



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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

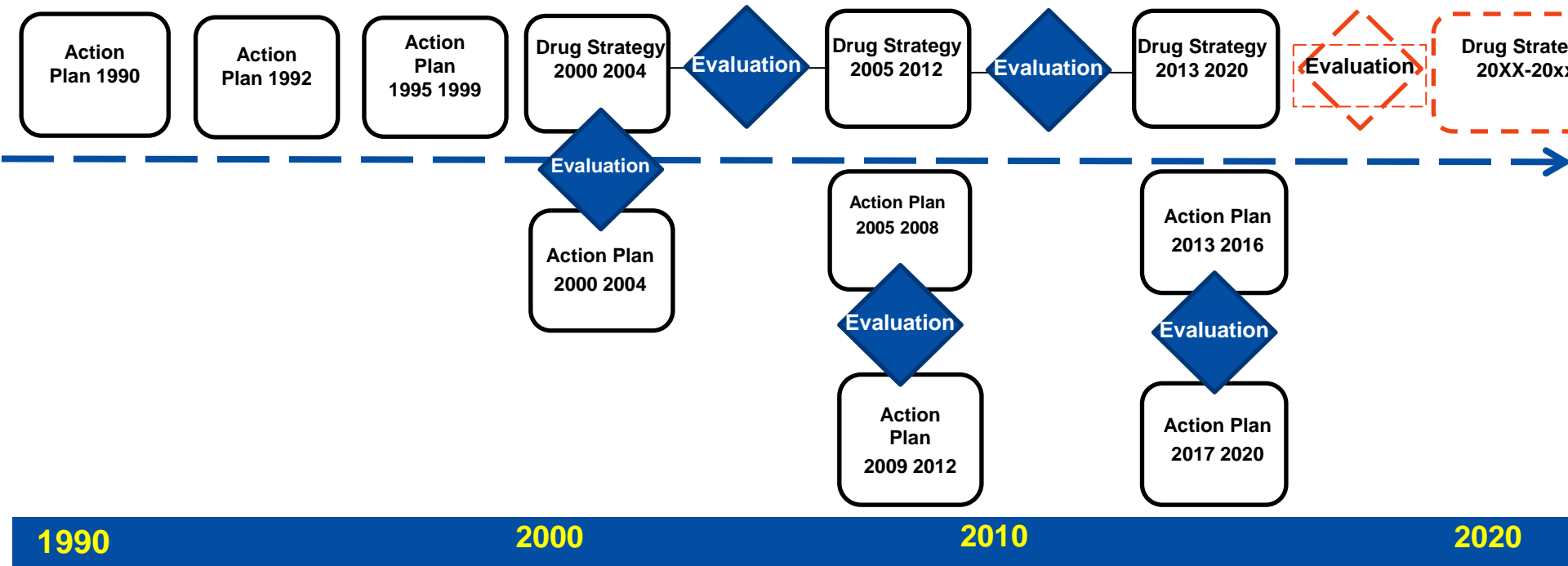
- Analysis of **5 evaluation rounds** of EU drugs strategies (2002 – 2004 – 2008 – 2012 – 2016)
- Analysis of the **EU governance** of drugs policy (institutional structures and processes)
- Short scale **expert opinion survey** among EU decision makers



