



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

## **Overview of the double counting mechanisms among all the TDI reporting countries**

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Why make a presentation about double counting?



# Will start with a possible definition

Double counting is the un-intentional double counting of persons, or datasets, which, in the end, give an inaccurate view of what the data really means.

*Occurs basically due to the fact that one individual (client / patient) may have more than one institutional contact within more than one institution during a specified reporting period. (Origer, 1996)*



... why is double counting important?

- Reliable information on drug users;
- Reliable estimation of drug prevalence;
- Help in the development of efficient drug policies;
- Action programmes;
- Research activities;
- Etc.



...what we did?

## Analysed data provided in four different sources:

- **TDI Review survey (2009)**
  - At what levels are efforts made to avoid double counting in your country? [Q27]
- **Assessment survey (April 2011)**
  - Is there an overlap in the recording practices between the different types of treatment centres as they are notified in the TDI? [Q5.4]
- **Fonte reports / KI assessment (2011)**
  - Double counting. Please provide any information on measures adopted to prevent double counting of persons? [Q3.2.2]
- **National reports (2011)**



...and we saw that:

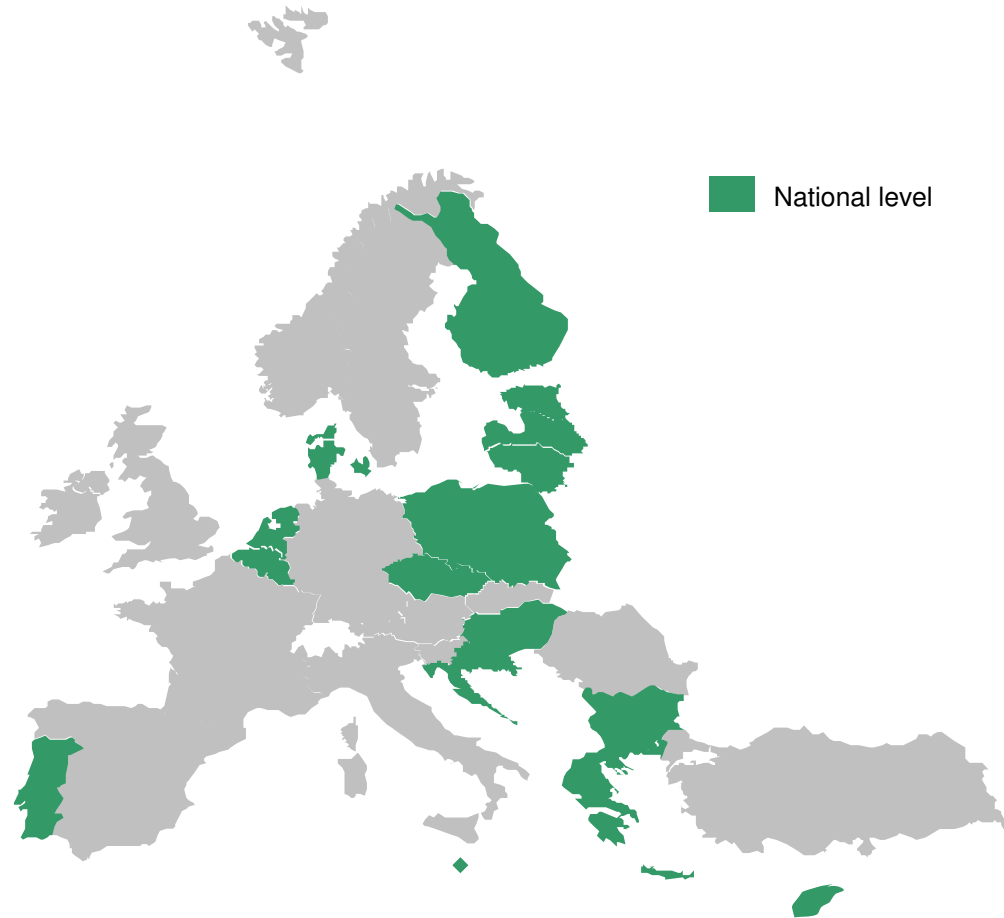
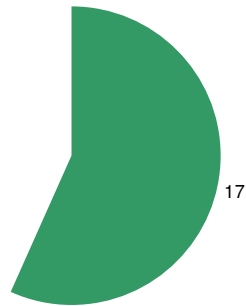
- 29 out of 30 countries have some form of double counting control mechanism in place;
- 17 countries controls for double counting at national level;
- 9 countries said that there is overlap in the recording practices between the different type of treatment centres;
- only in 6 countries information are available for mechanisms of control (date of first and last treatment = 3; unique id codes = 3).



