

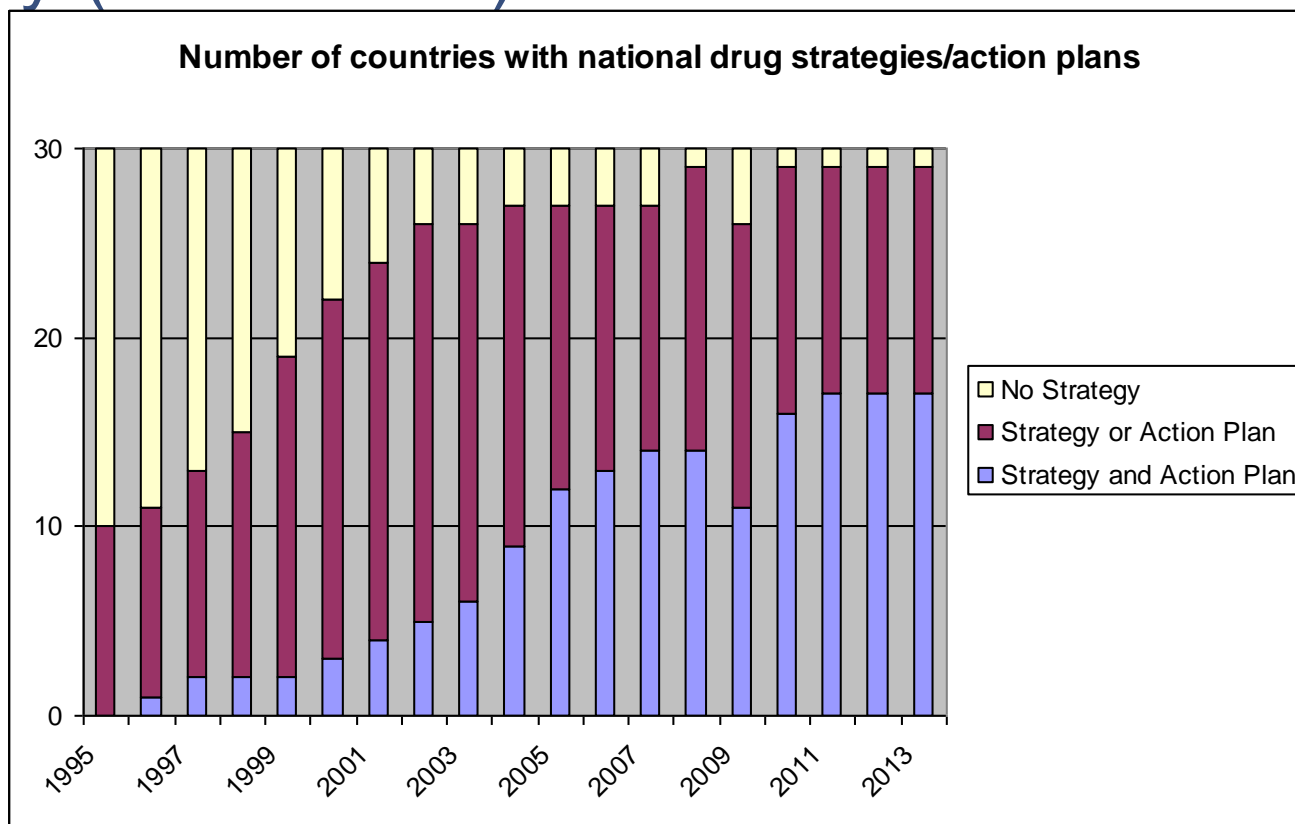


European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Providing the evidence base for effective policy and action

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National drug monitoring system in Croatia
22 October 2013, Zadar

National drug strategies and action plans in current 28 EU Member States, Turkey and Norway (1995-2013)



Overall development

- Member States and the EU now have
 - Detailed drug strategies and action plans
 - Multi-level drug coordination mechanisms
 - Sophisticated monitoring systems
- Drug policies in the EU are increasingly
 - Comprehensive and balanced
 - Based on scientific knowledge and sensitive to changes
 - Transparent
 - Realistic rather than dogmatic



Matters of concern

- Stimulants, including cocaine and synthetic substances, are now more important players on the European drug scene
- New drugs continue to be reported in the EU at the rate of around one per week
- Many problem drug users are still not in treatment and their social reintegration remains very difficult



The EMCDDA supports each stage of the policymaking process

1. Problem identification

- Better understanding of the drug phenomenon

2. Policy formulation

- Overview of policy alternatives

3. Policy implementation

- Review of evidence-based interventions and best practices

4. Policy evaluation

- Review and application of evaluation methods





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The EMCDDA's role in supporting the decision-making process – practical examples

Problem identification

A better understanding of the drug phenomenon

1. Definition of indicators and methods, and technical assistance
2. European Drug Report – package
3. European early warning system and risk assessment mechanism on new psychoactive substances



Policy formulation

Overview of new policy alternatives



1. Thematic documents on national drug strategies and coordination mechanisms
2. European legal database on drugs and thematic documents on drug laws
3. Public expenditure and economic analysis





Policy implementation

Review of evidence-based interventions and best practices

1. Web-based Best practice portal: evidence and best practice
2. Literature reviews and guidelines on the effectiveness of drug-related interventions
3. Policy briefings, reports and technical papers

Policy evaluation

Review and application of evaluation methods



1. Follow-up of evaluations of drug strategies in the EU
2. Technical advice provided to the Member States
3. Support to the evaluation of the EU drug strategy

Conclusion

Evidence-based drug policies require many different elements. Among them, are certainly **rigorous science, an open mind** and the adoption of **pragmatic objectives**.





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