



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# Reitox Development Framework Roadmap 2020

Evaluation of the implementation

May 2021

# Evaluation of the implementation of the Reitox Development Framework Roadmap 2020

## I. Introduction

In 2017, when the Reitox Development Framework (RDF) was prepared and adopted, one of the key issues underlined by the Centre and the network alike was the need to ensure its execution through the definition of concrete implementing activities; and that the implementation of those activities would be evaluated by undertaking a final assessment shortly after the end of the implementation period.

In line with this, a roadmap setting 30 milestones to be implemented by the end of December 2020, the four strategic and the nine specific objectives of the RDF, was adopted as an annex of the RDF. Since the adoption of the document, the Centre and the NFPs have engaged themselves, often jointly, in the implementation of all 30 milestones.

Therefore, the scope of this evaluation concerns the efficacy and effectiveness of the implementation of the roadmap, to assess the extent to which the roadmap was implemented through the defined objectives, activities and accompanying milestones.

## II. Assessment method

Given that the RDF does not contain specific evaluation criteria defined ex-ante in a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, these had to be established during the implementing phase. A table proposing indicators of implementation for each of the roadmap milestones was discussed and adopted at the 2020 HNFP meetings. However, despite the general agreement about the proposed approach, it was clear that setting these criteria towards the end of the implementing phase, without a previous definition of baselines and targets, has limited to some extent the assessment in terms of reliability and rigour. To avoid the repetition of this situation, the EMCDDA requested the support of an M&E expert from another EU agency (Eurofound) to assist the Centre and the network in the definition of the evaluation criteria for the new Roadmap 2025.

In January 2021, the 29 Reitox NFPs received an online questionnaire designed to gather information about their individual contribution to the implementation of the RDF Roadmap 2020. The questionnaire followed the structure of the Roadmap 2020, which included the 9 specific objectives and all the milestones requiring action from the NFPs. By the end of February, all 29 NFPs replied to the questionnaire.

In addition, other sources of information were used to assess the overall implementation of the roadmap, as one third of the milestones require action from the Centre or the Reitox Spokespersons.

Three indicative quantitative levels of achievement are considered in this context: Milestones implemented by at least 85 % of the NFPs (i.e. by 25 NFPs or more) are considered 'achieved'. Milestones implemented by more than 50 % and less than 85 % of the NFPs (i.e. at least 15 NFPs and less than 25) are considered 'partly achieved'; Finally, milestones implemented by less than 50 % of the NFPs (14 NFPs or less) are deemed as 'not achieved'. Due to their specific nature, a few milestones have different (lower) targets.

## III. Main findings per strategic/specific objective

Findings are grouped under the four strategic objectives (SOs) of the RDF, namely, to:  
maintain the Reitox monitoring system fit for purpose;  
strengthen the role of the NFPs in supporting decision-making and action at national level;  
improve the overall quality of the processes and deliverables of the NFPs;  
improve the coordination of, and cooperation within, the Reitox network.

Details on the progress achieved for each milestone are given in Table 1.

## Strategic Objective 1. Maintain the Reitox monitoring system fit for purpose

### 1.1 Improve the completeness and quality of routine data collected through the Reitox network

Improving the **availability, completeness, quality and comparability of the data** gathered by the NFPs was the first specific objective to keep the Reitox network central to the implementation of the EMCDDA's strategy 2025. The mapping of the sources of information being a good practice to understand the completeness and reliability of an information system, the roadmap set as an objective for the NFPs to update the mapping of their sources. Between 2017 and 2020, 12 NFPs concluded this process and nine are currently working on this inventory. While we can conclude that there was an effort from many NFPs to understand what is the current panorama in terms of national information sources, 41 % of the NFPs have completed the exercise which means that this milestone was not achieved. It is important to understand why the other NFPs have not carried out this exercise and how to address this issue for the future.

