EUDA
EUROPEAN UNION DRUGS AGENCY

Reitox Alliance operating framework

Scope

The Reitox Alliance ([1]) builds on the shared experience of the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA or Agency) and the Reitox national focal points (NFPs) to align their joint operating framework with the Agency's new mandate. This collaboration helps contribute to increasing EU preparedness, to better anticipate and respond to current and emerging drug-related challenges. The Alliance is based on the EUDA regulation ([2]) that sets out the framework for collaboration and the responsibilities for all the actors involved: the EUDA, its Management Board, the Scientific Committee, the Reitox NFPs and other partners.

The EUDA was established on 2 July 2024 ([2]), replacing the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (Reitox network), established and coordinated by the EUDA, consists of NFPs designated by each participating country, and a focal point for the European Commission. Both as a network and as individual NFPs, the countries contribute to the Agency's tasks. The NFPs are core to EU preparedness on the health, social and security aspects of the drugs phenomenon, and they support the EUDA in achieving all these tasks by acting as the interface between the participating countries and the Agency.

Regulation No 2023/1322 establishing the Agency (referred to in this document as 'the regulation'), states that the collection, analysis and dissemination of data will continue to be a key task of the EUDA. The strategic vision of the Agency is to strengthen EU preparedness on drugs through four key interconnected strategic objectives: anticipate, alert, respond and learn. The EUDA will anticipate drug-related challenges by identifying trends and threats, using comprehensive data and advanced tools for real-time insights. It will support EU institutions and Member States in making informed decisions through evidence-based information, early warning and foresight approaches. It will also contribute to strengthening national and EU-wide drug policies, promote best practices in prevention and treatment, support capacity-building, and help define research priorities to enhance responses to the drugs phenomenon. Core EUDA systems include the EU drug monitoring system, the EU Early Warning System for new psychoactive substances, the European Drug Alert System for rapid information exchange, and the European Health and Security Threat Assessment System for responding to threats.

([1]) In January 2024, a Joint working group composed of representatives of the EUDA and volunteering NFPs was set up to develop a shared understanding of the Reitox partnership and jointly prepare the new Reitox Alliance operating framework. This document supports the establishment of a Reitox Alliance, aligned with the EUDA regulation and replaces the previous Operating framework for the Reitox system (RTX/26/04 Operating framework for the Reitox system, February 2003).

([2]) Regulation (EU) 2023/1322 of the European Parliament and the Council dated 27 June 2023 on the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA), and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006.

Vision and mission

The EUDA and the Reitox network have a shared vision: a commitment to ensuring that EU decision-makers, professionals and citizens are fully equipped to face the challenges posed by the rapidly evolving drug phenomenon, both today and in the future. Both are committed to the following core values:

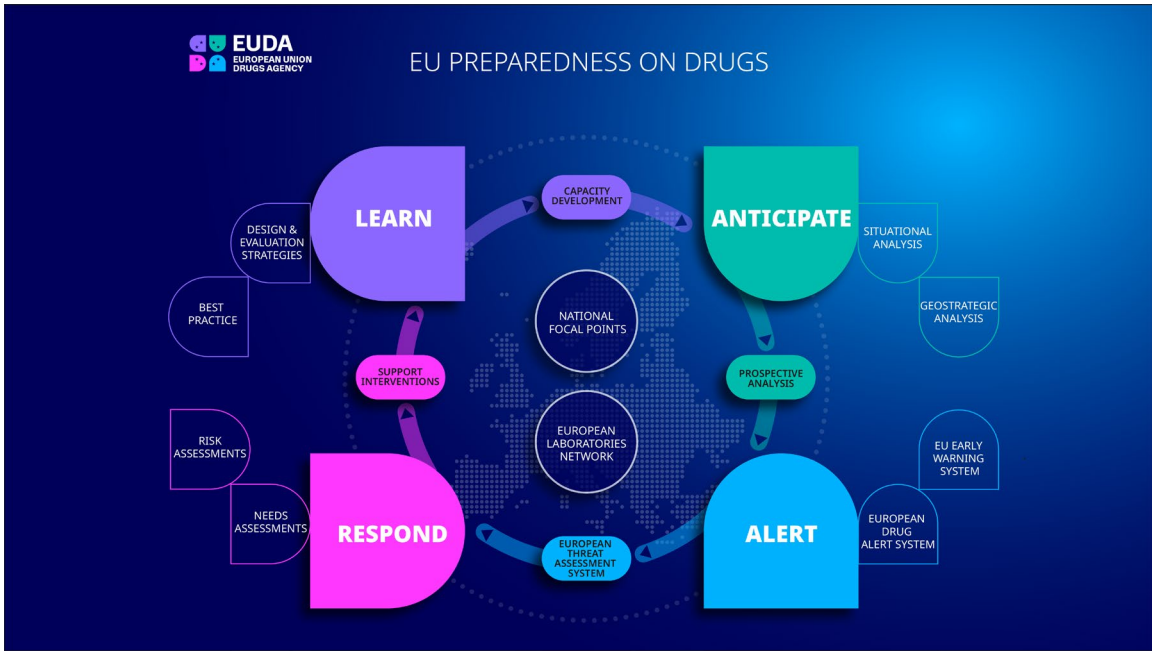
- Scientific excellence;
- Integrity and impartiality;
- Customer focus and service orientation;
- Efficiency and sustainability.

