

Work Package 1

Assessing Civil Society Involvement in Europe

Harald Lahusen, Marcus Martens, Uwe Verthein
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Outline

1. Assessment Methods
2. Selected Results
3. Selected Conclusions



WP1: Assessing Civil Society Involvement in Europe

ASSESSMENT METHODS



Objective

To gain better insight and create a better understanding of the nature and extent of CSI in regard of drug policy in European Member States



Assessment methods

1. Analysis of national policy documents
2. Online stakeholder interviews
3. Collection of facilitators and barriers of CSI among CSOs



Definition of “Civil Society”:

“the associational life operating in the space between the state and market, including individual participation, and the activities of non-governmental, voluntary and community organisations”

(GREEN PAPER on the role of Civil Society in Drugs Policy in the European Union 2005, Council's Horizontal Drugs Group 2005)

→ not measurable



Types of CSOs according to EMCDDA 2013:

- Alliance, coalition, network: Multidisciplinary networks of organisations with common goals
- Civil society association: Voluntary associations to advance common interests (parent, family support groups, community groups, grassroots), with little formal structure or funding, also including organisations which are self-funded or funded by philanthropists
- NGO or third sector: Mainly not-for-profit service providers and campaigning advocacy organisations with a formal legal structure and funding
- Professional or representative body: Networks of peer professionals (doctors, lawyers, law enforcement personnel etc.), often acting in a representative capacity
- User group: Organisations that describe their membership as consisting of drug users



CSI in drug policy fields (development and implementation):

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Harm reduction
- Law enforcement
- Legal framework



Mechanisms of CSI (development and implementation) according to Council of Europe (2009):

- **Information:** *This relatively low level of participation should consist of a two-way mutual process between public authorities and CSOs of providing information and access to it*
- **Consultation:** *when public authorities ask CSOs for their opinion on a specific policy topic or development (ad hoc)*
- **Dialogue:** *a two-way communication built on mutual interests and potentially shared objectives to ensure a regular exchange of views*
- **Partnership:** *implies shared responsibilities in each step of the process from agenda setting, drafting, decision and implementation of activities, in its highest form it is based on co-management*



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SELECTED RESULTS



Analysis of national policy documents

- Sources:
 - National Coordination Mechanisms (NCM) according to 2017 Country Drug Reports
 - National Drug Strategies (NDS) and National Drug Action Plans (NDAP)
- Research questions:
 - Is CSI mentioned at all?
 - If civil society involvement is mentioned, is it also mentioned regarding policy development?





Is CSI mentioned in the paragraph on national coordination mechanisms in the Country Drug Report 2017?

- Civil society is mentioned in general (4 countries)
- Civil society is mentioned with regard to policy development (0 countries)

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■ Civil society is mentioned in general (6 countries)
■ Civil society is mentioned with regard to policy development (16 countries)

Is CSI mentioned in the current National Drug Strategy (NDS) or National Drug Action Plan (NDAP)?

