



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Expert working group on improving drug statistics and strengthening the  
Annual Report Questionnaire**

Vienna, 29-31 January 2018

## **Improving national drug statistical systems**

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## Vision for a national statistical system on drugs

### DEMAND-RELATED TOPICS

#### Use/consumption

- Drug use prevalence
- Quantity consumed by people who use drugs
- Frequency of drug use
- etc...

#### Health consequences

- Mortality related to drugs
- Morbidity associated to drug use
- Prevalence of drug use disorders
- etc...

#### Response

- Treatment and care for drug use disorders
- Prevention of drug use
- etc...

### DRUG LAW OFFENCES

- Arrests, prosecutions, convictions, imprisonment on drug related crime



### STATISTICAL SOURCES

- Drug use surveys (among general, school and high-risk populations)
- Size estimates of key populations produced by indirect and other estimation methods (e.g. people who inject drugs)
- Treatment records
- Registers of drug-related users, morbidity and mortality
- Records of law enforcement operations
- Records of criminal justice process (arrests, prisons)
- Forensic laboratories
- Remote sensing surveys of areas under illicit crop cultivation
- Rural household surveys in illicit crop cultivation regions
- Early warning systems
- Estimation models based on multiple sources
- Wastewater analysis
- Health authorities records

### SUPPLY-RELATED TOPICS

#### Supply/availability

- Illicit cultivation
- Illicit production/manufacture
- Net availability within national borders, exports, imports
- etc...

#### Accessibility/markets

- Price
- Purity

#### Response

- Impact and implementation of alternative development programmes
- etc...

### TOPICS RELATED TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DRUGS

- Illegal economy related to drug production and trafficking
- Illicit financial flows related to drugs
- Crime attributable to drug use
- Violence and corruption associated with illicit drug supply chain
- etc...



## Cross-cutting challenges

- Illicit activities about drugs remain hidden and difficult to measure
- Frequently-used data are derived from administrative registers
- Lack of resources/skills (e.g. forensic capacities)
- Coordination issues at national level
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
- Gender-relevant data
- Vulnerable groups (*leave no one behind*)



## Challenges in measuring drug demand

- Measuring drug use is still challenging: reluctance to disclose drug use habits, difficult to reach/count drug user groups

*A challenge within the challenge: measuring severe/high-risk use*

- Drug consumed: individual consumption patterns (incl. poly-drug use) and overall drug consumption
- Direct and indirect impact on health of drug users (e.g. drug related mortality)
- Treatment of drug use, typologies and coverage (Indicator SDG 3.5.1)



## Challenges in measuring drug supply

- Drug production:
  - for plant-based drugs, issues to translate cultivation into production
  - synthetic drugs ?
- Drug seizures: probably the most available drug indicator, but many challenges of completeness and comparability
- Price and purity: which methods and capacities to assess them
- NPS: Early warning systems, pre-requirement to produce data
- Alternative development: which metrics are relevant? How to evaluate its impact?



## Challenges in measuring socio-economic impact of drugs

- Beyond health impact, what socio-economic consequences of drug use? (*e.g.: this dimension/group is 'invisible' in national socio-economic data*)
- Drug and criminal justice system beyond drug-related offences:
  - what about criminal justice response and its effectiveness?
  - what about the link between drug trafficking and OC?
- Drugs and the illegal economy: size and functioning of drug markets, money laundering and illicit financial flows



## Methodological development and guidance

drug use surveys

Indirect approaches to estimate drug use  
(incl. severe drug use)

conducting waste water analysis to produce  
drug use metrics

SDG indicator 3.5.1 on treatment

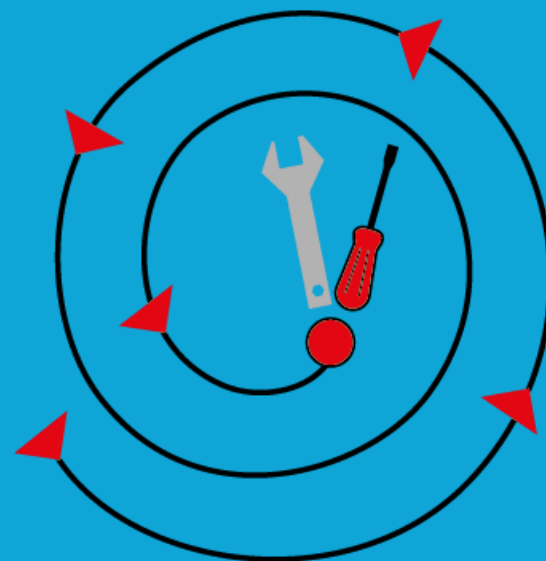
data on drug availability (market analysis)

drug cultivation/production and factors  
contributing to illicit crop cultivation

monitor impact of alternative development

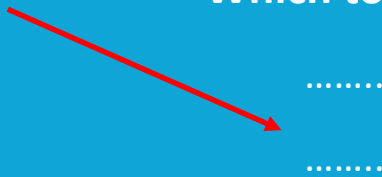
illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking

(.....)



