

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

EMCDDA/21/94-Arev.2

The Director

Brussels, 14 February 1995

**First three-year programme of work
of the
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction
(1995-1997)**

PART A: PROPOSALS

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I THE CENTRE'S ROLE AND OBJECTIVE

The role and the objective of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction are both defined precisely in the Regulation establishing the Centre, adopted unanimously by the Council of the European Communities on 8 February 1993 (on the basis of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty). The main elements of the Centre's role to be taken into consideration in the drafting of the first three-year programme of work, are as follows:

a) The Centre is entrusted with the task of:

"furnishing overall information which will help to provide the Community and its Member States with an overall view of the drug and drug addiction phenomenon". "This task should not prejudice the allocation of powers between the Community and its Members States with regard to the legislative provisions concerning drug supply and demand".

b) In fulfilment of this task, the Centre is required to provide the Community and its Member States with:

"objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences".

c) This information is intended to help provide the Community and the Member States with:

"an overall view of the drug and drug addiction situation when, in their respective areas of competence, they take measures or decide on actions".

d) In accordance with Article 1, paragraph 4, of the Regulation, "the Centre may not take any measure which in any way goes beyond the sphere of information and the processing thereof".

e) In accordance with Article 1, paragraph 5, "the Centre shall not collect any data making it possible to identify individuals or small groups of individuals. It shall refrain from any transmission of information relating to specific named cases."

f) In accordance with Article 2.C.10, "it shall publish a yearly report on the state of the drugs problem".

g) In accordance with the Annex to the Regulation, the priority areas in which the Centre must gather and disseminate information are as follows:

- 1) demand and reduction of demand;
- 2) national and Community strategies and policies;
- 3) international cooperation and geopolitics of supply;

- 4) control of trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors;
5) implications of the drugs phenomenon for producer, consumer and transit countries.
- h) The same Annex also stipulates that:
- "During the first three-year period special attention will be given to demand and demand reduction".
- i) The documents collected in Part B of this programme clarify the regulation mentioned below (doc EMCDDA/21/94-B and B add 1).

II. THE CENTRE'S TASKS

The Centre's tasks are itemised in Article 2 of the Regulation.

A. Collection and analysis of existing data

- To collect, register and analyse information, including data resulting from research, communicated by Member States as well as that emanating from Community, non-governmental national sources and competent international organizations;
- To carry out surveys, preparatory studies, pilot projects;
- To organise meetings of experts and ad hoc work groups;
- To set up open scientific documentation resources;
- To promote information activities;
- To set up an organisational and technical system for supplying information on programmes and actions pursued by Member States;
- To establish and coordinate the REITOX network of national centres;
- To facilitate exchanges of information between decision-makers, researchers, specialists and government and non-government players.

B. Improvement of data-comparison methods

- To provide more comparable, objective and reliable data at a European level;
- To establish indicators and common criteria of a non binding nature, compliance with which may be recommended by the Centre, with a view to greater uniformity of the measurements methods used by the Member States and the Community;
- To promote the establishment and exchange of qualitative and quantitative information.

C. Dissemination of data

- To disseminate data and information produced to the Community institutions, the Member States and the competent organizations;
- To ensure wide dissemination of work done in each Member State and by the Community itself, and, where appropriate, by non-Community countries or international organizations

D. Cooperation with European and international bodies and organisations, and with non-Community countries

- To improve coordination between national and Community action in the field of information;
- To promote the incorporation of national and EC data on drugs and drug addiction into international surveillance and drug control programmes, particularly those of the UN;
- To cooperate with international organizations dealing with drugs and other governmental and non-governmental organizations especially from Europe and in particular the UNDCP, WHO, the Pompidou Group, the CCC, Interpol and Europol.

- The tasks A, C and D have the advantage of being able to produce short-term results, having a certain degree of political visibility. With no sacrifice to quality, which must be its guiding principle at all times, the Centre must largely draw on the competence existing in the Member States and its partner organisations for these activities. From the outset, therefore, its role should be to mobilise and stimulate competent European and international networks, particularly in the domain of research.
- The Centre's main objective, as embodied in task B ("Improvement of data-comparison methods"), must be embodied in the adoption and implementation at European level of indicators and common criteria to enhance the comparability, objectivity and reliability of data collected by the Member States, based on work already done in this field (especially that done by the Pompidou Group). The Centre therefore needs to set about selectively identifying (or confirming) certain indicators and analysing the optimum conditions for their implementation, with a view to achieving as quickly as possible the main objectives mentioned in I above. This will demand a painstaking, medium to long-term process with little immediate political visibility, building on research findings and focusing on their interpretation and practical transposition as an aid to policy-making.