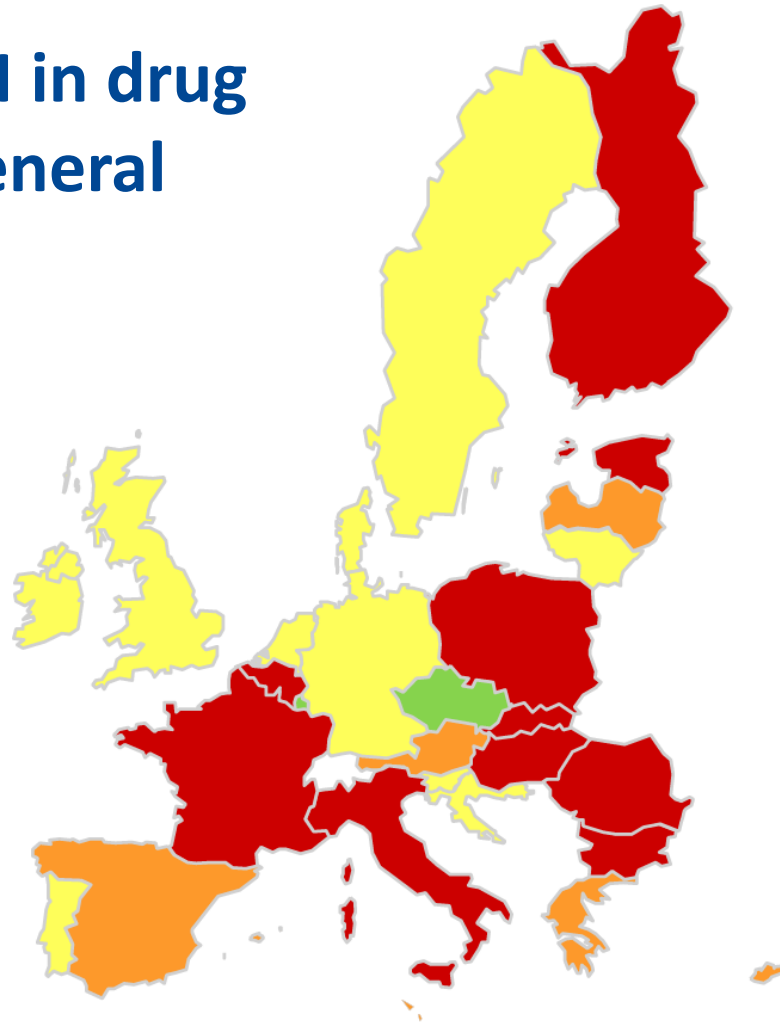


Online Stakeholder Interviews: Implementation of CSI in the 28 EU MS

- One CSO for every EU MS
 - National Focal Points (NFP) of all EU MS
 - National Drug Coordination Bodies (NDCB) of all EU MS
- In nine countries neither NFP nor NDCB representatives responded despite several reminders



Level of CSI in drug policy in general



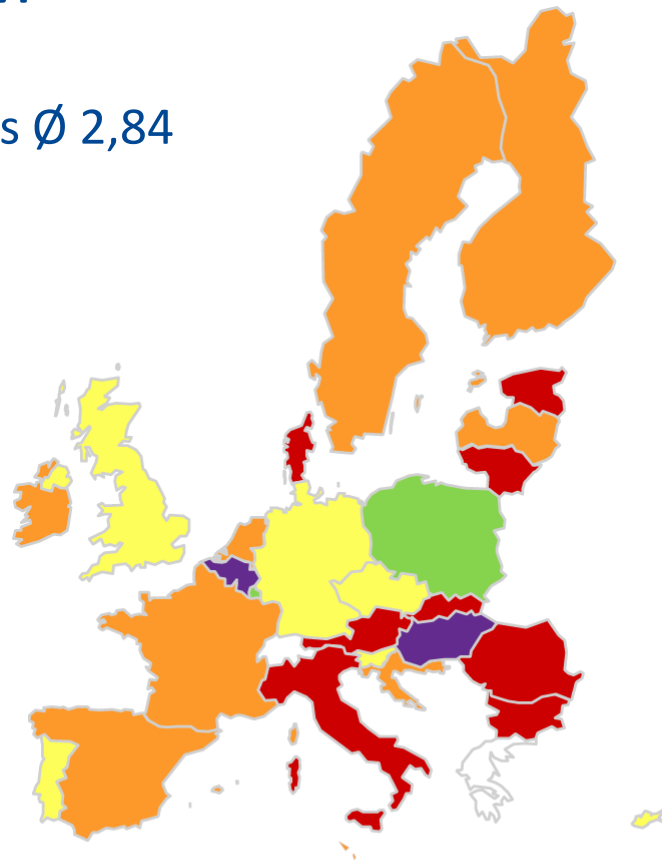
- Very high (2 countries)
- Somewhat high (10 countries)
- Neither high nor low (6 countries)
- Somewhat low (10 countries)
- No involvement at all (0 countries)

