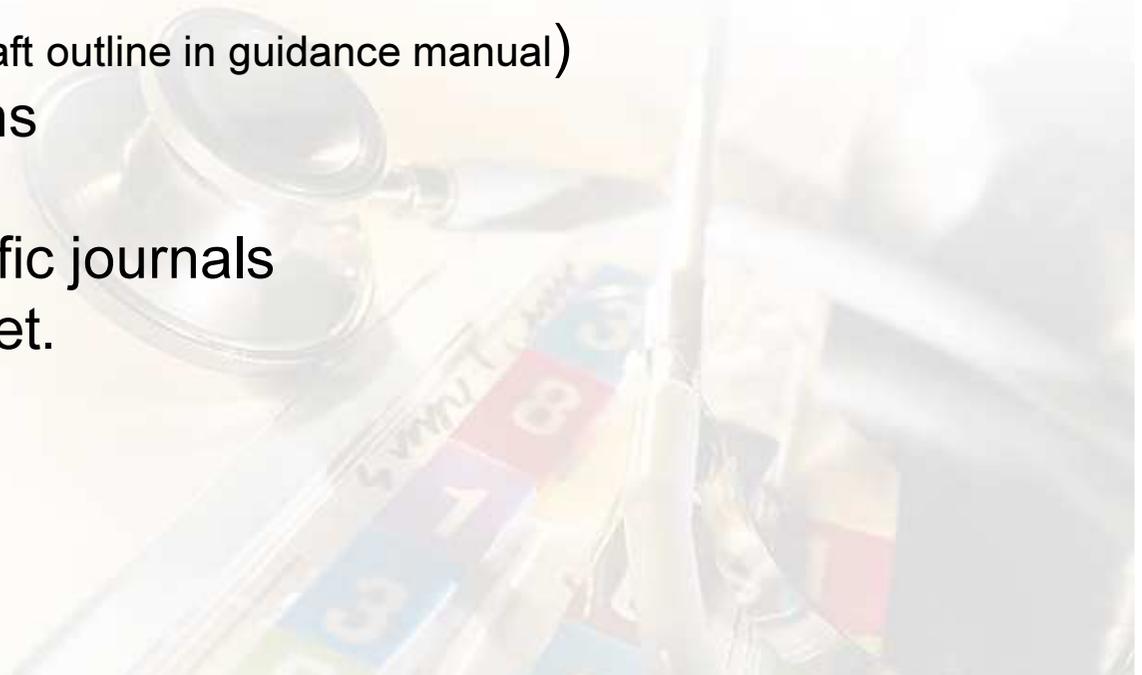


Communicating and presenting your results

The presentation of the evaluation project should always be linked to the initial **aims and objectives** of the project, as well as to the target audiences.

There are a variety of approaches and tools for presenting results:

- Written report (draft outline in guidance manual)
- Oral presentations
- Press releases
- Articles in scientific journals
- Use of the Internet.





Evaluation and research networks

European level

There are several European networks or bodies working on treatment evaluation or treatment research.

The guidance manual includes the most important, comprising Commission-funded projects and volunteer-run networks.

International level

Two UN organisations are actively involved in the promotion of good practice and evaluating the practice of drug treatment.

The World Health Organisation, based in Geneva

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna

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Evaluation and research networks

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is the largest single organisation funding research, publishing research evidence and addressing professionals internationally in the field of drug use including drug treatment.

Link:

<http://www.nida.nih.gov>

Links:

<http://www.who.int> (The World Health Organisation)

<http://www.unodc.org> (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC))



Questions

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