European Union

11 policy documents - 5 evaluation processes

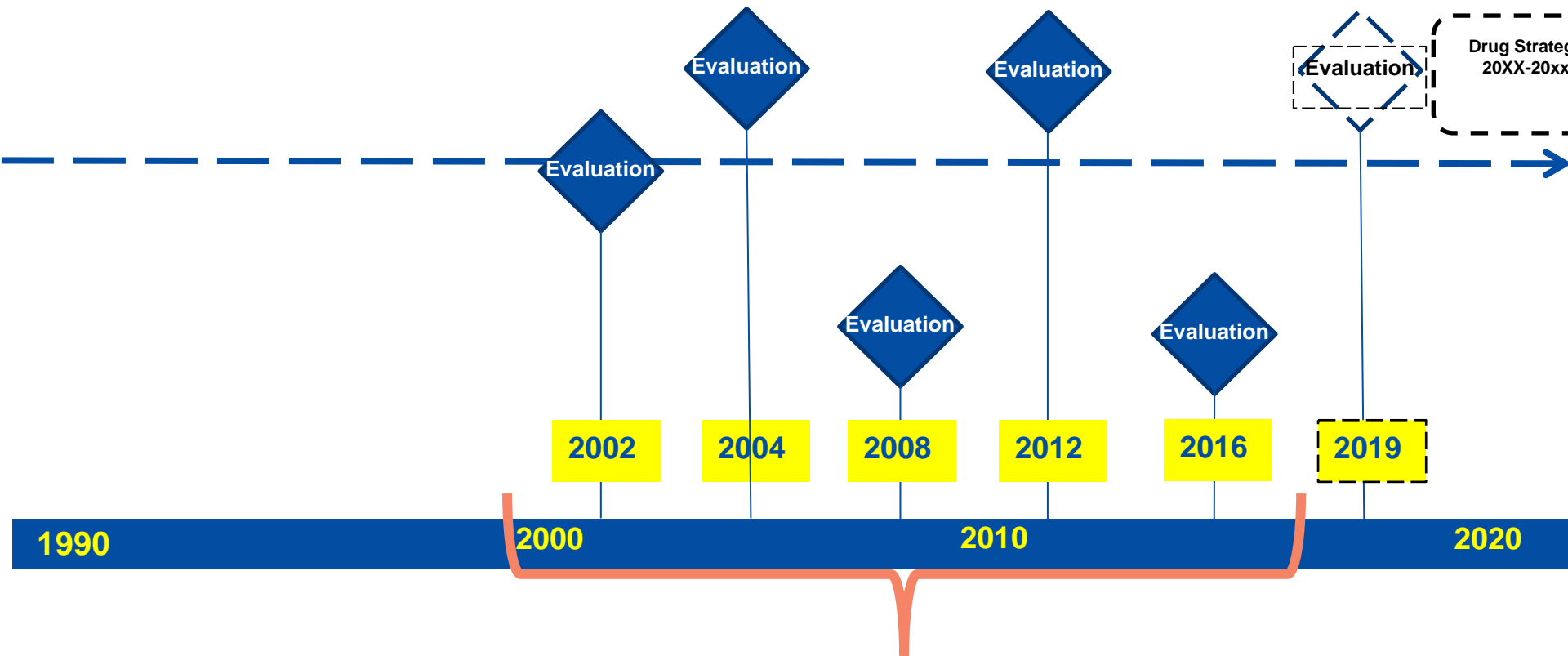
Timeline EU Strategies, Plans and Evaluations