Slightly more than half of the NFPs identified missing data sets or data which are not fully harmonised with the EMCDDA protocols. Among those, only four did not yet identify a means to overcome this issue, which is a positive indication that most NFPs engaged themselves in improving the completeness of their data. On the basis of the information available, it is hard to understand whether the fact that the remaining 14 NFPs declared not having identified missing data means that there were no gaps or if they have not tried to improve the completeness. This milestone, and in particular the question to understand whether the NFPs have implemented it, should be reviewed for the Roadmap 2025.

A good step in the direction of improving the completeness of the data is the fact that all NFPs organised at least one activity, either to increase their capacity to collect data or started a new data collection. Almost all NFPs organised a meeting or a roundtable with stakeholders to discuss the data collection challenges. Two thirds mentioned having carried out a new survey or set up a new data collection mechanism i.e. creation of a new working group or implementation of a new digital data input platform. Regarding capacity development activities, half of the NFPs mentioned that they organised trainings or webinars.

Further to the action taken by the NFPs, the Centre maintained a dialogue with the NFPs on data quality through the Fonte validation module, namely sharing feedback on the workbooks. In 2017, the review of data compliance of supply indicators was shared with the NFPs, and in 2018 recommendations issued from the assessment of the implementation of the 5 key indicators were presented to the NFPs and their national Management Board representatives.

### 1.2 Increase the capacity of the NFPs to track and report on new developments, emerging trends and real-time data

As routine data are not designed to detect real-time changes, the RDF identified the urgent need to increase the capacity of the NFPs to track and report on **new developments, emerging trends and real-time data**. In November 2018, a reporting procedure was agreed at the HNFP meeting, consisting in using an email with a title that includes # health/security threat (sent to the network and EMCDDA staff), to allow NFPs to share data with the whole network on new developments that might have a harmful impact on health or security. In addition, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has dramatically changed the approach to timely reporting of its impact and related trends for both NFPs and the Centre, including their joint activities. Throughout the Roadmap 2020 implementing period, there were regular exchanges of information between the Centre and the NFPs on new emerging phenomena such as the misuse of nitrous oxide or highly potent cannabis among others. In all HNFPs meetings an update on new data sources activities was shared as well as on national or EU research projects. In November 2018, the Extended Reitox meeting was dedicated to 'Changes in patterns of drug supply and use and their implications for monitoring', focused on new technologies.

To also tackle this challenge at national level, 23 NFPs identified or established new partnerships at national level with new sources of information. As new partnerships with new sources of data, NFPs mentioned the cooperation with wastewater researchers (8), new cooperation in the framework of analysis of syringes residues (4), partnerships with hospital emergency services (3), expanding the

cooperation with NGOs involved in drug checking, expanding data collection in prison settings, organising a trendspotter or having more regular meetings with various partners on emerging trends.

In the framework of the new EWS regulation, in December 2019, the EMCDDA operating guidelines for the EU Early Warning System (EWS) on new psychoactive substances (NPS) were published. They were followed in December 2020 by the new EMCDDA operating guidelines for the risk assessment of NPS. All reporting tools, communication flows, procedures and outputs are described in these two sets of guidelines. Beyond the routine information that the NFPs submit to the Centre in the framework of the EWS, they also provide an EWS annual situation report which should include aggregated data on all analytically confirmed identifications of NPS made during the course of the year by the members of the national EWS. It should also contain an overview of developments within the national EWS over the preceding year; these reports are being sent by all countries.

### **1.3 Increase the capacity of the NFPs to collect and analyse data on public safety and security**

The fact that most NFPs are located in public health bodies implies that many struggle to provide data on supply and security so as to meet in a balanced way both EMCDDA Strategy 2025 goals of contributing to a healthier and more secure Europe. That is why the RDF set as one of its specific objectives **increasing the capacity of the NFPs to collect and analyse data on public safety and security**. The first milestone under this objective was for NFPs to assess and work towards partnerships with supply and crime-related sources. Approximately half of the NFPs (14) reported having started new partnerships: either with the Ministry of Justice, criminal police, anti-narcotics office, organised crime department, prosecution authorities, local security observatory, customs, forensic institute, research projects or university department specialised in criminality-related topics; while six NFPs declared not having identified a specific activity aimed at strengthening the capacity of the NFP to work with supply and crime-related data. On the basis of the information available it is hard to understand whether these six NFPs had already strong partnerships with public safety and security sources, or if they have not made attempts towards establishing new partnerships with sources in this area.

