



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# **National drug coordination mechanisms in the EU Member States**

## Achievements and challenges

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Meeting of National Drug Coordinators, 29 April 2009, Prague  
Wolfgang Götz and Frank Zobel

# National drug coordination

‘The task of organising or integrating the diverse elements comprising the national response to drugs, with the objective of harmonising work, and, implicitly, increasing effectiveness’



# Coordination challenges in the drugs field

- Drug policy encompasses a large spectrum of sectors and activities
- The two main sectors – health/social affairs and law enforcement – have sometimes different cultures, structures and objectives



# Achievements in national drug coordination in the European Union



# National drug coordination bodies in the EU: the three-level system

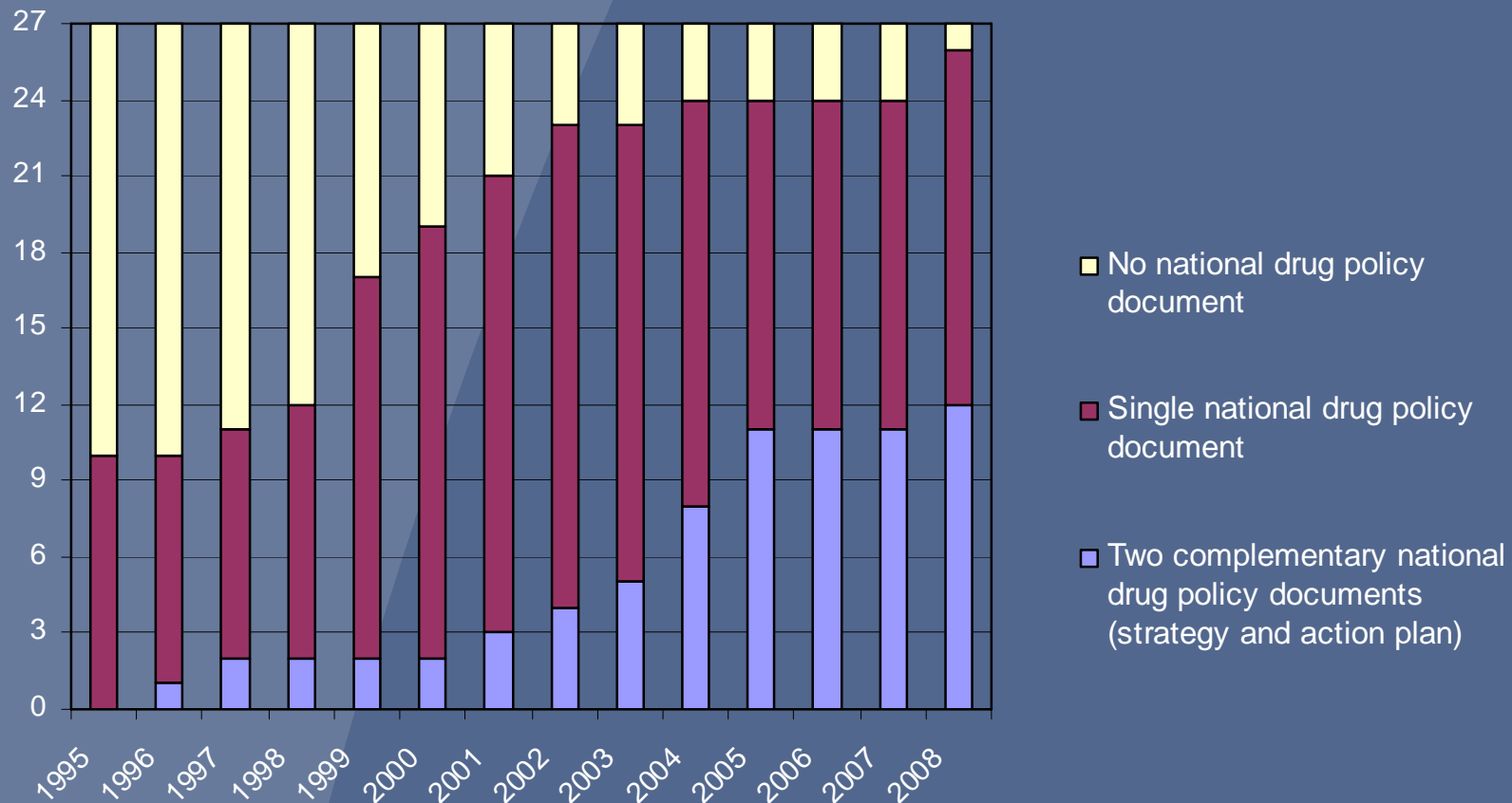
1. A **strategic** coordination body
2. An **operational** day-to-day coordination body
3. Some **regional and/or municipal** coordination bodies