Acting today, anticipating tomorrow

In 2024, under the new regulation, the Reitox network was officially integrated into the EUDA's organisational structure, operating under the Agency's administrative and management policies and procedures. This integration reinforces a long-standing partnership and is aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the cooperation. The Reitox network is more than just a collection of NFPs: it serves as a capacity multiplier and acts as a key contact for the EUDA and its members, depending on their needs. It is a powerful networking tool that the EUDA relies on, whilst also fostering mutual inspiration and horizontal cooperation among the NFPs.

The NFPs have the responsibility to monitor and generate information to meet the EUDA’s needs and are key players for tailoring this content to the diverse expectations of their

national audiences. Moreover, the NFPs are EUDA ambassadors at national level and ensure that the Agency's outputs are adapted into actionable knowledge, tailored to national contexts. With the support of the EUDA, the NFPs can issue health and security alerts and risk communications, share knowledge and promote evidence-based policies and actions at the national level.



Partners and main responsibilities

EUDA

Among the specific tasks in the regulation, it is stated that the EUDA shall establish and coordinate, in consultation and cooperation with the competent authorities and organisations in the participating countries, the Reitox network.

The regulation calls upon the EUDA to (Articles 4 and 5):

- 'Provide the Union and the Member States with factual, objective, reliable and comparable information, early warning and risk assessment at Union level concerning drugs, drug use, drug use disorders and addictions, prevention, treatment, care, risk and harm reduction, rehabilitation, social reintegration, recovery, drug markets and supply, including illicit production and trafficking, and other relevant drug-related issues and their consequences'; and
- 'Recommend appropriate and concrete evidence-based actions on how to address, in an efficient and timely manner, the challenges relating to drugs, drug use, drug use disorders and addictions, prevention, treatment, care, risk and harm reduction, rehabilitation, social reintegration, recovery, drug markets and supply, including illicit production and trafficking, and other relevant drug-related issues and their consequences.'

It also states that 'the Agency shall collect relevant national data through the national focal points. Prior to collecting the data, the Agency and the national focal points shall discuss and agree on the national reporting package' (Article 6(2)).

Member States

As the regulation states, the Member States ([3]), through their representation on the EUDA Management Board, are, among others, responsible for the:

- Adoption of the EUDA single programming document (Article 24);
- Approval of the standard operating protocol for the assessment of the national measures (Article 24; Article 17);
- Approval of the level of co-financing of the NFPs (Article 24);
- Decision-making following the assessment of the NFPs (Article 24)
- Appointment of the NFPs according to the respective national regulations, and allocation of the adequate budgetary, human resources and sufficient equipment and facilities to support their daily activities (Article 24).

The Member States may request that the EUDA perform an independent evaluation (guided by scientific standards and an evidence-based approach) of national drug policies and the development of evidence-based drug policies. They may also ask for assistance in implementing their national drug policies, quality standards, best practices and innovative approaches (Article 18).

Reitox network

According to the regulation, 'through the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (the 'Reitox network') the Member States shall contribute to the Agency's task of collecting and reporting consistent and standardised information on the drugs phenomenon across the Union' (Article 32 (1)).

The Reitox network is part of the Agency's administrative and management structure, together with the Management Board, the Executive Board, the Executive Director and the Scientific Committee (Article 22 (2)).