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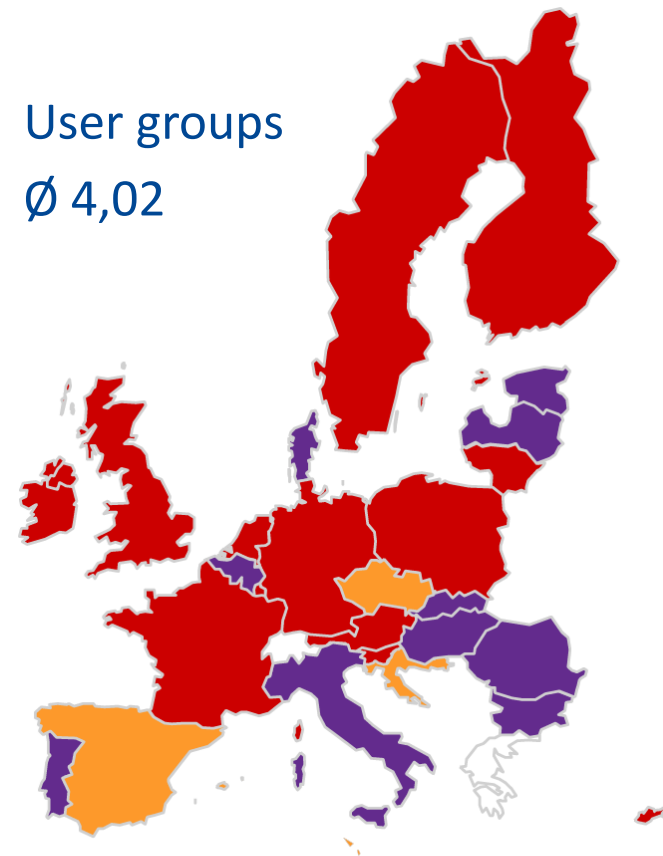
Implementation of the most recent NDS/NDAP: Level of involvement of specific CSO types

NGOs Ø 2,84



- Very high (2 countries)
- Somewhat high (6 countries)
- Neither high nor low (9 countries)
- Somewhat low (8 countries)
- No involvement at all (2 countries)

User groups
Ø 4,02



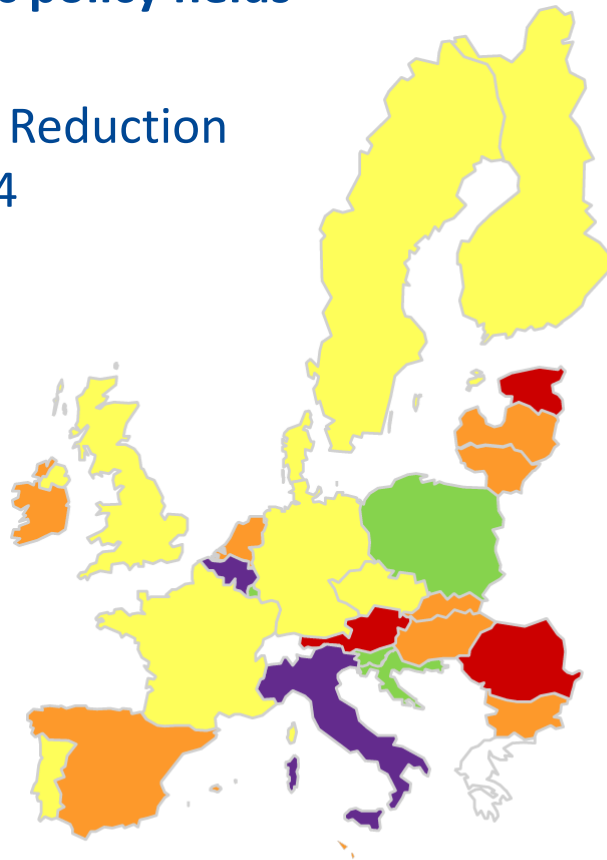
- Very high (0 countries)
- Somewhat high (0 countries)
- Neither high nor low (4 countries)
- Somewhat low (13 countries)
- No involvement at all (10 countries)