III. PRIORITY THEMES & PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1995-1997

The following are the priorities, in broad chronological order, for the 3 year work programme of the Centre, in order to provide core information on drugs and drug abuse and their consequences:

1. Information requirements

To undertake a high level study to identify the information needed to support information users in the context of the global objectives of the EMCDDA, taking into account the priorities identified in the annex of the regulation establishing the Centre (EEC No. 302/93).

This will require:

- clear identification of the users of the information;
- clear identification of the uses to which information would be put;
- identification of key indicators, including demand reduction and making use of epidemiology;
- identification of a set of principles for information collection.

2. Sources of information

To identify data and information sources relevant to the defined information requirements.

This will require:

- identification in Member States of existing relevant data and information and centres or networks of expertise;
- examination of relevant work in other international bodies;
- identification of gaps in data and information required to meet the information needs.

3. Implementation of data and information collection

To implement data and information collection to meet the defined requirements. This must include resolution of problems of comparability and reliability of data and information at European level. It must also address issues of the availability of data and information in a user friendly and readily accessible form paying full attention to the need for confidentiality of personal data and Community and national rules on the dissemination and confidentiality of information. This will require:

- agreement to common definitions;
- agreement to data and information quality controls to ensure their reliability and validity;
- agreement to mechanisms and structures for data and information exchange for all relevant users (REITOX as defined in article 5);
- agreement to appropriate methodologies for data and information collection.

4. Comparative analysis

To compare differences between Member States and to identify why those differences exist based on data and information in which Member States have confidence in terms of relevance, reliability and comparability. On the basis of the meta-analyses, proposals should, where necessary, be put forward on the continuing information requirements which must be dynamic and set in train a new process of information definition, identification of data and information sources and their collection.

IV. THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE DRUGS PROBLEM IN EUROPE

The Centre will need to devote a substantial proportion of its efforts to producing its "Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe" which must constitute gradually the Centre's own quality label, both vis-à-vis the European scientific community and vis-à-vis the policy-makers at national and Community levels. To this end, the Centre will need to obtain the full cooperation of member states, the Centre's Management Board and Scientific Committee, and the national centres affiliated to the REITOX network. Due to the complexity and the difficulties of the process, the Director will submit to the Management Board appropriate proposals on the structure of the annual report, in order to reach a high qualitative standard of this report during the three year period 1995-1997. These proposals should take into account the potential input and cooperation of the main international organizations listed in the annex to the regulation: the UNDCP, the Pompidou Group, WHO, the CCC, INTERPOL and EUROPOL.

V. OUTLINE OF THE CENTRE'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1) The Centre's financial resources consist of a subsidy from the Community determined annually by the budget authority (Council + European Parliament) on a proposal from the Commission.

The budget proposal for the Centre is prepared by the Director, who is required under Article 11(2) of the Regulation to "draw up by 15 February each year at the latest a preliminary draft budget ... for the following financial year". "The management board shall adopt the draft budget and forward it to the Commission, which on that basis shall establish the relevant estimates in the preliminary draft general budget of the European Communities" (Art. 11 (6)). "The management board shall adopt the Centre's final budget before the beginning of the financial year, adjusting it where necessary to the Community subsidy and the Centre's other resources" (Art. 11 (7)).

2) Clearly budgets 1995-1997 will be very different to the 1994 model which has been quite exceptional taking into account the setting up of the EMCDDA in the second half of the year. The Centre should be fully operational during the years 1995-1997, even if the administrative structure will probably only take shape gradually during the first half of 1995 and the initial investments (building and equipment) are more important than they will be once the regime is properly underway. The agreed 1995 budget is ECU 5 million. It does not take account of the accession of the three new Member States, which will be subject to a supplementary budget during the year 1995.

Accordingly, the indicative distribution of expenditure proposed for 1995 is as follows:

| | | | |
|----|---|-----|-----------|
| 1) | <u>Administrative costs</u> | ECU | 1.845.000 |
| 2) | <u>Equipment and running costs</u> | ECU | 991.000 |
| 3) | <u>Operational costs</u> | ECU | 2.130.000 |
| | (of which contribution to REITOX network) | ECU | 1.000.000 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | TOTAL | ECU | 5.000.000 |

3) Leaving aside the administrative and staff expenditure, which will be submitted separately to the Management Board for a decision each year, the amount available for operational expenditure should reach ECU 3 million until the end of the 3- year work programme.