...highest level of control:

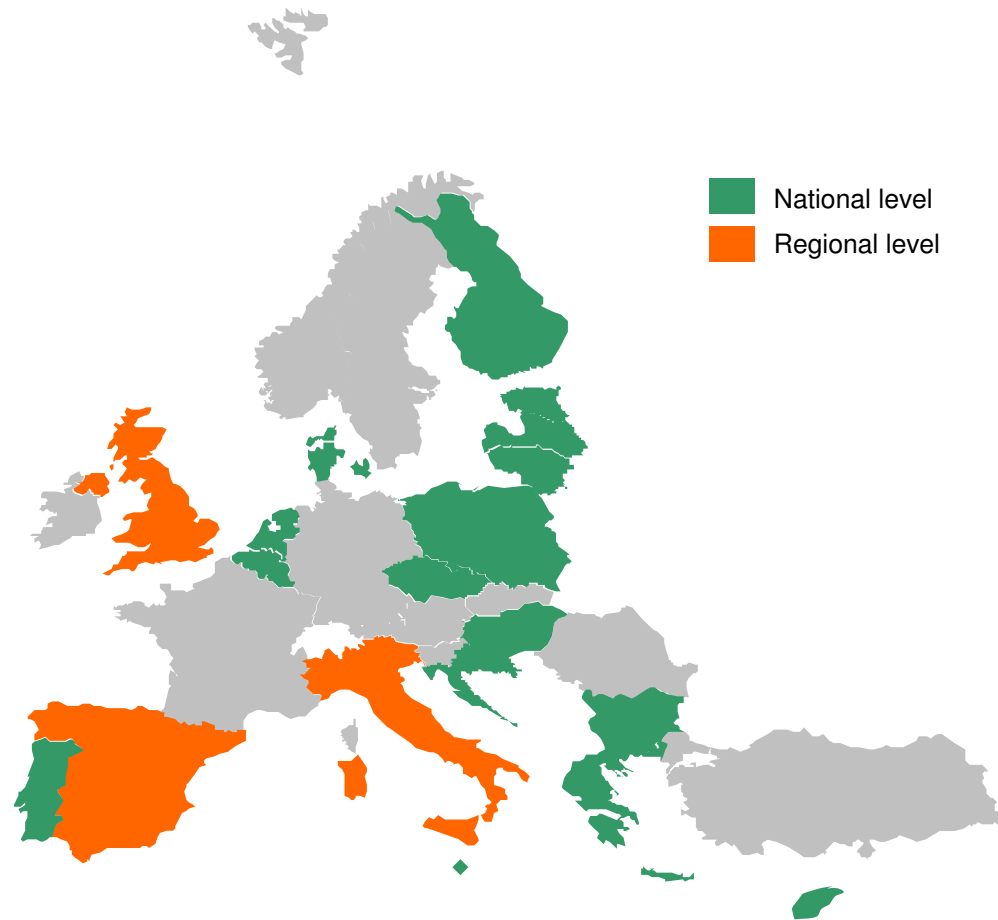
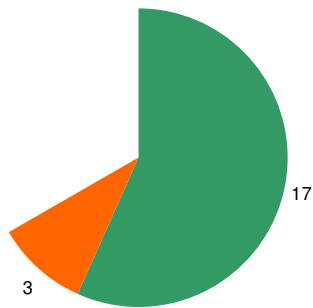