As such, members of the Reitox network shall:

- Not have any financial or other interests that could affect their impartiality;
- Act in the public interest and carry out their activities in an independent, impartial and transparent manner;
- Make an annual declaration of their interests, which may be accessible upon request.

([3]) Türkiye and Norway are full members of the Reitox network and are also represented on the Management Board. Other countries might also become full members of the Reitox network in the future and would therefore also be represented on the Management Board.

Reitox network members: The Reitox network consists of the NFPs designated by each participating country and a focal point for the European Commission (Article 32(1)).

Spokespersons: The Reitox network elects a Spokesperson and deputy Spokesperson(s) (one to three). The Spokesperson represents the Reitox network to the Agency and can participate as an observer in the meetings of the Management Board (Article 32(2)).

Meetings: The Reitox network shall hold at least one meeting a year. The Agency shall convene and chair the meetings. The Reitox network shall meet on the initiative of its Spokesperson, or at the request of at least one-third of its members (Article 32(3)).

National focal points

NFP nomination

Each participating country designates 'a single national focal point (the interface with the Agency), set up through appropriate national legal or administrative measures on a permanent basis and with a clear mandate. The designation of a national focal point and the appointment of the head of a national focal point, as well as any changes to those appointments, shall be communicated to the Agency through the national member of the Management Board.' (Article 33(1)).

The responsible national authority shall ensure that the national focal point is entrusted with the tasks set out in Article 34(2). The head of the national focal point or an alternate shall represent the national focal point in the Reitox network (Article 33(2)).

National focal points shall be scientifically independent and ensure the quality of their data (Article 33(3)).

Management and resources

National focal points shall plan their activities and shall have adequate budgetary and human resources allocated by national budgets and co-financed by the Agency following paragraph 5 of Article 33 to fulfil their mandate and carry out their tasks set out in Article 34(2), and shall have sufficient equipment and facilities to support their daily activities.

The core costs of the NFP of each Member State shall be co-financed through a grant provided by the Agency, provided that it complies with the conditions set out. In order to receive co-financing, the national focal point shall sign a grant agreement with the Agency on an annual basis ([4]) (Article 33(5)).

The level of co-financing shall be proposed by the Executive Director, approved by the Management Board and regularly reviewed. The Agency may provide additional funding to

([4]) Norway and Türkiye contribute to the general budget of the European Union to participate in the Agency and do not sign an annual grant agreement to receive co-financing from the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA).

the NFPs on an ad hoc basis for participation in, and delivery of, specific projects (Article 33(5)).

Other organisations and networks

The regulation states that the Agency shall actively seek to cooperate with international organisations and other bodies, in particular the European Union, governmental and non-governmental bodies, and with technical bodies competent in drug-related matters. The Agency is open to third countries taking part in its work and maintains cooperation with civil society organisations (CSOs) active in the field. Deepening cooperation with CSOs will widen mechanisms for consulting and exchanging knowledge, information and data with this group (Article 55).

Beyond the Reitox network, the Agency may use additional sources of information for national data. ‘Where the Agency uses such additional sources, it shall keep the national focal point concerned duly informed’ (Article 6(2)).

In 2024, the Agency established a Network of forensic and toxicological laboratories active in investigations regarding drugs and drug-related harms, as required by the regulation (Article 15).

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee’s main task is to deliver an opinion on the Agency’s work programme and on any scientific matter concerning the Agency’s activities which the Management Board or the Executive Director may submit to it (Article 31). In addition, the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances is carried out by the Scientific Committee (Article 10).

A representative of the Reitox spokespersons’ team can be invited to attend the Scientific Committee meetings to ensure open communication flow between the Committee and the Reitox network. This also facilitates NFPs having closer access to the members' expertise when needed, in addition to the formal procedure of seeking advice through their Management Board representative. Furthermore, it allows the Scientific Committee members to gain a deeper understanding of the work, opportunities and challenges of the Reitox network.

Tasks

EUDA

As listed in the regulation, in carrying out its tasks, the Agency shall ensure full compliance with fundamental rights and data protection rules and shall take an evidence-based, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to the drugs phenomenon. This approach will also incorporate human rights, gender and gender equality, age, health, health equity and social perspectives. In the regulation, tasks are grouped into three categories: monitoring, preparedness and competence development (Article 5).

