

# REITOX Heads of Focal Points (HFP)

## 41<sup>st</sup> meeting

18 - 20 November 2009, Lisbon

Agenda item: RTX/42/01a

### FINAL CONCLUSIONS

*(Adopted in plenary session of 18-11-2009)*

1. **Introduction & welcome address (for adoption)**
  - a. Adoption of draft agenda
  - b. Adoption of draft minutes previous meeting (May 2009)
2. **Feedback and updates (for info & discussion)**
  - a. Reitox Spokesperson
    - i. Topics of common concern for the NFPs

- ◆ Alan Lodwick and Tim Pfeiffer reelected as chair and deputy spokespersons
- ◆ Work programme was not sent on time, no possibility for giving a considered opinion, difficult position for the RTX Spokesperson at the next MB meeting. Two questions: EDDRA and Best Practice, what are the perspectives regarding the NFPs contribution? And what will be expected from the NFPs as far as data collection on Supply Reduction is concerned?
- ◆ Welcome the presentation by the EMCDDA of a Discussion Paper on the relations between the EMCDDA, the NFPs and the national experts. NFPs consider that the communication rules and framework should be improved. Alan Lodwick offered to team up with Alexis Goosdeel for drafting the reference document.
- ◆ WP 2010: problem with mention on page 11 regarding developing the key epidemiological indicators by supporting national experts and NFPs, which seems to give the priority and put the emphasis on the experts rather than on the NFPs.
- ◆ Request for a point of clarification by the EMCDDA regarding “minimum datasets for prevention and treatment programmes”.
- ◆ Selected Issues: NFPs have some concerns, they fear that the procedure is regressing to the previous situation, especially regarding the process that did not allow the NFPs to provide comments and opinions before the very end of the process, but also as far as the choice of topics is concerned in particular the mandatory Selected Issue that will be very difficult for some NFPs. There is a general feeling that we may be losing focus on the document adopted two years ago. Some NFPs regret some lack of sense of reality/feasibility for the Selected Issues.
- ◆ FONTE: there is a general feeling of satisfaction shared by all NFPs, the process and the tool have improved, and the fact that the templates will be available in January is considered as a significant progress. Some countries like the UK have a problem of compatibility of the reporting cycle that may be a disincentive for reporting, and would be more in favour of a continuous reporting system that would allow them to upload new data as soon as they are available.

- b. Challenges and perspectives 2010: EMCDDA
  - i. Management Board: the view of the Director
  - ii. Scientific Committee
    - ◆ Summary presentation to be provided by GF and by MN.
- c. Challenges and perspectives 2010: European Commission
  - ◆ Summary presentation to be provided by Maurice Galla.

### 3. 2010 EMCDDA work programme: Overview (for info & discussion)

#### a. Highlights WP 2010

- ◆ Concern raised by the NFPs about page 11 was not only about the wording, but about how the EMCDDA sees the role of the NFPs in relation to the experts.
- ◆ The concrete implications of the WP 2010 for the NFPs are described in the guidelines for reporting, any future change that may occur to the data collection on Best Practice and on the contribution of the NFPs will have to be prepared in consultation with the NFPs and following the procedures that have been agreed for that purpose.
- ◆ The last launch of the AR had some problematic impact at national level in Denmark, because for instance SPICE is not existing/was not found so far in Denmark, and because of the highlight it was appearing everywhere in the press in Denmark, and this is not positive. EMCDDA shares the concerns of risking to “provoke or promote drug trends”. In some countries where there is a national launch that helps stirring the information around the national specific situation.
- ◆ Printed version of Statistical Bulletin. EMCDDA: a solution could be to prepare a pdf version of key tables. Timeline for proofreading is a bit too short, so ideally it should come earlier if the NFP had to give enough time for doing the work well, as September and October are months with a heavy workload. EMCDDA is conscious of the problem for this year. The EMCDDA is having already next week a meeting on the preparation of the next AR, and we will take this into consideration. It should be avoided at least to ask at the same time a proofreading for two selected issues executive summaries.

#### **General conclusion:**

- ◆ The NFPs take note of the presentation of the draft EMCDDA WP 2010.
- ◆ The EMCDDA and the NFPs agree to open a written consultation until 1 December, to be coordinated jointly by the RTX Spokespersons and the RTX unit. EMCDDA will provide a feedback on how the comments are taken into account.
- ◆ Alan: it is difficult to make a point at the MB meeting: 1 positive, 2 more problematic.
- ◆ One possible option would be to replace “NFPs have contributed or have been consulted” by “NFPs will be closely associated to the implementation”.
- ◆ Proposal: have a discussion at the next May meeting on national launches and press releases – workshop on European picture and national differences.
- ◆ Need to find translators with experience needed for dealing with the kind of work required for a press release. (too time consuming for the NFPs, but risky, so should be done). EMCDDA will launch a small working group with Translation Centre and will come back to NFPs.

### 4. Guidelines 2010: National Reporting (for discussion & decision)

#### a. State of progress of the Selected Issues 2009 (being drafted by EMCDDA) and 2010 (provided by NFPs in 2009).

- ◆ SI optional “Mortality related to drug use” adopted
- ◆ SI optional “Cost of drug-related treatment in Europe” adopted - slightly restructured for more clarity of what is “core work” and what is additional asset (80-20). RTX Unit ready to consider the organisation of a RTX Academy on this issue if additional funds are made available
- ◆ There is a shared concern that there is a need to stick to what was agreed in 2008 on the Selected Issues, and that a closer consultation of the NFPs at an earlier stage (May) would have avoided some of the difficulties faced with the draft guidelines
- ◆ EMCDDA proposes to come back to the NFPs at next May meeting to clarify the internal process for the choice of topics and for the smooth implementation of the Selected Issues.
- ◆ EMCDDA will propose at the next May meeting a standard format/structure for the guidelines for Selected Issues
- ◆ Countries who could consider choosing SI on Cohorts: UK, SE, SK, SL, RO, P, AU, NL, LV, F, SP, IE, EE, BE, CZ
- ◆ Countries who could consider choosing SI on Public Expenditures: UK, D, IT, FI, SK, SL, PT, CY, IT, CZ, BE, GR

- ◆ The deadline for informing the EMCDDA about the choice of the optional Selected Issue is extended until end of January 2010.