The large majority of the NFPs (23 out of 29) reported having taken initiatives to increase their analytical capacity to work with supply and crime-related data for a total of 45 initiatives during the implementation period: new initiatives to analyse supply crime data (17), have a new contributor on the topic (15) or attended some training (13). In October 2020, a Reitox Academy, gathering participants from 24 NFPs, was organised on drug supply indicators to discuss the datasets in the area of drug markets and supply and increase the analytical capacity of the NFPs.

Finally, for the last milestone under this objective, at least one annual meeting was organised by 26 NFPs with their national Reference group representative, in order to stimulate cooperation in the supply/security area.

## **Strategic Objective 2. Strengthen the role of the NFPs in supporting decision-making and action at national level**

### **2.1 Strengthen the capacity of the NFPs to promote and support evidence-based decisions**

Almost all NFPs (28) stated having carried out initiatives to strengthen their capacity to promote and support evidence-based decisions, namely identifying the needs of their different audience groups and ensuring responding to them. Dialogues with stakeholders (24) and the maintenance of stakeholders' lists (22) are the most common referred ones, and the least frequent one is the implementation of a user's satisfaction survey, as reported by 3 NFPs.

Investing in improving the capacity of the NFPs to contribute to the policy debate at national level was also a milestone to be reached. To achieve this, almost all NFPs (27) organised regular meetings with their national stakeholders, and 12 NFPs followed a training to boost their capacity to contribute to the debate. In 2019, 13 NFPs attended a Reitox academy co-organised with one NFP on communication with national policymakers.

Given that many NFPs are located in institutions and organisations that have information and expertise in areas concomitant to drugs (i.e. legal substances, gambling), another milestone set in the

Roadmap 2020 was promoting the capacity of the Reitox network to provide services beyond its mandate as an EMCDDA network.

While this milestone cannot be deemed as achieved because the envisaged promotion has not taken place during the implementing period, a report describing the potential capacity of the NFPs and of the Reitox network to provide services beyond the mandate of the EMCDDA, following a survey made among the NFPs, is under preparation and will be published in 2021.

## **2.2 Reinforce the partnership between the Centre and NFPs to improve the information service to national decision-makers and practitioners**

NFPs declared having worked to reinforce their partnership with the Centre to improve the information service to their national decision-makers and practitioners. This was done mainly through the organisation of meetings with stakeholders (26), launching press releases (25), writing briefing notes (22) and organising a press conference (14). Many NFPs usually have at least one annual presentation of a national report or results of a survey to a national governmental institution such as at the parliament. Among the other activities, they shared newsletters, organised webinars, seminars, conferences and podcasts, and more NFPs recently invested in the use of social media. Cooperation between communication officers of different institutions was also mentioned as a key factor for success. In many cases these communication activities were organised in liaison with the Centre, i.e. as per the milestone identified. NFPs are intensively using EMCDDA reports at national level. The Centre now shares at the beginning of the year the planning of the publications and an advanced copy of the reports are also sent to the NFPs before the EMCDDA official launch (this allows NFPs to be better prepared on the day of the launch).

The Centre also contributed to achieving this objective by actively involving the NFPs in the identification of future reporting needs of the EMCDDA, namely through consulting them annually on the EMCDDA work programme but also associating NFPs to this exercise on other occasions such as in experts' meetings. A good example in this regard was the organisation in November 2019 of a 'Futures workshop' during the HNFP meeting which aimed at a participatory foresight approach, as part of the overall futures exercise of the EMCDDA. The workshop focused on megatrends and main drivers of change influencing the European drug situation and drug monitoring system and looked at the implications for the work of the NFPs.