- The collection and analysis of information and data, pursuant to Article 6(1);
- The dissemination of information, data and results of analyses, pursuant to Article 6(5); and
- The monitoring of the drugs phenomenon, encompassing the health, human rights, social, safety and security aspects thereof, pursuant to Article 7;
- The exchange of information on, and the early warning system for, new psychoactive substances, including the preparation of initial reports and risk assessments, pursuant to Articles 8 to 11;
- Health and security threat assessment and preparedness, pursuant to Article 12;
- The establishment and operation of a European drug alert system, pursuant to Article 13;
- The monitoring of developments related to the diversion and trafficking of drug precursors and contributing to the implementation of Union law on drug precursors, pursuant to Article 14;
- The establishment and operation of a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories, pursuant to Article 15;
- The development and promotion of evidence-based interventions, best practices and awareness-raising activities, pursuant to Article 16;
- The assessment of national measures, pursuant to Article 17;
- Support to Member States, pursuant to Article 18;
- Training, pursuant to Article 19;
- international cooperation and technical assistance, pursuant to Article 20;
- research and innovation activities, pursuant to Article 21.

National focal points

The regulation states that the NFPs shall form the interface, and support interactions, between the participating countries and the Agency. NFPs shall support the Agency in achieving its general and specific tasks (Articles 4 and 5), contributing to coordinated Union action and specifically shall carry out the following tasks (Article 34):

- For the purpose of communicating those data to the Agency, coordinate at national level the activities related to drug-related data collection and monitoring;
- Collect relevant national data and information in the areas covered by Article 4, in accordance with the national reporting package referred to in Article 6(2) and transmit it to the Agency; in doing so, the NFP shall bring together experience from different sectors, in particular health, justice and law enforcement, and shall, wherever relevant, cooperate with experts and national organisations, the scientific community, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders active in the field of drugs policy;
- Contribute to monitoring drugs and drug use and reporting thereon, including to international organisations;
- support, as appropriate, the development of new epidemiological data sources to further the timely reporting of trends in substance use;
- Support ad hoc and targeted data collection exercises in relation to new health and security threats;

- Provide the Agency with information on new trends and challenges in the use of existing psychoactive substances or new combinations of psychoactive substances which pose a potential risk to health and with information on possible measures related to health;
- Contribute to the exchange of information on, and the early warning system for, new psychoactive substances, in accordance with Chapter III;
- Contribute to the establishment of relevant indicators and datasets, including guidelines for their implementation, with a view to obtaining reliable and comparable information at Union level, in accordance with Article 6;
- Nominate, when requested by the Agency, national experts for specific discussions on relevant indicators and for other ad hoc and targeted data collection exercises;
- Promote the use of the internationally agreed data collection protocols and standards to monitor drugs and drug use in the country;
- Present an annual report of its activities to the Agency and other relevant stakeholders;
- Implement quality assurance mechanisms to ensure the reliability of the data and information it obtains.

In accordance with their capacity, the NFPs shall monitor, analyse and interpret relevant information in the areas covered by Article 4. The NFPs shall provide that information, and information on policies and solutions applied, to the Agency.

In addition to the multiple tasks assigned to NFPs in relation to the Agency, many of which are linked to the coordination of data collection, or the direct collection of data related to drugs and drug use, NFPs have additional responsibilities at national level, which vary according to each NFP. These may include preparing legal documents or advice and participating in meetings with policymakers, drafting national drug reports, conducting studies on drug-related topics, and monitoring drug responses such as treatment, prevention or harm reduction at the country level. Some NFPs also play a role in the monitoring and evaluation of their countries' national drug strategy.

Core tasks

The core tasks of the NFPs of each Member State shall be co-financed through a grant provided by the Agency. In order to receive co-financing, the NFP shall sign a grant agreement with the Agency on an annual basis. Some of the tasks are standard and required annually, while others follow a different cycle. The description of all detailed deliverables is prepared on an annual basis and annexed to the Reitox grant agreement**.** Non-EU Member States can participate in the Reitox network (currently only Norway and Türkiye ([5])). These countries contribute to the general budget of the European Union to participate in the Agency and do not sign an annual grant agreement to receive co-financing from the EUDA to carry out core tasks.