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A few vertical coordination bodies

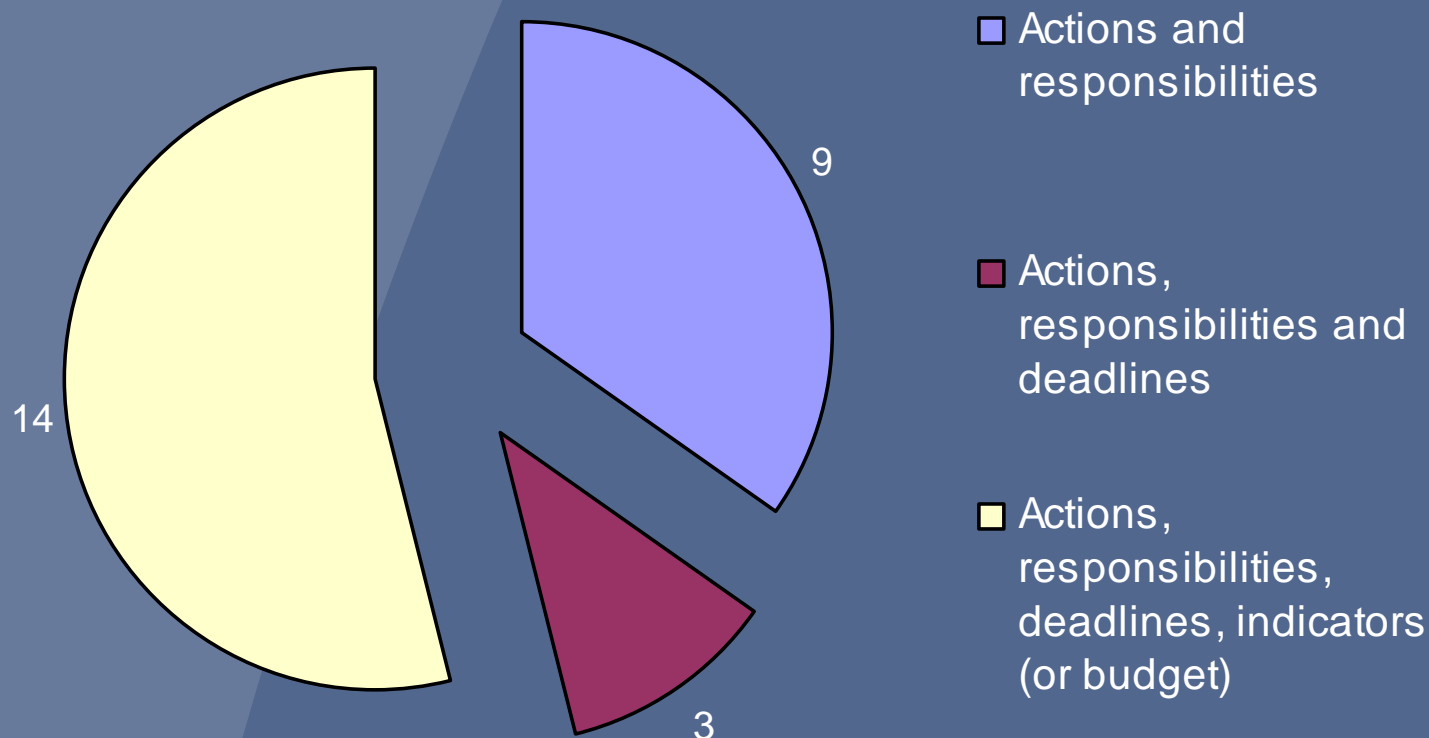