- ◆ A working group to work on Thursday afternoon on the draft guidelines for the mandatory SI on guidelines for treatment

b. Draft 2010 national reporting guidelines

- ◆ Modification proposed ST 5 adopted
- ◆ Modification proposed ST 12, 14 and 16 adopted
- ◆ General guidelines for reporting adopted

**5. Guidelines 2010: Revision Structured questionnaires (discussion & decision)**

a. Social reintegration

- ◆ To mention in the national and annual report are based on expert ratings and not on qualitative data.
- ◆ The conclusions of the revision of SQ 28 on social reintegration of drugs users in treatment are adopted.

b. Alternative to imprisonment

- ◆ The conclusions of the revision exercise are adopted.

c. Policy and institutional framework

- ◆ The revision of this instrument has to be postponed to 2010, however it bears no consequences for the NFPs as it is planned for the reporting package 2011.
- ◆ EMCDDA to come with a presentation of preliminary results of assessment at the May meeting

**7. Quality Assurance: Quality criteria implementation 5KI (for info & discussion)**

- ◆ Topic postponed to the 42nd Reitox meeting of HFP of May 2010, to be combined with a feedback from NFPs on the use of the revised guidelines for national reporting that were adopted in November 2008.

**8. FONTE implementation and developments (for info & discussion)**

- ◆ The NFPs take note that the new chair for FONTE Steering Group is André Noor and warmly thank Ulrik Solberg for his work and dedication to the creation of and transition to FONTE since 2005..
- ◆ The NFPs express their full satisfaction with the way the process and the tool have improved, and the fact that the templates will be available in January is considered as a significant step forward.

## 9. Conclusions workshops

### 1) Selected Issues guidelines for treatment

- ◆ Revised version of the guidelines adopted
- ◆ Confirmation that the process for preparation of Selected Issues should start at an earlier stage

### 2) Relations between EMCDDA, NFPs and national experts

- ◆ Common agreement that we should improve the communication
- ◆ Database with contacts, all experts
- ◆ Final comment: we are making good progress
- ◆ Doc will be re-drafted and circulated among the NFPs

### 3) Reitox Development Strategy

- ◆ NFPs welcome the work done and the opportunity to see and develop the RTX network as a specific entity.
- ◆ EMCDDA to update the document and to send to the NFPs
- ◆ Next step: proposal for way forward and result of feedback on RTX Value and Definition, and explanatory document to be discussed at May meeting.

## 9. Strategy for data collection on treatment (for info & discussion)

### a. Presentation updated strategy document

- ◆ NFPs take note of the progress made for the development and implementation of the strategy for data collection on treatment and are invited to provide feedback on the document by end of January.

### b. Revision TDI: state of progress

- ◆ NFPs welcome the progress made for the revision of the TDI and the transparency of the process.
- ◆ NFPs welcome the proposal to dedicate enough time at the May 2010 meeting to be informed about the final outcomes of the revision process, so as to explore the consequences for the 2011 reporting package.

10:00 - 10:30

## 11. Grant agreements 2010 (for info & discussion)

### a. Grant Agreements: new rules for calculation of exchange rates

- ◆ The new system proposed for the exchange rate does not fit with the needs and the situation of the NFPs, exposing them to a financial risk in the case of significant evolution of the exchange rate.
- ◆ EMCDDA to explore on Monday 23 November with ADMIN the alternatives and then draft an alternative proposal to be submitted to the NFPs at the latest on 30 November.
- ◆ New proposal to be drafted by EMCDDA and agreed with the NFPs by 8 December.

### b. Proposal for improvement and streamlining of reporting

- ◆ Proposal to be sent to NFPs and adopted either by 8 December (in the case it is to be adopted for 2010) either at a later stage if to be adopted for 2011.

d. Approval of the 2010 NR guidelines (incl. the 2011 selected issues)

- ◆ Overall reporting and contractual package adopted for 2010.

11:00 - 11:30

**13. Communication and dissemination (for info & discussion)**

- a. Annual Report 2009
- b. State of progress EMCDDA publications
- c. Open discussion

11:30 - 12:15

**14. Recent developments in data collection (for info & discussion)**

- a. Manual on guidelines for recording retail drug prices in Europe
- b. Wholesale prices
- c. Open discussion

- ◆ NFPs welcome the presentations and the update provided by the EMCDDA on the progress made in this area

12:15 - 12:45

**15. Capacity Development (for info & discussion)**

- a. Perspectives and needs 2010
- b. Future IPA project: situation and perspectives for cooperation with the NFPs
- c. Open discussion and way forward

- ◆ NFPs take note of the programme for the RTX Academy for 2010 and would appreciate if academies could be organised on the financial and administrative management of the grants, and on the Selected Issue "Cost of drug-related treatment in Europe"
- ◆ NFPs interested in participating in IPA 3 are invited to inform the EMCDDA by 8/12

12:40 - 13:00

**16. Summary & conclusion**

- 26-28 mai 2010 (42nd Reitox)
- 24-26 novembre 2010 (43rd Reitox)