([5]) Council Decision of 5 June 2007 on the signing of the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Turkey on the participation of the Republic of Turkey in the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2007/800/EC). Council Decision of 28 September 2000 on the conclusion of an agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Norway on the participation of Norway in the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2000/602/EC).

National coordination

The NFPs coordinate relevant national stakeholders from the health and security areas, including regional authorities and bodies, agencies and organisations, and facilitate the harmonisation of data collection and data processing procedures using EU standards, protocols and guidance. All NFPs provide an annual report of their activities, and those receiving funding from the EUDA also provide financial implementation reports.

Collection and analysis of information at national level

The following tasks outline the responsibilities related to the monitoring, analysis and reporting of drug-related data:

- Collect data in line with the agreed annual national reporting package and ensure, where possible, that the data collected are disaggregated (sex, age, gender, etc.) in line with the agreed EUDA health and security indicators (see details in section 4 Governance);
- Promote and/or carry out estimations, studies, data analysis and interpretation linked to EUDA indicators;
- Contribute to the information exchange on the EU Early Warning System on new psychoactive substances, in a timely manner. The information shall be related to the detection and identification, use and patterns of use, manufacture, extraction, distribution and distribution methods, trafficking, and commercial, medical and scientific use of, and potential and identified risks posed by, those substances;
- Notify the Agency, in cooperation with the relevant national competent authorities, of any information relating to the appearance of a serious direct or indirect drug-related risk to health, social aspects, safety or security. Similarly, share any information that might be useful for coordinating a response whenever they become aware of such information, providing additional information at their disposal, in order to enable the Agency to further analyse and assess risks, and of the actions implemented or measures taken following receipt of a rapid alert risk communication;
- Inform on national developments such as on operational, legal, institutional and political changes, and any significant events;
- Provide information and collaborate in the NFP assessment process;
- Respond to formal and ad hoc requests, for example regarding EU drugs policy frameworks or to share national experiences/best practices/curricula.
- Contribute to general requests related to the European health and security threat assessments (through the European Threat Assessment System – ETAS), following EUDA methodologies;
- Contribute to the revision, development and implementation of new EUDA indicators and other relevant datasets, including guidelines for their implementation;
- Implement quality assurance mechanisms to ensure the reliability of the data and information submitted.

Communication tasks

In line with the EUDA communication strategy ([6]), the NFPs are requested to disseminate knowledge and best practices produced at the European level and relevant for national needs to the extended community of professionals involved with drugs and drug addiction, as well as to support the dissemination of EUDA products and publications. Sometimes this will include the proofreading of outputs in national languages.

Additionally, and according to their national competences, the NFPs have a key role in promoting and supporting evidence-based decision-making, supporting systems of collaboration, assessing the information needs of relevant stakeholders and compiling an up-to-date inventory of national drug information sources. They also coordinate and manage at national level any risk communication process triggered by the EUDA to ensure a coherent and effective information flow among all stakeholders.

Coordination with the EUDA and participation in EUDA activities and meetings

The NFPs commit to participating in meetings and actions periodically organised by the EUDA according to the list of meetings shared annually in the grant agreement annex (see also section 5: Nomination of experts and participation in EUDA meetings).

Each NFP nominates national experts for specific discussions on EUDA health and security indicators, and for other ad hoc and targeted data collection exercises.

Complementary tasks

Complementary tasks enhance the core tasks mentioned above and depend on budget availability, specific needs and priorities identified by the EUDA. These activities will be based on an annual opt-in mechanism proposed by the EUDA and will be covered by additional funding, subject to budget availability. The NFPs from Norway and Türkiye, and in the future possibly other non-EU countries participating in EUDA activities, could be allowed to participate in and/or contribute to the implementation of complementary tasks. In this context, their eligibility for specific funding will be assessed ([7]).

The following list is therefore indicative and not exhaustive.

Exploring new data collection options

The subsequent tasks support the expansion and innovation of data sources, tools and methodologies:

- Support the identification, development of and access to new data sources to ensure the timely reporting of drug-related trends;
- Improve current data collection protocols and implementation of the new indicators and report data following a standardised reporting methodology developed by the EUDA;

([6]) https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/work-programmes-and-strategies/euda-communication-strategy-2025-2028_en

([7]) As decided by the Management Board in December 2025.