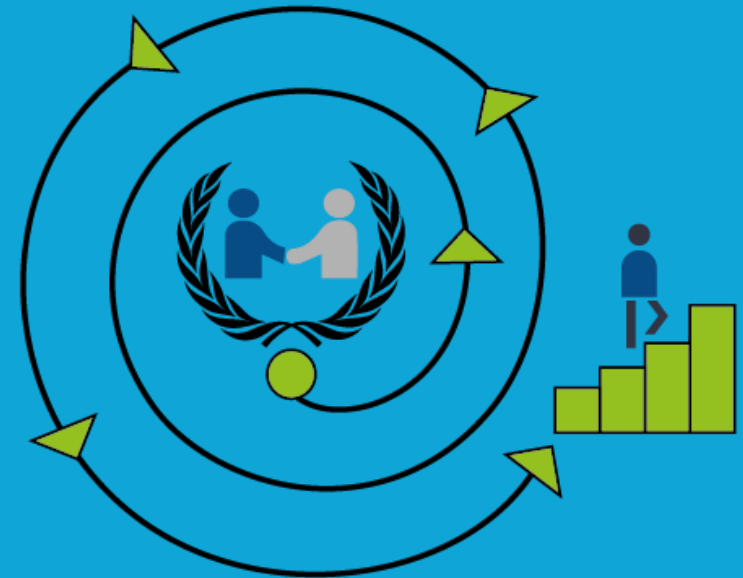
# Capacity building

**Which topics?**



**Which activities?**

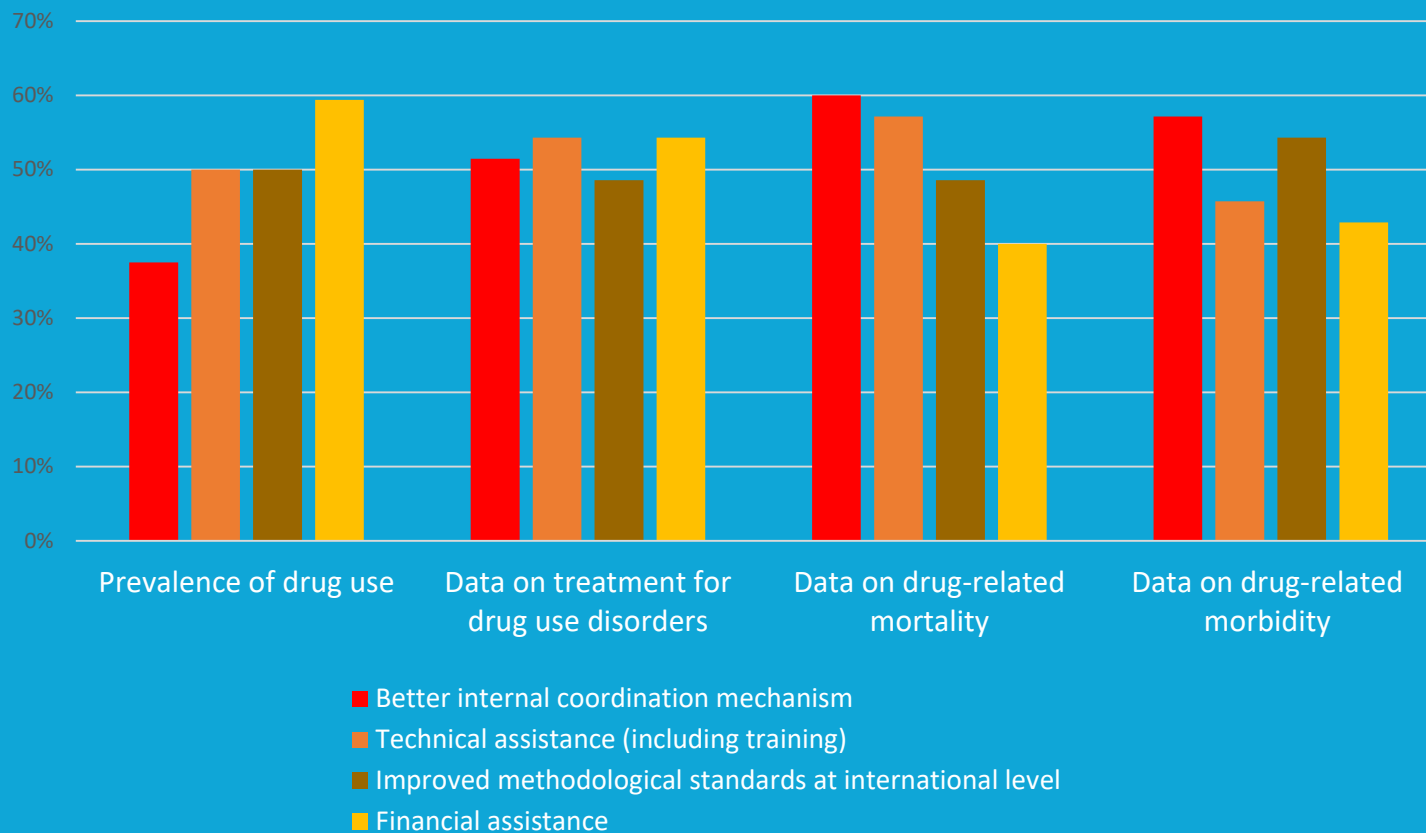
- E-learning training tools
- Regional/national workshops
- Support to national coordination mechanisms (observatories)
- .....