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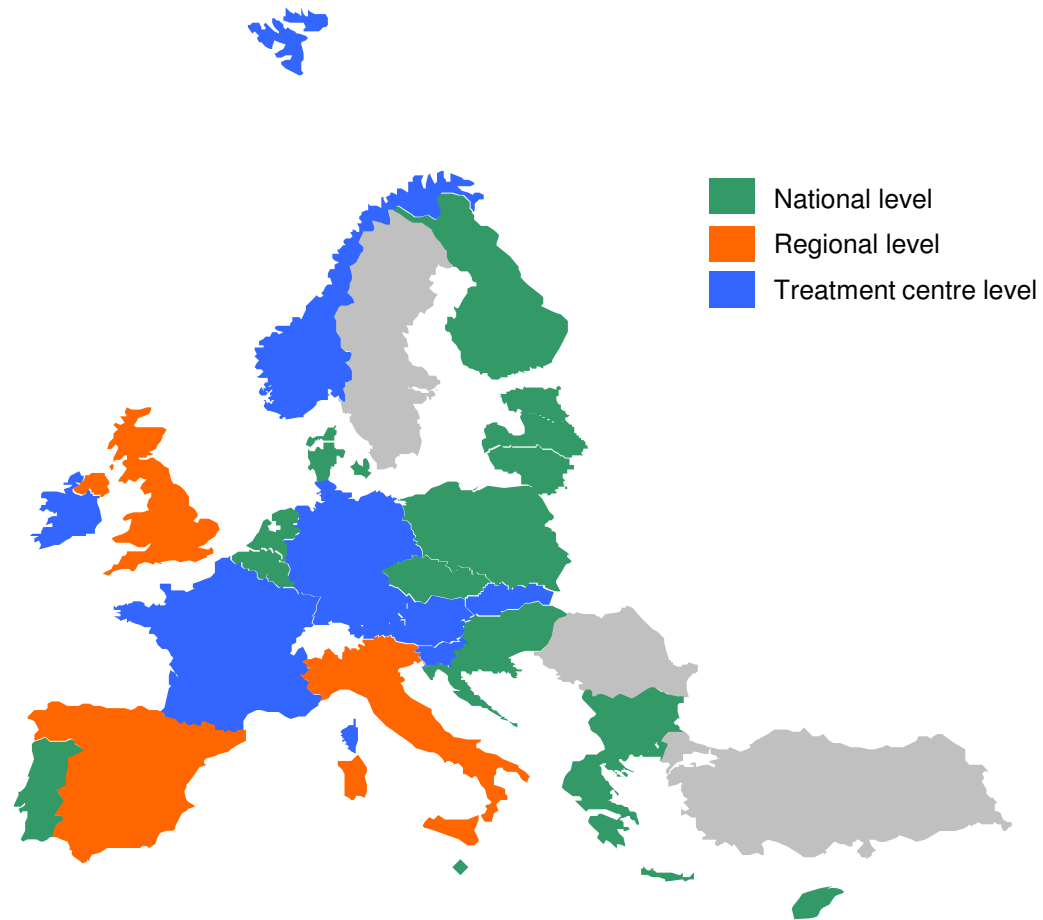
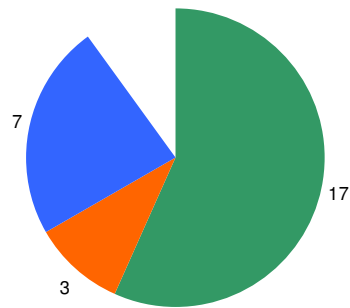