# National drug strategies and action plans in EU Member States (1995–2008)



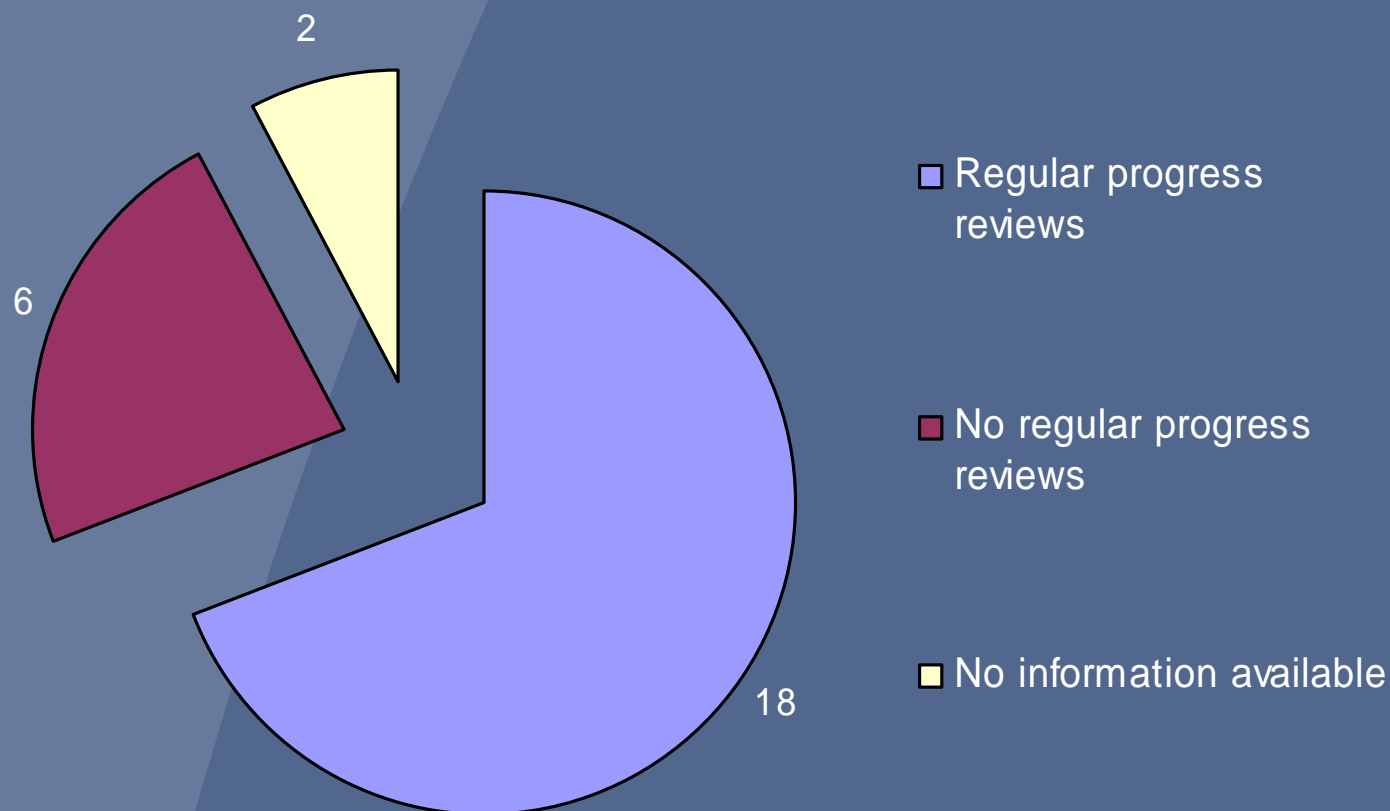
# Content of national drug policy documents (2008)