- Contribute to ad hoc and specific data collection exercises that might be needed in relation to the European health and security threat assessments;
- Support the development of new methodologies and new data collection tools, work on methodological documentation;
- Enable and implement national foresight studies;
- Support and contribute to the EU drug-related research agenda;
- Facilitate preparedness to implement innovative technologies for data and analytics.

Support to policy and practice

In the framework of EUDA tasks, the NFPs may undertake, if in line with their national mandate, actions aimed at supporting professionals working in the field and policymakers. These tasks include:

- Work with the Agency to develop tools and instruments to help Member States monitor and evaluate their national policies, and help the European Commission monitor and evaluate EU policies;
- Support, contribute and carry out when feasible and relevant, to the organisation of certified training activities and other capacity development activities in the field of drug markets, demand reduction and prevention;
- Support certification and quality assurance in the field of drug treatment, harm reduction and prevention.

Capacity development and coordination/networking events

The following tasks aim to strengthen national and international collaboration, while supporting capacity development:

- Co-organise Reitox Academies with the EUDA;
- Participate in activities that contribute to Reitox network horizontal cooperation;
- Participate in activities concerning the Agency's International Cooperation framework ([8]);
- Implement capacity development activities for NFP staff and national stakeholders.

Optional ad hoc projects

This category encompasses the NFPs' possible ad hoc participation in specific projects and their delivery (e.g. for research, innovation, international cooperation and/or concept development) which are not included in the aforementioned tasks yet contribute to achieving the EUDA's planned priorities and objectives, as presented in its Single Programming Document. Subject to budget availability, NFP(s) would be eligible to receive additional funding to support this participation. This category can also include activities aimed at ensuring the follow-up to specific recommendations resulting from the assessment exercise required by Article 35 of the EUDA regulation. The NFPs from Norway and Türkiye, and in the future possibly other non-EU countries participating in EUDA activities, could be allowed

([8]) https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/work-programmes-and-strategies/euda-international-cooperation-framework_en

to participate in and/or contribute to the implementation of ad-hoc projects. In this context, their eligibility to receive the additional specific funding referred to above will be assessed ([9]).

Governance

National reporting

The EUDA Single Programming Document outlines its three-year strategic objectives and planned outcomes to strengthen the EU's preparedness on drugs. This document may also include annual priorities for NFP reporting.

The national reporting guidelines, including core and complementary tasks, are adopted annually at the heads of national focal point (HNFP) meeting in the autumn, following a consultation period between the HNFP meeting in spring and up to four weeks before the HNFP meeting in autumn. When relevant, the NFPs participate in the revision of the national reporting guidelines and in the development of other data collection protocols such as for epidemiological or security indicators.

The details of the annual reporting package are annexed to the grant agreement signed between EUDA and the NFPs.

In the framework of the EUDA's information ecosystem, the Agency is committed to exploring digital solutions to support the NFPs in their reporting efforts and analytical capacity, including automated information exchange and the integration of national and EUDA systems.

Data quality mechanisms

As stated in the regulation, NFPs shall be scientifically independent and ensure the quality of their data (Article 33). They are responsible for the implementation of quality assurance mechanisms at national level (Article 34).

Therefore, the NFPs shall implement the appropriate quality assurance mechanisms to ensure and improve where possible the reliability of the data and information submitted to the Agency and 'shall bring together experience from different sectors, in particular the health, social, justice and law enforcement sectors, and shall, wherever relevant, cooperate with experts and national organisations, the scientific community, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders active in the field of drugs policy'. The NFPs shall ensure, where possible, that the data collected are disaggregated by sex or gender, age, and type of substance.

The EUDA has a statistical code of practices which is based on 15 principles covering the institutional environment, the statistical production processes and the output of statistics.

([9]) As decided by the Management Board in December 2025.

This code ensures the integrity, reliability, and quality of the data produced and disseminated by the EUDA. The NFPs are encouraged to adhere to this code of practice.

The NFPs shall consider the gender- and age-sensitive aspects of drugs policy when collecting and presenting data. The NFPs shall not transmit any data which would make it possible to identify individuals or small groups of individuals, in line with the European data protection provisions.

Before publishing its outputs, the EUDA will seek feedback from the NFPs on the national data they have provided. The EUDA is responsible for other data collected independently and ensures the quality of such data with the other data providers. Wherever feasible and appropriate, the EUDA will make the validated data from other sources accessible to the NFPs noting that there may be specific rules for sharing and using data. To support the involvement of the NFPs, the EUDA will clarify the principles governing cooperation with other data providers. Any interpretation of national data needs to be made in consideration of the national context. As a good practice, the EUDA will inform the NFPs of any publication before release.