## **Strategic Objective 3. Improve the overall quality of the processes and deliverables of the NFPs**

### **3.1 Assure minimum quality standards for the NFPs**

The roadmap set a series of milestones for **assuring minimum quality standards** for the NFPs, the first and more prominent one being the consolidation of the Accreditation system, renamed 'Certification' in the meantime. In 2020, the EMCDDA finalised the methodology for the **Reitox certification**. This is a process for formal acknowledgement of the competence of an NFP to carry out specific tasks in a reliable, credible and accurate manner, and confirming that it meets the minimum criteria for the fulfilment of the tasks of an NFP as set out in the EMCDDA regulation. A self-assessment questionnaire has been developed to monitor the activities of the NFPs against quality standards and 14 NFPs have already used this tool. As of April 2021, three NFPs have been through the whole certification process and are now EMCDDA-certified.

NFPs are regularly reminded to take into consideration the EMCDDA's statistical code of practice as a useful point of reference for quantitative data collection, analysis and reporting and a specific plenary session was organised during a HNFP meeting. Furthermore, during the implementing period the Centre regularly provided quality feedbacks to the NFPs (see also under SO 1)

Overall, 24 NFPs declared having implemented a quality assurance activity. Two thirds of the NFPs (20) have organised at least one specific meeting with data providers to improve the quality assurance procedures. 14 NFPs organised a training or a seminar with data providers to discuss data reporting, use of the tools and overall quality issues. Among the other related quality assurance mechanisms, several NFPs have a scientific committee or an advisory committee which reviews some of their reports or data sets.

## Strategic Objective 4. Improve the coordination of, and cooperation within, the Reitox network

### 4.1 Improve the coordination of, and cooperation within the Reitox network

The **coordination of the Reitox network** was improved during the implementing period with the achievement of all the three milestones set under this specific objective. The **roles of the spokesperson and deputy spokesperson** were described and agreed upon by all Heads of NFPs in 2018.

The **communication and management of the network**, including with regard to preparation of meetings, was further ensured since January 2018 through a monthly coordination meeting between the Centre (RTX unit) and the spokespersons team. The Reitox Spokesperson also attended regularly the Management Board (MB) and the Scientific Committee (SC) meetings, and participated since 2018 in an annual meeting between the EMCDDA Director and the chairs of the MB and of the SC.

The Centre promoted the adoption by the NFPs of an **appropriate risk management** namely by sharing with all the network in a dedicated session of a HNFP meeting of the EMCDDA Risk management procedure. In 2020, regular contacts were maintained with the NFPs with the view of mitigating possible consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on the functioning of the NFPs. Within the execution of the Grants 2020, a certain flexibility was introduced for the costs that could be included in the Grant expenses such as the acquisition of ICT equipment for teleconferences, costs of translation of unforeseen COVID-19 related documents or other special surveys.

### 4.2 Increase horizontal cooperation between the NFPs

**Horizontal collaboration between the NFPs** was enhanced through exchange of best practices in monitoring the drug situation between the members of the network. Among the activities carried out, 15 NFPs cooperated on research projects. These focus on a wide spectrum of topics, from large EU-funded projects (HA REACT, SO-PREP ERANID, ASAP) to smaller-scale data analysis projects (OST analysis, opiate/NPS situation, DRD, cocaine trends). Furthermore, 14 NFPs organised either bilateral meetings or visits at regional level, such as among the Scandinavian countries or the Baltic ones. Expertise from NFPs was also used for the review of a national drug strategy or for learning best practices on the implementation of harm reduction measures such as take-home naloxone or nitrous oxide. Trainings were also mentioned (7): these were quite intensive especially in the case of twinning projects but also through the Reitox Academies co-organised with the Centre. In some cases, NFPs cooperated to prepare projects proposals for EU research funds. NFPs also cooperated in the framework of the third European Conference on Addictive Behaviours (Lisbon Addictions 2019), to increase the visibility of the REITOX network (see 4.3 below).