European Union

11 policy documents - 5 evaluation processes

Timeline EU Strategies, Plans and Evaluations

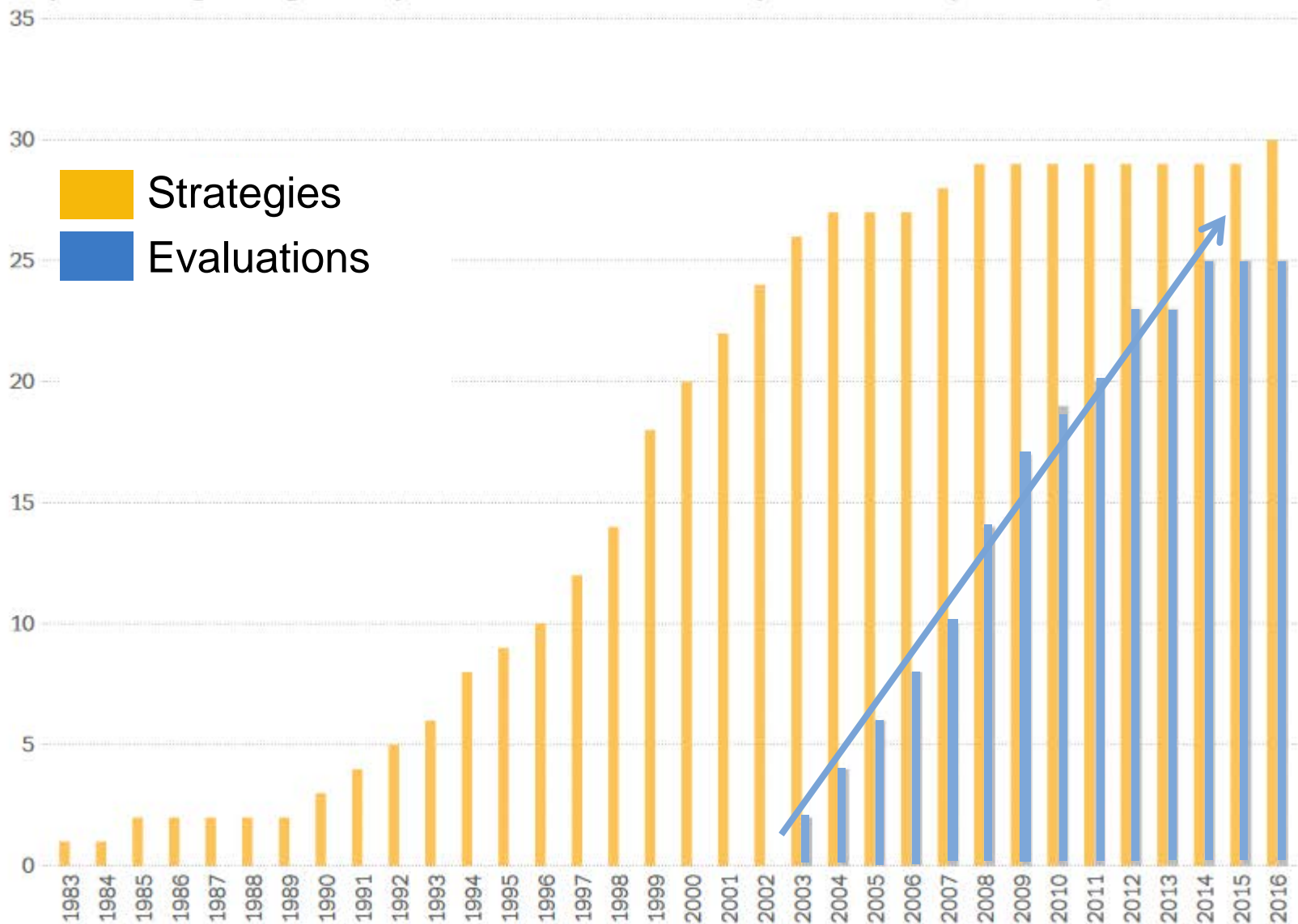


An evaluation process every 2,8 year



European countries (1983-2016)