Nomination of experts and participation in EUDA meetings

The NFPs are annually requested to nominate their national representatives for all relevant EUDA meetings, unless specific terms of references for the nomination of representatives exist. The NFPs are entitled to make use of the grant agreement to finance the participation of their experts, even if these are not part of the NFP staff or its host institution. The list of meetings and reimbursement rules for meetings are annexed to the annual grant agreement.

In addition, the EUDA can also ask the NFPs for expert recommendations on any drug-related issue.

When national experts are invited to meetings by the EUDA without being appointed by the NFPs, the latter should be kept informed. The NFPs will also be informed whenever the EUDA signs contracts with national institutions or experts in their countries to support the implementation of EUDA specific tasks. This aligns with the regulation, which states ‘Where the Agency organises meetings, sets up working groups or finances projects under the first subparagraph, it shall keep the Reitox network informed’ (Article 5).

Principles of collaboration

The partnership between the EUDA and the NFPs is founded on mutual trust, continuous dialogue, and is based on a clear and effective functioning mechanism and a set of transparent rules.

In the framework of the EUDA’s information ecosystem and the EUDA communication strategy, the NFPs are recognised as key partners. Therefore, the NFPs are part of the production process. The EUDA assists NFPs with translation needs to ensure broader access to information and encourages the use of digital translation tools.

Beyond the regular meetings with the Reitox spokespersons and/or with the Reitox network, the Agency is committed to using the best available digital solutions for communication purposes and to efficiently empower the NFPs to communicate.

Assessment of the NFPs

The EUDA is responsible for the regular assessment of whether each NFP, when carrying out the tasks set out in Article 34(2), contributes to the achievement of the tasks of the Agency. The assessment is based on a transparent and standardised process and on relevant information to be provided by each NFP. If necessary, the Agency may send staff to visit the NFP for this purpose.

Outcome of the assessments

Following each assessment, the Agency presents the results to the respective NFP and national competent authority concerned. These results may include recommendations for carrying out the tasks set out in Article 34(2), a timeline for their implementation, and offer support from the Agency to the NFP for capacity building activities. The NFP shall either inform the Agency that it has accepted the recommendations or, in the event of disagreement, provide the Agency with written feedback presenting its opinion.

Management Board role

The Agency shall inform the Management Board of the outcome of assessments carried out at its first meeting following the completion of the assessment by the Agency.

In the event of disagreement between the Agency and the NFP, the Agency shall submit the assessment, the recommendations and the timeline for their implementation for the approval of the Management Board at its next meeting by a majority of its members with the right to vote in accordance with Article 23. The representative of the Member State concerned shall not take part in that vote.

If, by the time specified in an assessment, the NFP does not fulfil the tasks set out in Article 34(2), the Management Board shall take a decision, at its first meeting following the time specified in the assessment by a majority of two-thirds of members with the right to vote, in accordance with Article 23, as to whether or not to provide co-financing until the NFP carries out the tasks set out in Article 34(2). The representative of the Member State concerned shall not take part in that vote.

Capacity development activities

The EUDA is committed to enhancing the expertise of the NFPs through a variety of capacity development activities. These activities include training programmes, workshops and other initiatives designed to support the current Reitox network and any future members. The NFPs' staff are encouraged to participate in the 'Reitox Academies' and in onboarding training. These initiatives provide excellent opportunities for creating synergies and fostering horizontal cooperation among NFPs.

Staff in the NFPs are also encouraged to participate in other training programmes developed by the Agency. Participation in these training activities may be covered by the Reitox grant agreement, in line with the provisions stated in the invitation letters for each event. Other specific support activities may be organised in line with the recommendations made following the assessments of the NFPs.

Furthermore, horizontal cooperation between NFPs, such as study visits, contributes to capacity building and is encouraged. Contracting NFP experts to deliver training at EUDA-organised events is a key component in the EUDA's capacity development strategy.

Finally, capacity development activities at national level will depend on the national mandate of the NFP concerned. Targeted training programmes can be further developed to enhance the skills and knowledge of professionals active in drug-related issues.