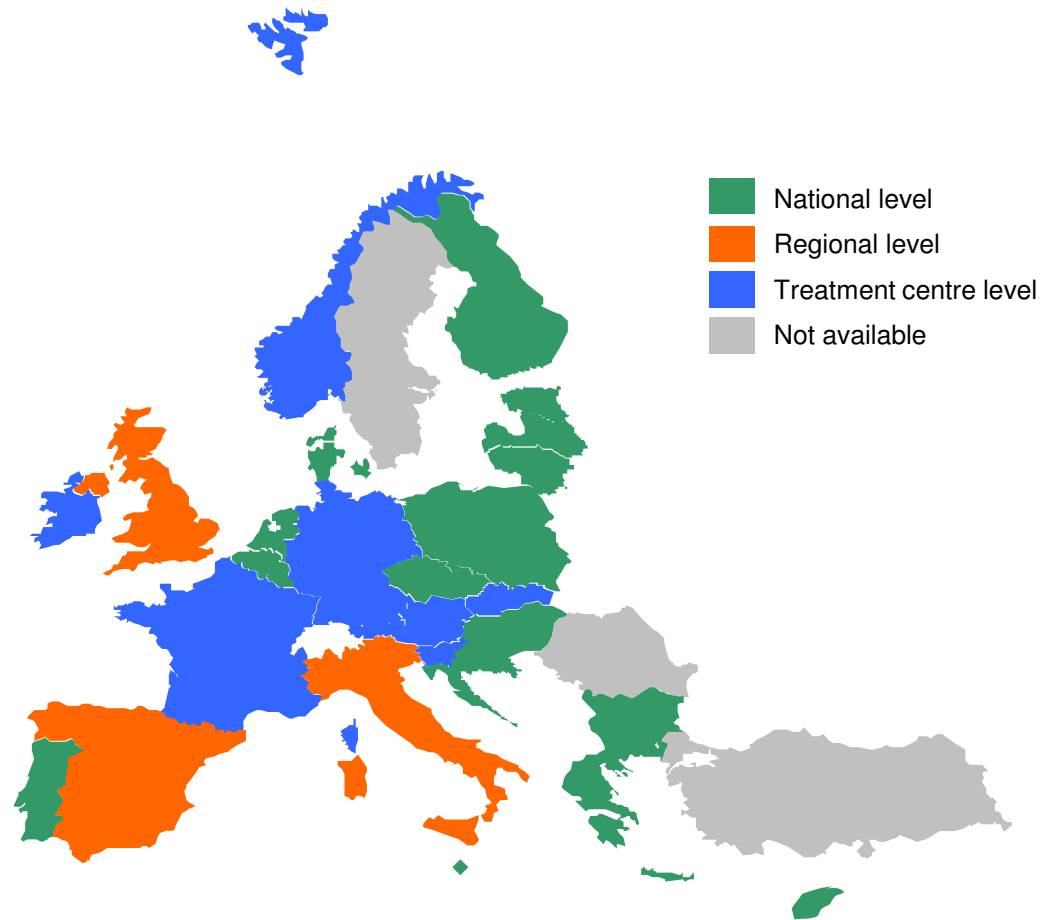
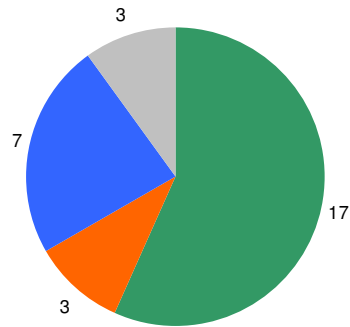
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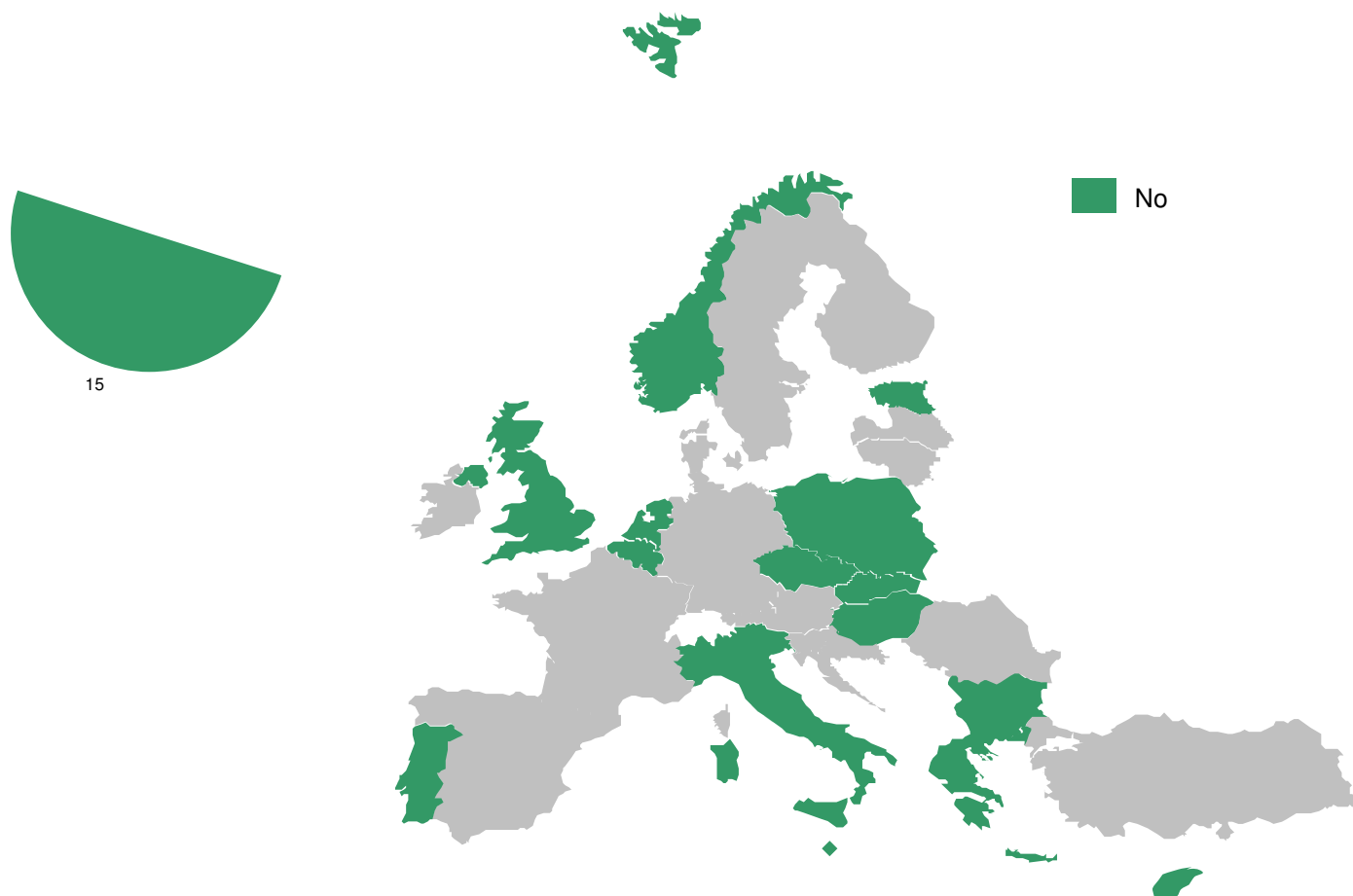
...highest level of control:



...overlap in recording practices between treatment centres:

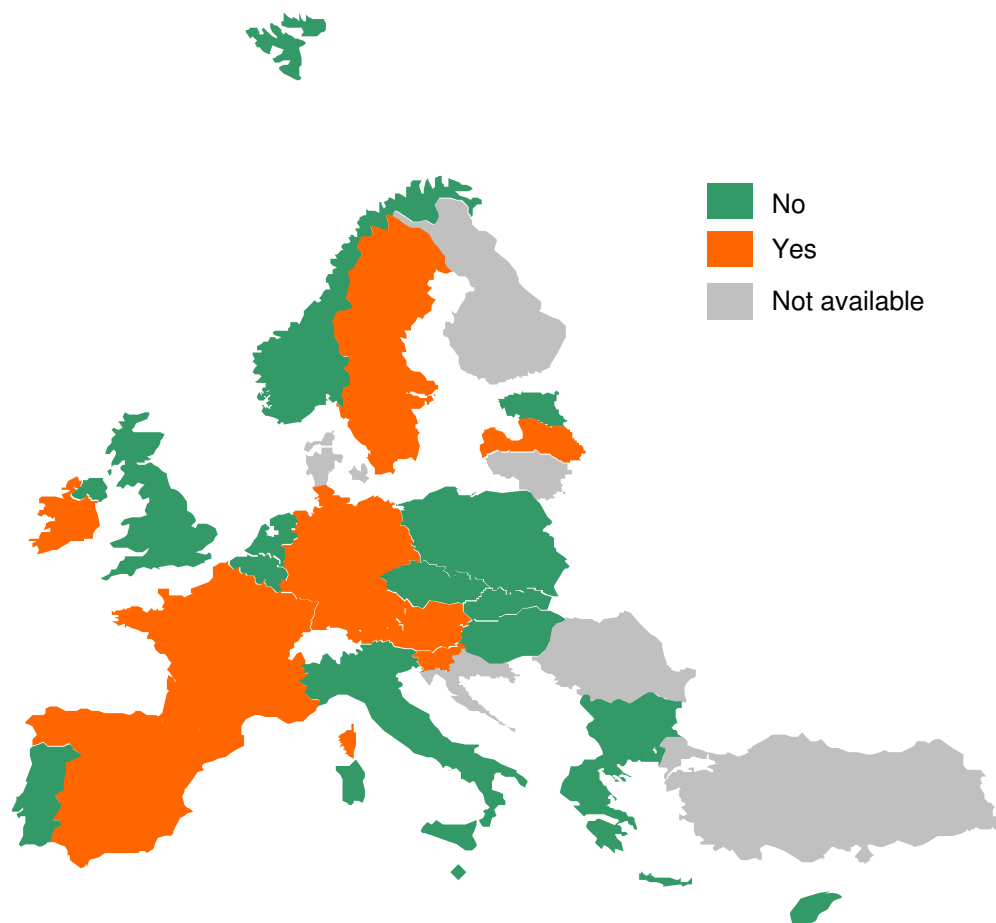
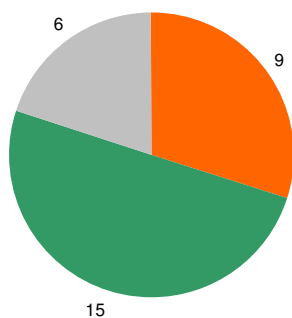


