Abstract

Best practice is the best application of available evidence to current activities in the drugs field. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) created a web-based tool aimed at bridging together scientific evidence and current practices in the drug addiction field. Beyond dissemination of evidence, the scope is to share best practice among the European countries. The synthesis of the evidence is based on the methods of the Cochrane collaboration (the Drugs and Alcohol Group) and the Grade working group. As of February 2013 the portal encompasses four modules on the effectiveness of demand reduction interventions, a collection of European projects on prevention, treatment, harm reduction and social reintegration and an inventory of European Guidelines and Standards including a bank of instruments to evaluate interventions (http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/bestpractice). The summaries of evidence are presented in a plain language format and include brief explanation of the measures of effect supporting the evidence, but do not provide specific recommendations. The main future challenge of EMCDDA’s best practice promotion is to become a service for those willing to implement best practice. The Best Practice Portal should become a platform where to find all is needed for successful implementation (handbooks, training materials, guidelines for evaluation and contacts for mentoring).

Keywords

EMCDDA, best practice, web-based dissemination, evidence, decision making.