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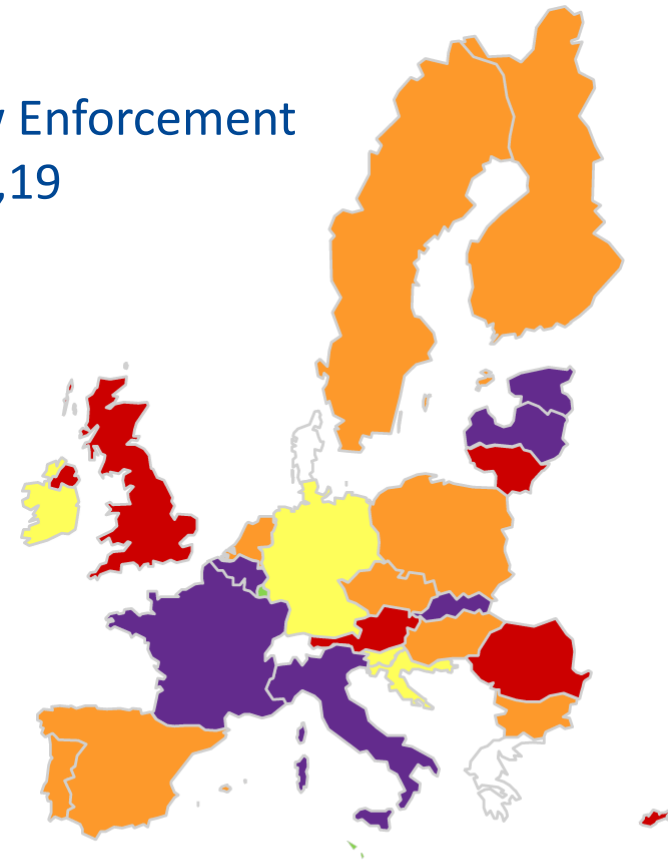
Development of the most recent NDS/NDAP: Participative mechanisms in specific policy fields

Harm Reduction
Ø 2,44



- Partnership (4 countries)
- Dialogue (8 countries)
- Consultation (10 countries)
- Information (3 countries)
- No involvement at all (2 countries)

Law Enforcement
Ø 3,19



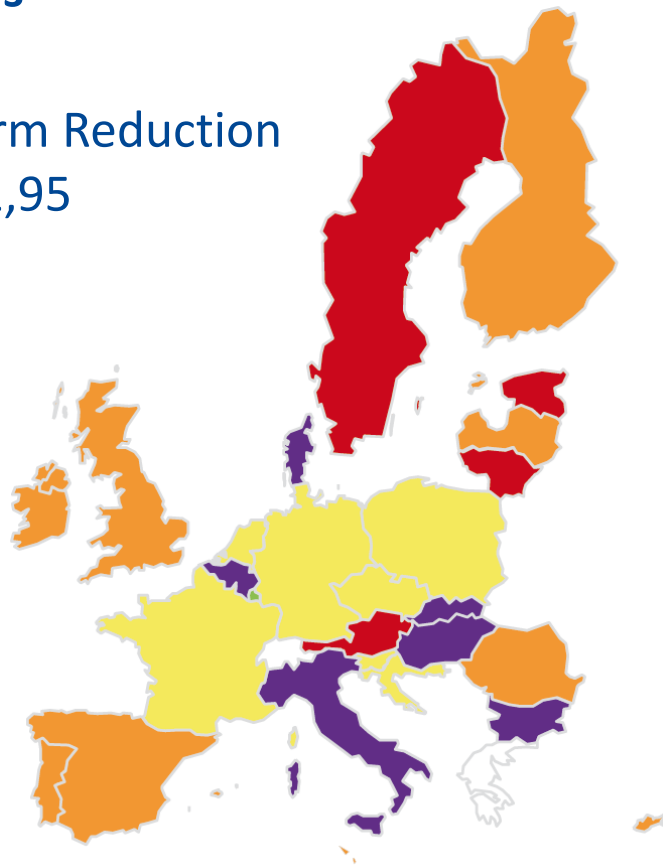
- Partnership (2 countries)
- Dialogue (4 countries)
- Consultation (9 countries)
- Information (5 countries)
- No involvement at all (6 countries)