26 EU Member States with national drug strategies or action plans



# Planned and implemented progress reviews (2008)

26 EU Member States with national drug strategies or action plans





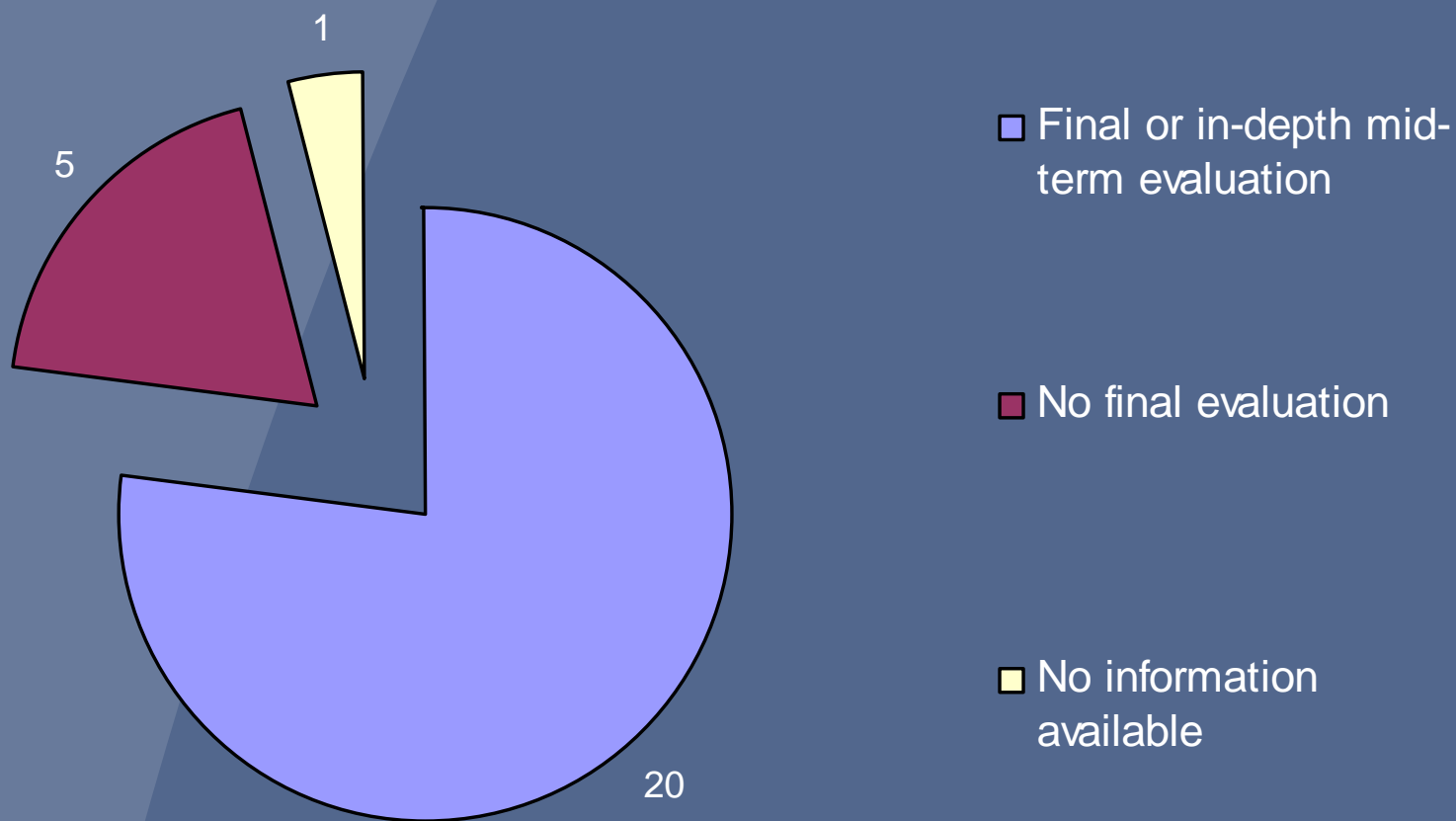
# Progress reviews

- Typical content:
  - review of achievements action by action
  - assessment of the difficulties and failures in implementation and suggestions for corrective measures
  - trends in drug-related indicators (law enforcement and health)
- Based on routine monitoring data or questionnaires
- Annual (sometimes bi-annual) report which can be transmitted to government/parliament