...overlap in recording practices between treatment centres:





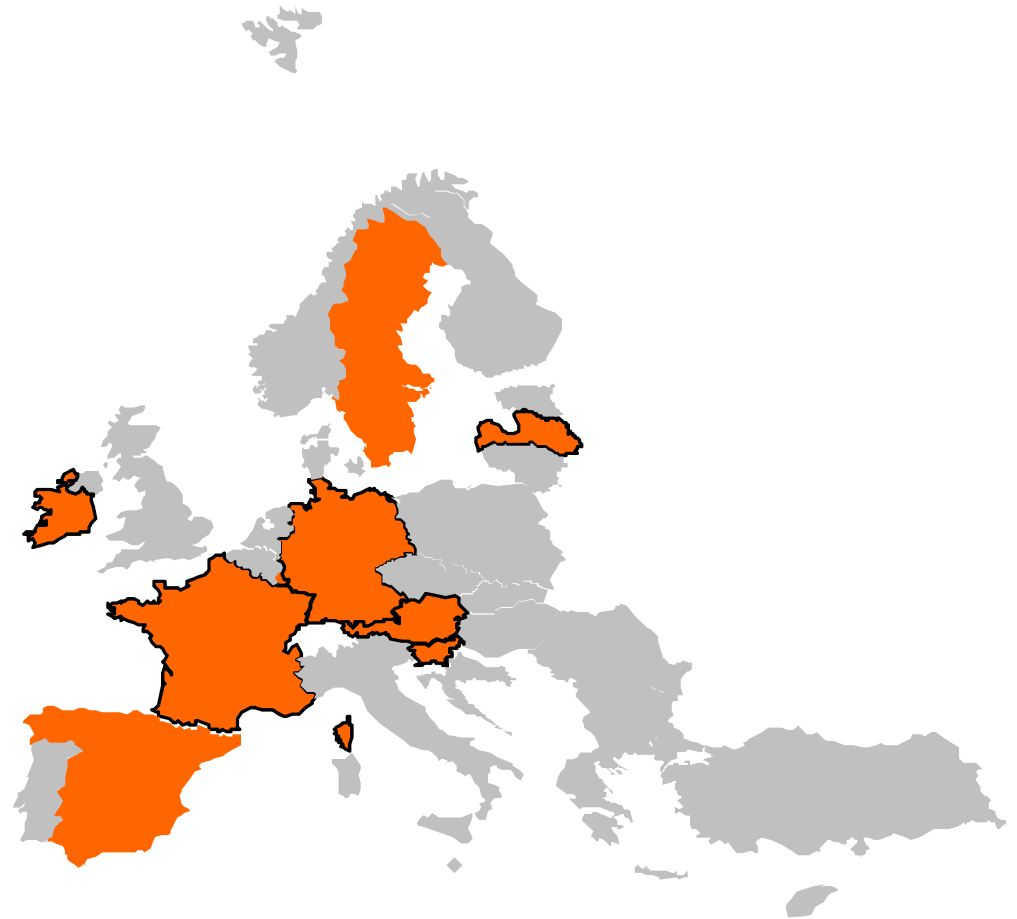
...overlap in recording practices between treatment centres:



...reason why recording TDI does contain overlap:

**Austria, France, Ireland,  
Germany, Luxembourg,  
Latvia and Slovenia**

*“overlap between  
treatment centres”*





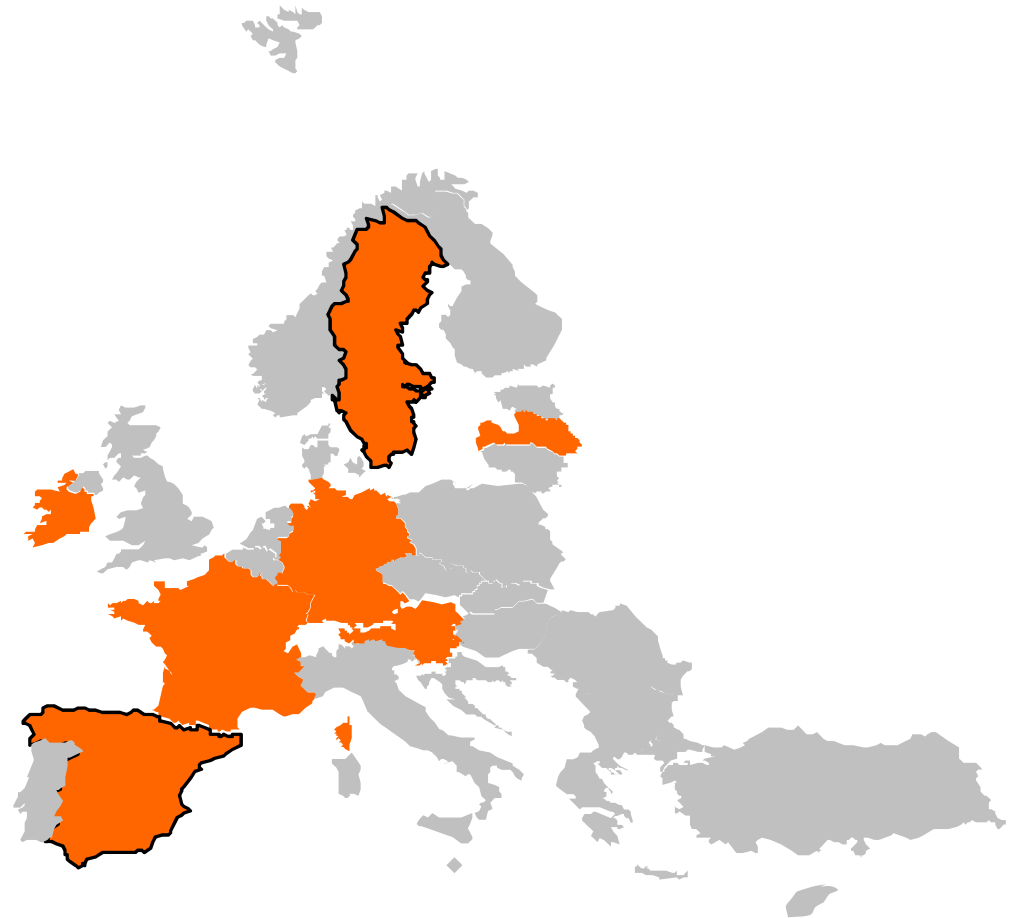
...reason why recording TDI does contain overlap:

### **Spain**

*“Overlap between treatment centres  
and autonomous communities”*

### **Sweden**

*“it may occur. reason not  
available”*



...to conclude:

- **Ad-hoc analysis on potential overestimation of the number of clients reported to TDI**
  - implications on the estimates of drug use,
  - and on estimates of the total number of people in Treatment,
  - estimate the level of overlap.
- **Possibility collect more information (Fonte?)**
  - Detailed information on where double counting occurs including:
    - existence of ID codes,
    - coverage,
    - overlaps,
    - protocols,
    - etc.



Thanks!