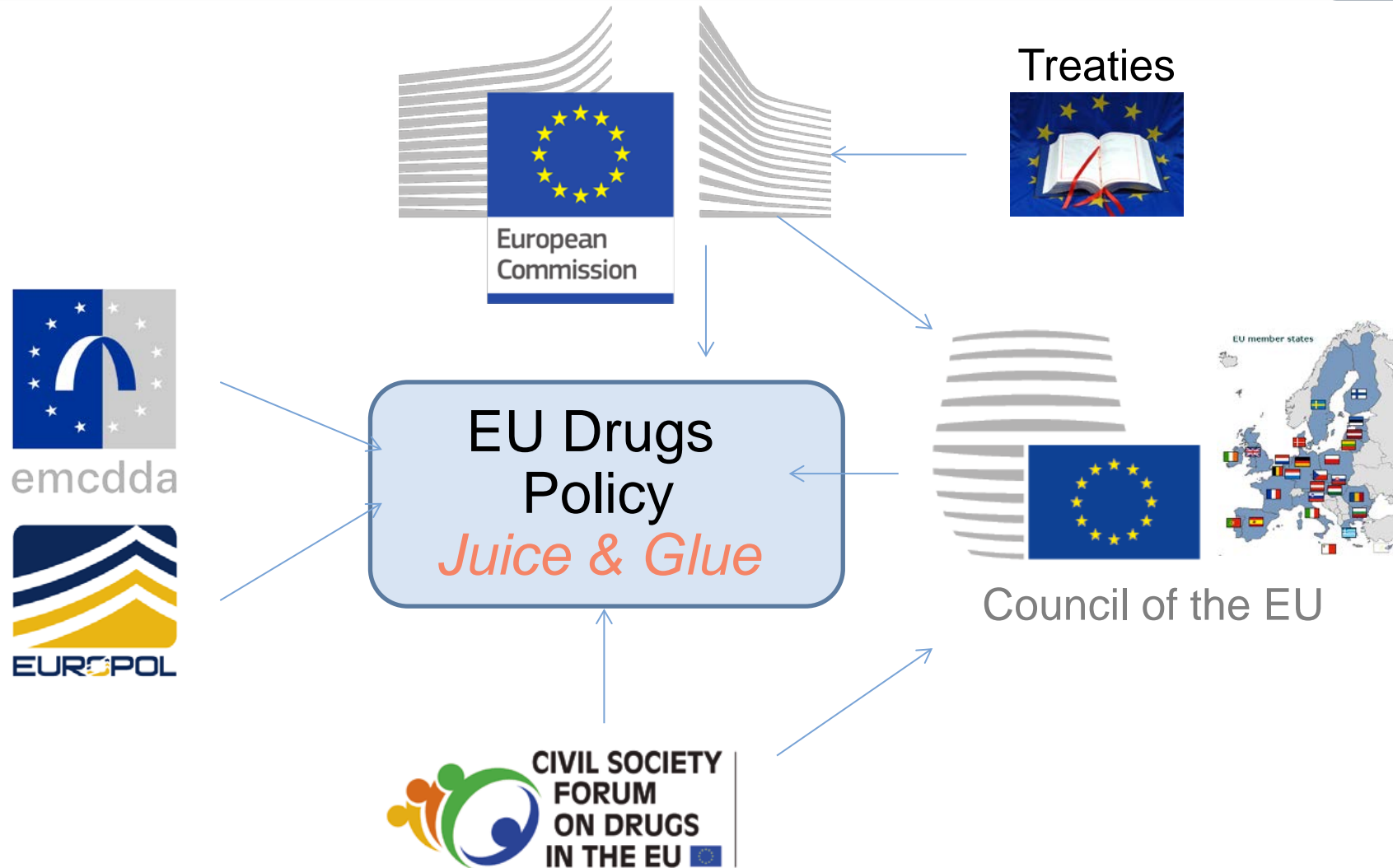
Cumulative adoption of drug strategies and published evaluations



Evaluations Factors	Midterm 2000-2004 2002	Final 2000-2004 2004	Mid term 2005-2012 2008	Final 2005-2012 2012	Midterm 2013-2020 2016
Internal external	Internal	Internal	External	External	External
Type and scope (Research Criteria)	Progress	Progress 'Achievements at national level'	Effectiveness Added Value	Added Value Relevance Influence Implementation	Effectiveness Efficiency Coherence Relevance Added Value
Stakeholders involvement	Member States	Member States Agencies	Member States - E.P. -Agencies - Civil Society	Member States - E.C. – Agencies - Civil Society	Member States - European institutions - EU agencies International org. - Third countries - Civil society - Chemical industry
Methodology	No logic model - Drugs reports - MS questionnaire	No logic model - Drugs reports - MS questionnaire	Desk review MS survey EC survey	- Document review - Online survey - In-depth interviews Expert workshop	Desk Research - Stakeholder and Public – Consultation - In-depth interviews - 'Traffic light' assessment
Conclusions Recommendation	<i>Several (vague) follow-up actions</i>	<i>General conclusions</i>	<i>Conclusions objective by objective 34 Recomm</i>	<i>Findings objective by objective 9 Recommend.</i>	<i>Findings criteria by criteria 20 Recommend.</i>
Strategic objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • EMCDDA • Demand Red. • Supply Red • Inter. Coop 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand Reduction • Supply Reduction • Coordination • Inter. Coop. • Information research and evaluation

