The role of Evaluation in EU drugs policy

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Lx Addiction 2019
The EU approach to drugs policy

The EU declares to aim at a drug policy which is comprehensive, balanced and based on evidence

(preface of the EU drug strategy 2013-2020)

How much of this approach depends on

- growing evaluation culture
- generic progresses in science
- information and data provided by reliable sources
Method


- Analysis of the **EU governance** of drugs policy (institutional structures and processes)

- Short scale **expert opinion survey** among EU decision makers
European Union
11 policy documents - 5 evaluation processes

Timeline EU Strategies, Plans and Evaluations

- Action Plan 1990
- Action Plan 1992
- Drug Strategy 2000 2004
- Drug Strategy 2005 2012
- Drug Strategy 2013 2020
- Action Plan 2000 2004
- Action Plan 2009 2012
- Action Plan 2017 2020
- Drug Strategy 20XX-20xx
European Union
11 policy documents - 5 evaluation processes

Timeline EU Strategies, Plans and Evaluations

1990 2000 2010 2020

Evaluation
Evaluation
Evaluation
Evaluation
Evaluation


An evaluation process every 2,8 years
European countries (1983-2016)
Cumulative adoption of drug strategies and published evaluations
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal external</strong></td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>External</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type and scope (Research Criteria)</strong></td>
<td>Progress</td>
<td>Progress</td>
<td>Effectiveness Added Value</td>
<td>Added Value</td>
<td>Effectiveness Efficiency Coherence Relevance Added Value</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stakeholders involvement</strong></td>
<td>Member States</td>
<td>Member States</td>
<td>Member States - E.P. Agencies - Civil Society</td>
<td>Member States - E.C. – Agencies - Civil Society</td>
<td>Member States - European institutions - EU agencies International org. - Third countries - Civil society - Chemical industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methodology</strong></td>
<td>No logic model - Drugs reports - MS questionnaire</td>
<td>No logic model - Drugs reports - MS questionnaire</td>
<td>Desk review MS survey EC survey</td>
<td>- Document review - Online survey - In-depth interviews Expert workshop</td>
<td>Desk Research - Stakeholder and Public – Consultation - In-depth interviews - ‘Traffic light’ assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusions Recommendation</strong></td>
<td>Several (vague) follow-up actions</td>
<td>General conclusions</td>
<td>Conclusions objective by objective 34 Recomm</td>
<td>Findings objective by objective 20 Recomm</td>
<td>Findings criteria by criteria 9 Recomm.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic objectives</strong></td>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>EMCDDA</td>
<td>Demand Red.</td>
<td>Supply Red</td>
<td>Inter. Coop</td>
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Unique drugs policy governance at EU level

1. Institutional structures
Unique drugs policy governance at EU level

2. Institutional processes

International level

Council of the EU
Monthly debate among EU MS

National level

Policy Input (under a normative frame (TUE))

Scientific Input
Information and data
Reflection on the role of evaluation in the EU drugs policy cycle

Evaluative culture is present in the EU drug policy - based and inclined towards a scientific attitude -
- (also) due to the institutional framework -
- the most available (credible, reliable, impartial) data and information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. EU is promoting an Evidence base approach?</td>
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<td>2. EU decision makers promoting an Evidence base approach?</td>
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<td>3. What is most prevailing factor that has made you (as decision maker) a promoter of Evidence base Approach?</td>
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<td>3.1 Generic progresses in science in this field</td>
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<td>3.2 Growing evaluation culture in the field of drugs in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3 The information and data provided by reliable sources (EMCDDA/Reitox)</td>
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The role of evaluation in the EU evidence based approach in EU drugs policy

Findings

• Evaluation culture in the EU by ‘incremental process’

• Existence of Evidence based approach EU (especially towards international fora and third countries)

• Access to *credible, reliable, impartial* data and information key to support evaluation and the growing of a *scientific attitude in drug policy and among decision makers*