From December 2017 to December 2020, the Centre organised 20 Reitox Academies (national, regional and network), with almost all NFPs having attended at least one academy during that period. The programme of these academies was driven by a joint EMCDDA-NFPs needs assessment. Topics were mainly health and supply oriented but a few were also oriented on general management such as on financial issues or on communication with targeted audiences. Beyond the participation in these academies, 18 NFPs reported having attended trainings at national level on a different range of topics.

No gaps, needs or ways for NFPs to support each other, in particular to address situations where burdens are unevenly distributed among NFPs, were identified during the implementing period, but it is not clear whether there were no gaps/needs, or if it was mainly that such mutual support would be difficult to materialise.

### 4.3 Increase the external visibility of the Reitox network as a whole

Meetings between each NFP and its national drug coordinators and/or the representative at the Centre with MB representative were organised to increase the interactions and provision of service. In 2018, based on the needs expressed by 15 NFPs, letters were addressed by the EMCDDA Director to the relevant high-level national authorities to present the RDF and ask for their support for the concerned NFPs in implementing the document.



Half of the NFPs (14) were involved in international cooperation projects with other non-EU countries. This cooperation is either bilateral (twining projects) or regional, as for example in the case of the COPOLAD project, eight NFPs participated in EC-sponsored events such as a Taiex event.

Only one NFP was able to support the Centre in preparing the candidate countries and potential candidates to build NFPs and drug information systems, and thus for full inclusion in the Reitox network.

At the third European Conference on Addictive Behaviours - Lisbon Addictions 2019, several activities (presentations, stand, posters) were organised to increase the visibility of the Reitox network. There were also many other conferences, meetings and seminars where NFPs took also the opportunity to present the network (25). One NFP translated the RDF and shared the document with their national partners, presenting the Reitox network in the meetings with the national stakeholders and partners. EMCDDA and NFP websites were also used as important vehicles for the promotion of the Reitox network. In October 2019, the publication *The Reitox network: frequently asked questions* was updated and published. In November 2020, a report entitled *EMCDDA national focal points' activities during the COVID-19 pandemic* was published.

#### IV. Conclusion

Overall, during the period between November 2017 and December 2020, out of the 30 milestones included in the roadmap:

- more than half (16) were achieved;
- for seven milestones, activities were organised by more than half of the NFPs, but by less than 85 % of them, meaning thus that the target was only partly achieved;
- five milestones were not achieved: Partnerships supply; Potential to go beyond EMCDDA mandate; Participation in Technical Assistance projects to support Enlargement countries; and FAR of the network; and finally, for
- for two milestones, the achievement level remains unclear (statistical code of practice and mutual support between NFPs).

One may discuss whether it makes sense to compare milestones or specific objectives, as their number, weight and relevance might differ. To add to the complexity, for some milestones it is difficult to be clear-cut and reach an indisputable conclusion on the respective achievement level.

This said, and within these limits, it is still possible and valuable to undertake a high-level analysis of progress at specific levels of objectives, as this can help understand areas where there was more progress and areas raising more challenges.

- With the exception of the specific objective 4.1 (improving the coordination of, and cooperation within the Reitox network), where all the respective milestones were 'achieved', all of the other eight specific objectives have a combination of indicative implementation levels (achieved, partly achieved and not achieved).
- For most of the specific objectives, there is a predominance of milestones 'achieved' or 'partly achieved', with the exception of SO 1.3 (increasing the NFPs capacity in the supply area) regarding which there is a balanced combination of the three levels, i.e. one different level for each of the three milestones.
- In two specific objectives there is a predominance of 'achieved' milestones over the other. It is the case of SO 1.2 (increasing the NFP capacity to track new developments), where 3 out of the 4 milestones were 'achieved' and the remaining milestone was 'partly achieved'; as well as SO 2.1 (strengthen NFP capacity to support policy), where 2 out of the 3 milestones were 'achieved' and the remaining milestone was 'not achieved';
- Finally, no specific objective has a predominance of 'not achieved' milestones.