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



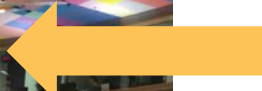
Policy Input
(under a normative
frame (TUE))



emcdda



Scientific Input
Information
and data



National
level



EU member states



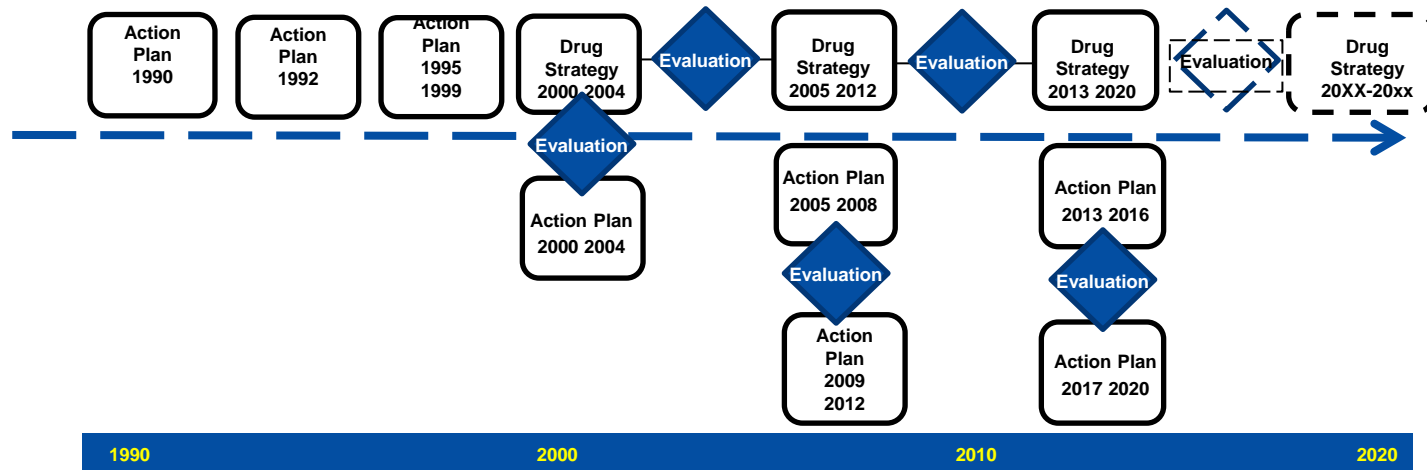
Council of the EU



CIVIL SOCIETY
FORUM
ON DRUGS
IN THE EU

Reflection on the role of evaluation in the EU drugs policy cycle

Timeline EU Strategies, Plans and Evaluations



- 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

Decision makers opinion on the role of evaluation in the establishment of an evidence based approach in drug policy

	YES	NO
1. EU is promoting an Evidence base approach?		
2. EU decision makers promoting an Evidence base approach?		
3. What is most prevailing factor that has made you (as decision maker) a promoter of Evidence base Approach?		
3.1 Generic <i>progresses in science</i> in this field		
3.2 Growing <i>evaluation culture</i> in the field of drugs in Europe		
3.3 The <i>information and data provided by reliable sources</i> (EMCDDA/Reitox)		

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*