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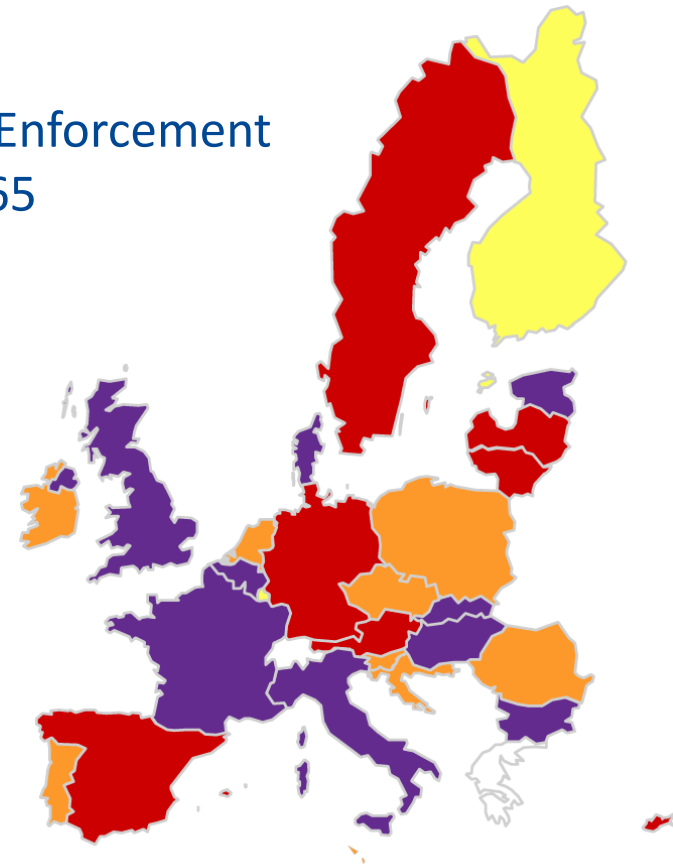


Development of the most recent NDS/NDAP: Impact of CSI in specific policy fields

Harm Reduction
Ø 2,95



Law Enforcement
Ø 3,65



- Very high (1 country)
- Somewhat high (7 countries)
- Neither high nor low (9 countries)
- Somewhat low (4 countries)
- No impact at all (6 countries)

- Very high (0 countries)
- Somewhat high (2 countries)
- Neither high nor low (9 countries)
- Somewhat low (7 countries)
- No impact at all (9 countries)

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SELECTED CONCLUSIONS



Limitations

- Focus on national level, not regional, local or international level
- Exclusive definition of CSI
- Language barriers
- Non-representative responses



Exemplary conclusions

- In the majority of member states there seems to be a lack of formal structures that allow for a regular – and not just ad hoc – involvement of CSI in the development and implementation of drug policy
- CSI structures need to be flexible enough to allow both civil society actors and policy makers to arrange ad-hoc meetings when needed, e.g. in order to react to current developments.
- The current objective of CSI as presented in the European Union Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020 needs further substantiation in order to make achievements measurable: Who shall be involved in which activities and what kind of drug policy fields, and how shall they be involved?



Thank you for your attention!

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