# Planned and implemented final or mid-term evaluations (2008)

26 EU Member States with national drug strategies or action plans

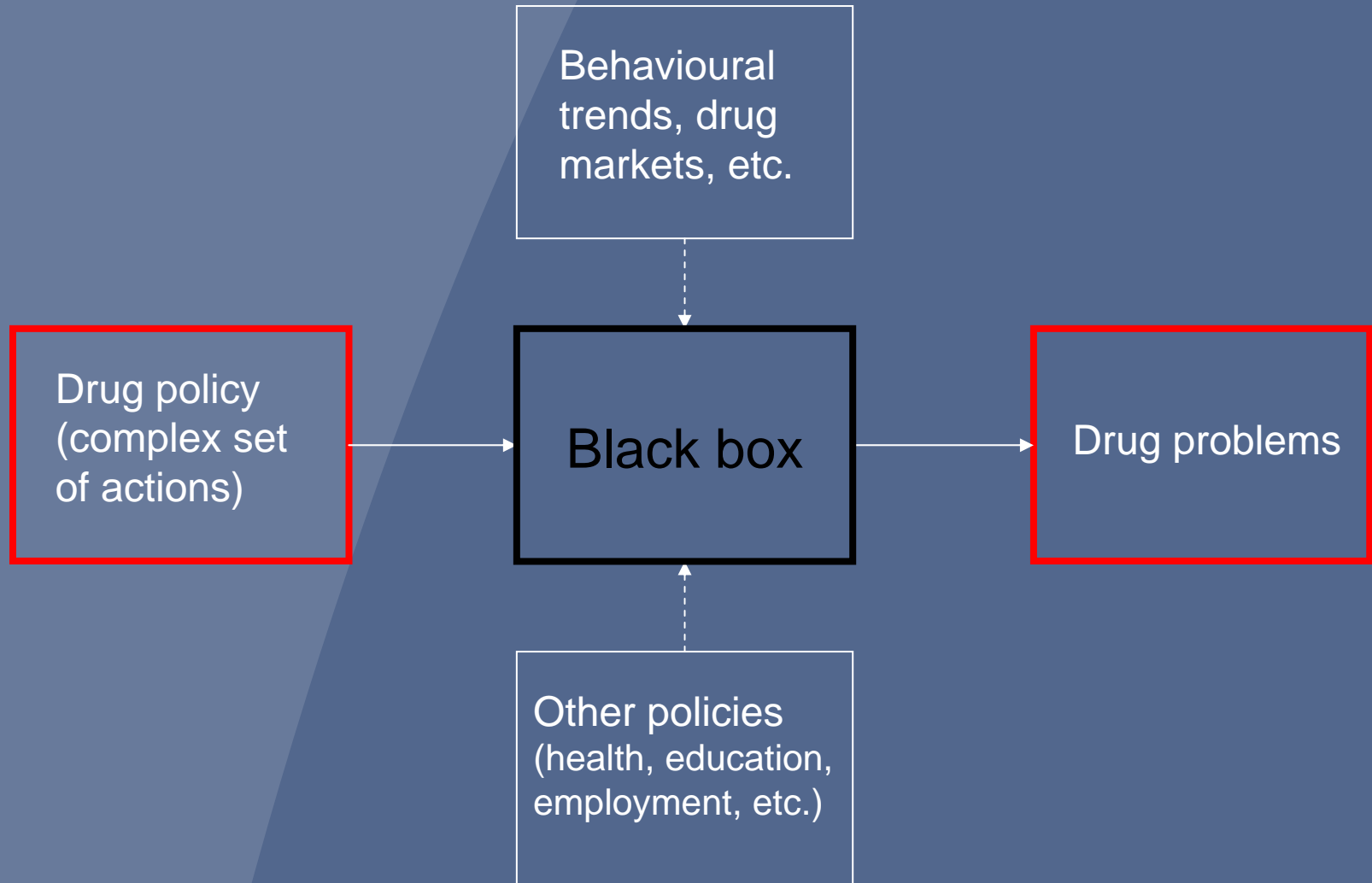


# Features of final evaluations

- Methods: same as progress reviews and in some cases public consultations; surveys with drug users or drug services; expert assessments; consistency and gap analysis; etc.
- Most start as impact evaluations but almost all end up as process/output evaluations



# Effectiveness/impact?



# Summary of achievements

- Coordination bodies generally at all levels where drug coordination is needed
- Comprehensive and integrated drug strategies and action plans specifying the objectives and actions of the drug policy
- Progress reviews and evaluation processes reviewing the content of the drug policy



# Future challenges

- Evaluation mechanisms do not achieve all expected results
- Budgets are often not defined in the drug strategies and action plans
- Data on drug supply-reduction activities are often scarce
- Coordination with related fields (alcohol, tobacco, misuse of pharmaceuticals, pathological gambling) is sometimes needed
- Financial crisis?



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