**Overarching conclusion of level of progress on implementation:** There is good evidence of progress, with more than half of the milestones having been clearly achieved, 7 partially achieved (with less than 85 % of NFP activities being achieved), and for five milestones not achieved where there is still a significant distance to travel.

So, overall some good progress has been made in the right direction of travel, with yet some distance to travel.

In some areas identified, further qualitative analytical work between the Centre and the NFPs is advisable to better understand root causes for lack of progress in some areas, and to identify enabling conditions that would need to be in place to unblock current road blockages to make more progress.

Such qualitative participative evaluative work is advised to complement the inherent limitations of relying on a purely quantitative assessment, and would allow triangulation of findings, as well as increasing ownership and buy-in by NFPs and empowering them to identify solutions to problems encountered. This should be taken into account in the framework of the RDF Roadmap 2025.



**Table 1: RTX RDF Roadmap Assessment milestones**

Objectives	Milestones 2020	Implementation	Indicative level of achievement <sup>1</sup>
1.1. Improve the completeness and quality of routine data collected through the Reitox network	Update the mapping of all sources of information at national level and ensure that there is a (direct/effective) link with them (Lead: NFPs)	21 out of 29 NFPs have either concluded updating their information maps (12) or are in process (9). Eight NFPs (ca 27 % of the NFPs) declared not having not done it.	Not achieved
	Maintain, consolidate and improve the reliability and completeness of routine data collection, through gap analysis and identifying means to fill the gaps (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	15 NFPs declared having identified missing data sets and 14 have not. From those 15 NFPs, 11 identified means to collect the missing data. The Centre regularly provided the NFPs recommendations to improve the quality of their data (i.e. 5KI assessment was delivered to the NFPs in 2018 with recommendations per indicator).	Partly achieved
	Increase capacity to collect data and engage in capacity development activities in that area (Lead: NFPs)	All NFPs organised at least one activity to increase their DC capacity: There were Trainings (15) National RTX academies (5), National stakeholders' meetings (25); New surveys (20); Data-collection mechanisms (18), and other activities (9) such as the creation of (a) working group(s), webinar(s), or the preparation of a guidance document.	Achieved
1.2. Increase the capacity of the NFPs to track and report on new developments, emerging trends and real-time data	Set up a reporting procedure that makes it possible to share data with the whole network on new developments that might have a harmful impact on health or security (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	A reporting procedure was agreed and set up in November 2018.	Achieved
	Improve/reinforce the sharing of mutual information between the Centre and the network about the use of new data sources and new projects at European and national levels (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	In all HFPs meetings, the Centre updated the NFPs about new data sources activities and shared information on national or EU research projects. In November 2018, the Reitox extended meeting dedicated to 'Changes in patterns of drug supply and use and their implications for monitoring' focused on new technologies.	Achieved
	Identify and establish new partnerships at national level with new sources of information (Lead: NFPs)	23 NFPs declared having established new partnerships.	Partly achieved

<sup>1</sup> The levels of achievement mentioned under this column are indicative. Three levels are considered: Achieved; Partly achieved; and Not achieved. For most of the milestones, where there is a need to have action from each NFP, we consider 100 % when all 29 NFPs have implemented the milestone. Milestones implemented by at least 85 % of the NFPs (25 NFPs or more) are considered 'achieved'. Milestones implemented by more than 50 % and less than 85 % of the NFPs (i.e 15 at least NFPs and less than 25 NFPs) are considered 'partly achieved'; Finally, milestones implemented by less than 50 % of the NFPs (14 NFPs or less) are deemed as 'not achieved'. Due to their specific nature, some milestones have different (lower) targets.

