

## **Executive summary for EMCDDA's Scientific Monograph No. 3, Evaluating the Treatment of Drug Abuse in the European Union.**

Given both the growth in drug-related problems and the limited resources that can be dedicated to reducing them in a period of economic constraint, the need properly to manage the cost-effectiveness of treatment and to ensure the highest quality and best outcomes for the lowest possible cost are indisputable priorities.

In Europe, drug-treatment evaluation research has been mainly limited to small-scale clinical studies which puts restrictions on the overall utility and to the extent evaluation findings can be generalised. The workshop therefore found that the promotion of evaluation studies both in numbers and in scale was imperative and formulated the following recommendations:

1. To encourage governments and decision-makers to support standardised evaluation and to use results from evaluation to plan treatment services.
2. To encourage and support the co-ordination of treatment-evaluation services by the National Focal Point or another research institution in each member state.
3. To obtain ministerial support for planning a joint initiative on treatment evaluation to help improve treatment provision across member states.
4. To develop in close collaboration with the National Focal Points a European policy document for the joint evaluation initiative.
5. To organise a conference at ministerial level to discuss and adopt the policy document to specify the desired outcomes to be achieved 5-10 years after its adoption.