Towards European Key Indicators on Drug Supply

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Background and process I

Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012: “to develop key-indicators for the collection of policy-relevant data on drug-related crime, illegal cultivation, drug markets and supply reduction interventions and to develop a strategy to collect them”

1. EC-EMCDDA First European conference on drug supply indicators, Oct. 2010

⇒ establish a strategy for putting in place the information tools needed to improve the evidence base for understanding drug supply in Europe

⇒ forensic scientists, law enforcement, criminologists, data analysts, monitoring professionals, EU and international organisations
Background and process II

Three areas emerged:

- drug markets
- drug related crime
- drug supply reduction

2. Follow-up in 2011: 3 working groups

⇒ strategy including a roadmap in each area for developing key indicators

3. Consensus-building conference with EU Member States, Autumn 2012, Lisbon
Key indicators I

Some guiding principles

Information providers must benefit from the information collected (agencies and individuals, member states and institutions)

Necessary and feasible – “need to know” vs. “nice to know”

Need for targeted research, models, local studies – to broaden the understanding of the topic

Considerable amount of data on drug supply already being collected – build on what already exists
Key indicators II

One key indicator (KI) per area

Each KI: ad-hoc composite of
1. Monitoring
   routine
   periodical, ad-hoc
2. Research

Quantitative and qualitative components
Flexible and dynamic
Triangulation and multi-indicator analysis
Key issues

Data
Most quantitative data from law enforcement – systematic but indirect reflection of markets; ‘consensual crime’
Law enforcement sources determine what data is available
Rare direct observations – qualitative, ad-hoc, narrow

Analysis: interpretation issues
‘Dark figure’: how do data reflect markets/crime?
Law enforcement lens: data is biased, but how?
Non-law enforcement data is also biased (ad-hoc, local, difficult to generalise)
Drug markets

Supply side of drug markets: all activities, actors, technologies and settings which contribute or allow to make drugs available to users in Europe.

Conceptual framework:
Drug production: cultivation – manufacture
Drug distribution: import/export/transit – wholesale distribution – retail distribution
Drug related crime

No universally accepted definition of ‘drug-related crime’

What is drug-related crime?
- drug law offences
- other offences linked to drug use/supply

Organised crime - no universally accepted definition, re-conceptualisation of fight against drug trafficking (e.g. Europol)

Linking drugs and crime - establishing causality is challenging; attributable fractions

What for? social costs of drug related crime impact of drug markets on public security
Drug supply reduction

Drug supply reduction: a broad, diverse and complex field where policy and criminal justice play a central role

**Policing** – multi-faceted activity with range of organisations, actors, methods and practices

=> Drug squads, (Common) curricula on drugs

**Judiciary** – European arrest warrant, JITs, mutual legal assistance and rogatory letters

**European cooperation**: practical implementation and benefits

=> *Need for clear conceptual framework of supply reduction in order to better understand and monitor*
Key indicators III

Review of data and other information: usefulness; standardisation, extension, improvements; other information for interpretation

Routine data sets
drug law offences, drug seizures, drug prices, drug products

Potential routine
precursors, origin of drugs, production facilities, adulterants, special investigation techniques, convictions, sentences

Ad-hoc
market size, typology for drug supply reduction activities, periodical studies, research
Key indicators IV

Proposal for each KI, 2012

- Conceptual framework
- Methodological review
- Proposal for a KI (routine monitoring, focused studies, research)

Consensus building conference, 2012

- Wide range of experts, from MS
- Achieve consensus on 3 KI proposals

⇒ Roadmap with short/medium/long-term objectives
Key indicators V

Post 2012: development of KIs

Lengthy process
With the MS and relevant supra-national organisations

Needs assessment and conceptualisation
Review of existing approaches
Building of consensus
Development and testing of standard instruments
Development of implementation guidelines
Training to implement agreed standards
Thank you for listening