Objectives	Milestones 2020	Implementation	Indicative level of achievement <sup>1</sup>
	Adapt to the entry into force of the Regulation of the EP and of the Council Amending Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 as regards information exchange, EWS and risk assessment procedure on NPS, and revise reporting and monitoring tools and instruments – including but not limited to the reporting forms, the early warning system and final reports – as necessary to implement the information exchange mechanism (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	New guidelines for EWS issued and are now in use by the EWS network; and 27 Annual situation reports (2 delayed).	Achieved
1.3. Increase the capacity of the NFPs to collect and analyse data on public safety and security	Assess and work towards partnerships with supply- and crime-related data sources at national level (Lead: NFPs)	Less than half of the NFPs (14) declared having actively explored new partnerships in the field of public safety and security, with 15 NFPs declaring not having done it.	Not achieved
	Strengthen the analytical capacity of NFPs to work with supply- and crime-related data (Lead: NFPs)	23 out of 29 NFPs declared having organised a total of 45 activities, as follows: Recruiting a new contributor (15); taking a new initiative to analyse supply-crime data (17); and attending a training in the related field (13). 24 NFPs participated to the RTX academy on drug supply indicators in October 2020.	Partly achieved
	Further clarify the responsibilities of the NFPs and the Centre with regard to data collection and analysis in the supply/security area in order to stimulate/encourage NFPs to provide a more comprehensive picture of the drug situation (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	26 NFPs declared having had a least a meeting with their national reference group representative: 1 meeting (5); 2 meetings (7), and more than two (14). None: 3.	Achieved
2.1. Strengthen the capacity of the NFPs to promote and	Identify the needs of the different audience groups and ways to meet them (Lead: NFPs)	All NFPs, but one, have carried out activities relevant for the implementation of this milestone: Updating their stakeholders list (22); launching a users' satisfaction survey (3); and undertaking dialogues with their stakeholders (24).	Achieved

Objectives	Milestones 2020	Implementation	Indicative level of achievement <sup>1</sup>
support evidence-based decisions	Improve the capacity of the NFPs to contribute to the policy debate at national level (Lead: NFPs)	All NFPs, but two, have carried out regular meetings with stakeholders. Besides these meetings, 22 NFPs mentioned having issued briefing notes; 25 NFPs issued press releases; 14 NFPs organised press conferences; and 9 NFPs organised other activities relevant for this milestone.  Further to these activities, 12 NFPs engaged in (national?) Training activities to improve their capacity to contribute to the debate; and 13 NFPs attended the RTX academy on communication with policymakers.	Achieved
	Promote at network level the existing capacity to carry out monitoring on similar issues (addictions in general) and the potential for the EU to make cost savings by using the Reitox network (Lead: NFPs)	The Centre launched, still during the period covered by the assessment, a survey to understand the potential of the Reitox network to provide services beyond the mandate of the EMCDDA. However, the report and the communication of its findings will only take place in 2021.	Not achieved
2.2. Reinforce the partnership between the Centre and NFPs to improve the information service to national decision-makers and practitioners	Streamline the Centre's and Reitox's communication activities and better coordinate them (organise meetings or other contact between communications officers) (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	19 NFPs declared having coordinated with the Centre their communication activities, with 5 NFPs having done it to a 'large extent' and the remaining 14 to 'some extent'. Eight NFPs declared not having coordinated their activities with the Centre.  A new communication procedure for a better coordination of publications was launched by the Centre.	Partly achieved
	Involve the NFPs in the identification of future reporting needs (SO1.4 of the EMCDDA's Strategy 2025) (Lead: Centre)	The Centre continued to consult on a yearly basis the NFPs on the EMCDDA annual work programmes.  The NFPs were involved in the Futures workshop organised by the Centre (2019).	Achieved
3.1. Assure minimum quality standards for the NFPs	Consolidate the accreditation system, with elements of self-assessment and peer support/review (Lead: NFPs)	The Accreditation (now entitled 'Certification') system was adopted during the reporting period and its implementation started in 2020, with 2 NFPs already certified during the reporting period. Less than half of the NFPs (14), have conducted self-assessments in the framework of the recently adopted Certification process (2019).	Partly achieved
	Take into consideration the EMCDDA's statistical code of practice as a useful point of reference for quantitative data collection, analysis and reporting (Lead: NFPs)	Session on the statistical code of practice during EMCDDA meetings.  The Centre regularly provides recommendations to improve the quality of the data to the NFPs (see SO 1).	Unclear