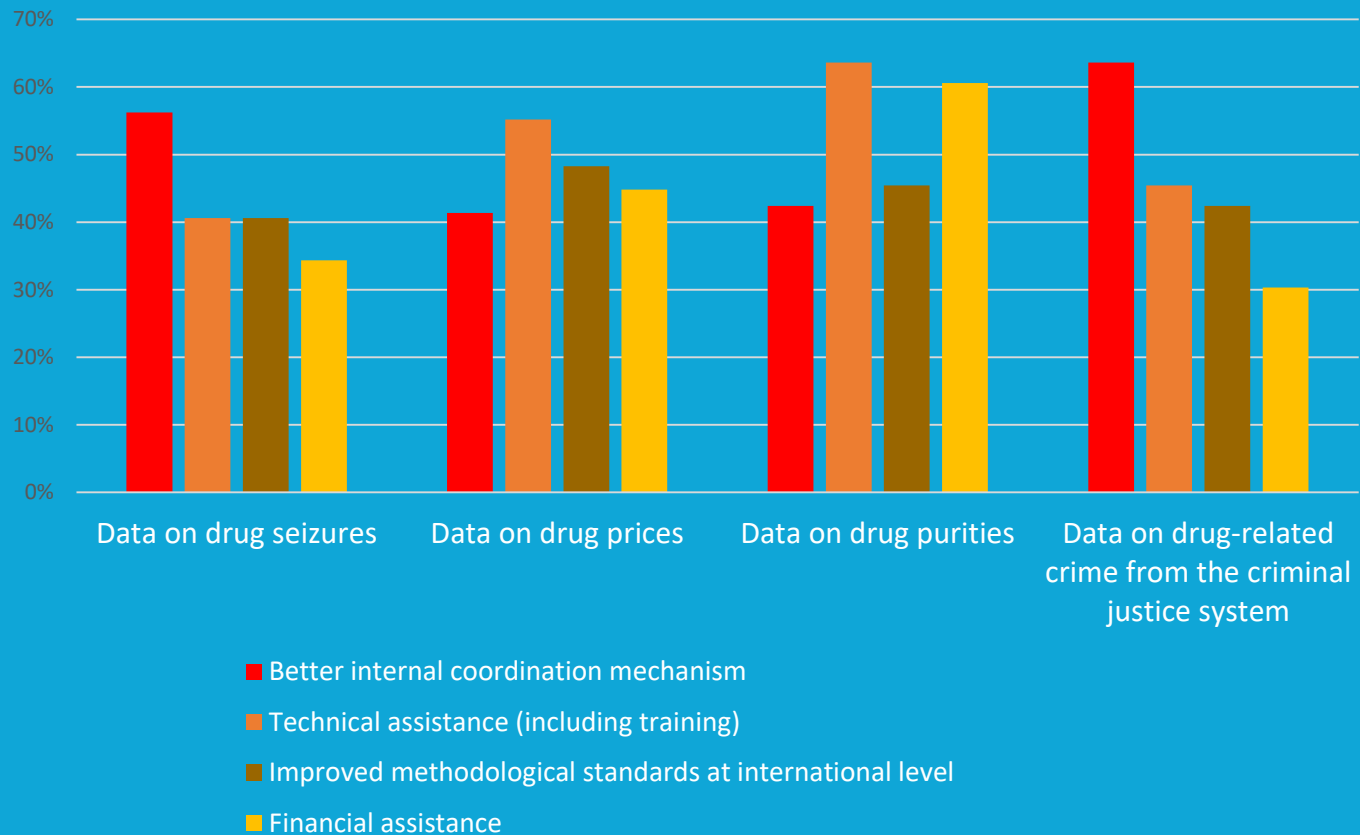


## Needs for capacity building measures on drug demand data





## Needs for capacity building measures on drug supply data





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Thank you

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