Objectives	Milestones 2020	Implementation	Indicative level of achievement <sup>1</sup>
	Implement quality assurance procedures at national level (Lead: NFPs)	Most NFPs (24) have organised activities aiming at implementing QA procedures, such as meetings on QA procedures (20); trainings (14) and other activities (6).	Partly achieved
4.1. Improve the coordination of, and cooperation within the Reitox network	Create better/clearer definitions of the roles of the spokesperson and deputy spokesperson (Lead: Heads of NFPs)	Roles defined and agreed by the HNFPs.	Achieved
	Identify possible ways to further improve communication and management of the network, including with regard to preparation of meetings, support to spokespersons, and the interaction between the Centre, the network and the NFPs in general (Lead: Centre and Spokespersons)	Circa 36 meetings held (12 annually) meetings between Centre (RTX unit) and the Reitox spokespersons team.	Achieved
	Ensure that appropriate risk management is undertaken. NFPs need to anticipate potential risks associated with their activities and identify measures to mitigate them. The Centre, in cooperation with Reitox, can provide assistance to NFPs facing difficulties accomplishing their tasks (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	The EMCDDA risk management procedure shared with NFPs.	Achieved
4.2. Increase horizontal cooperation between the NFPs	Exchange best practices in monitoring the drug situation (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	Many NFPs (24) have organised activities aiming at exchanging BPs in drug monitoring. The activities organised were as follows: training (7); meeting (14); research project (15); peer review (3) other activities (8).	Partly achieved
	Look for more EU project funding opportunities that could help to strengthen the partnership between NFPs (Lead: NFPs)	14 NFPs applied for an EU research project and 13 NFPs are partners in EU research-funded projects, i.e. above the defined threshold of 10 NFPs to consider this milestone achieved.	Achieved (10 NFPs=100 %)
	Increase the value of common capacity-development activities, such as Reitox Academies, and ensure that training opportunities at national level are also considered (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	A large number of NFPs (28) participated in Reitox Academies throughout the three years covered by the assessment. Further to this, 18 NFPs participated in trainings not organised by EMCDDA or NFPs.	Achieved

Objectives	Milestones 2020	Implementation	Indicative level of achievement <sup>1</sup>
	Assess gaps, needs and ways for NFPs to support each other, in particular to address situations where burdens are unevenly distributed among NFPs, so as to achieve a powerful collective impact (Lead: NFPs)	No specific action.	Unclear
4.3. Increase the external visibility of the Reitox network as a whole	Increase the interaction/service provision between each NFP and its national drug coordinators, where appropriate, and the representative at the EMCDDA Management Board (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	All NFPs, but one, had (at least a yearly?) meeting with national drug coordinator and or EMCDDA Management Board representative.	Achieved
	Increasing the cooperation within 'extended/broad' networks, including candidate countries to the EU and other priority third countries (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	Almost half of the NFPs (14) are involved in international cooperation projects (not managed by the EMCDDA) and eight participate in an EC sponsored event. e.g Taiex, i.e. above the defined threshold of 10 NFPs to consider this milestone achieved.	Achieved (10 NFPs=100 %)
	Support the Centre in preparing the candidate countries and potential candidates to build NFPs and drug information systems, and thus for full inclusion in the Reitox network, in line with the relevant EMCDDA documents (Lead: NFPs)	Only one NFP was involved in the IPA project, much below the threshold of five NFPs.	Not achieved (5 NFPs=100 %)
	Develop new products to increase the visibility of the network (i.e. at conferences, during presentations and in printed materials) (Lead: Centre and NFPs)	The large majority of NFPs (25) declared having promoted the network at national level. Further to this, it is worth mentioning the promotion carried out (inter)nationally during the Lx Addictions conference.  The output Reitox network: Frequently Asked Questions was updated in 2019 and a new report on COVID-19 NFPs activities was published in 2020.	Achieved
	Annual summary activity report of the Reitox network (Lead: Spokespersons)	Report not issued during the reporting period.	Not Achieved