



With financial support from the
Drug Prevention and Information
Programme of the European Union

Introduction to European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS) Toolkits



Do we have a problem with prevention?

Few people would argue with the view that prevention is better (and cheaper) than cure.

However, ...

J u s t s a y
N O 

... a lot of what is done in the name of drug prevention is still not based on what “works” or on what constitutes “quality”.

Money is still being spent on ineffective approaches.

What are the EDPQS?

The European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS) have been developed since 2008. They:

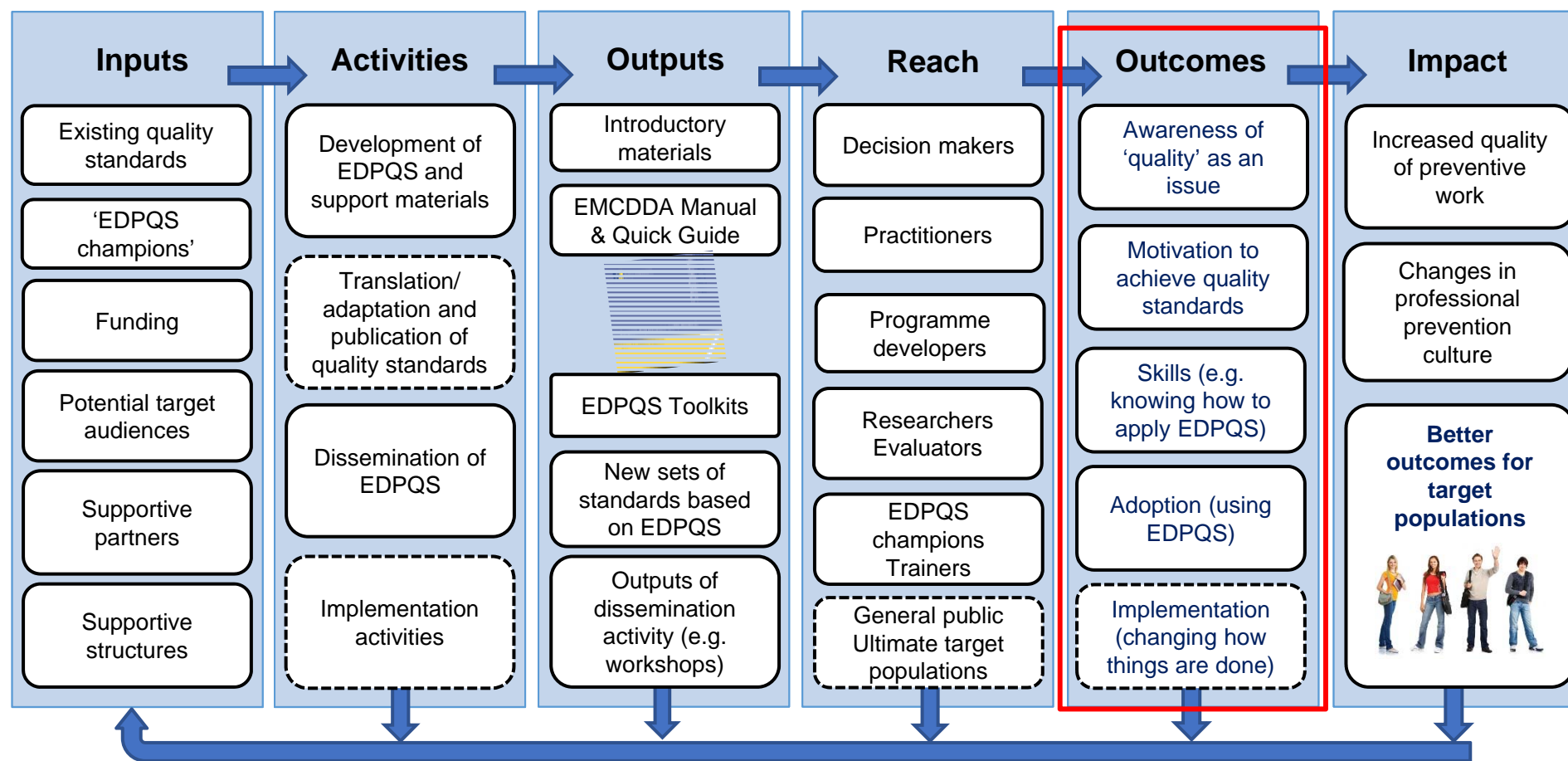
- ▣ Provide a comprehensive set of criteria to help users learn how to recognise ‘high quality’ prevention activities
- ▣ Outline the necessary structural and procedural aspects of high quality prevention, i.e. the context in which quality interventions and policies can take place
- ▣ Support strategies to develop, implement, and review effective evidence based prevention

What are important aspects of “quality”?

‘High quality’ activities according to EDPQS:

- Relevant to target populations and policy
- Ethical (no unintended ‘side effects’, takes into account reasons for drug use)
- Based on scientific evidence of what works
- Provide evidence on their own effectiveness
 - (Cost)Effective
 - Feasible
 - Sustainable

How could the EDPQS help to improve prevention activities?



The ultimate aim of EDPQS is to achieve better outcomes for target populations

How can EDPQS be used?

There are many uses, including:

- **Planning** new projects
- **Identifying** strengths and weaknesses of prevention initiatives
- **Reviewing** the quality of ongoing or completed prevention initiatives
- **Assessing** whether a prevention related activity is undertaken or likely to operate in a way that can be considered “high quality”
- **Developing and improving** the quality of existing prevention provision
- **Professional and organisational development** – self-reflection, training and education
- **Evidence-based policy-making** – helping to achieve the aims of broader national and international strategies and policies
- **Developing or updating** existing quality criteria or standards

Examples of EDPQS use



- Development of new prevention actions
- Consensus- and awareness-building activities
- Presentations at conferences, seminars, training events
- Local adaptation and use

What resources are available?



Manual

- 284 pages with detailed introductions, full list of standards, glossary



Quick Guide

- 38 pages, with summaries and checklists
- Available in several languages
- Written by Partnership, published by EMCDDA
- Free download

4 EDPQS Toolkits

- Free resources
- Four audiences:
 - ▣ Decision-makers (including policy-makers, funders and commissioners)
 - ▣ Practitioners (including programme developers, service managers and front-line workers)
 - ▣ Professional trainers/educators (including University teachers)
 - ▣ Prevention coordinators at local/regional/national level

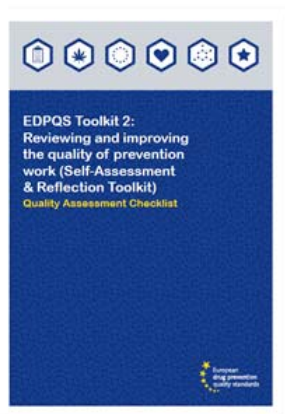
Toolkit 1 for decision-makers



- To support decision-makers with selecting high quality drug prevention activities for (financial) support
- Key messages:
 - ❑ Ineffective programmes and approaches should not be funded, even if they are considered popular
 - ❑ It is better to finance a smaller number of high quality programmes with a realistic budget rather than a large number of vaguely elaborated programmes which may have a low budget but also no or unwanted effects
 - ❑ Importance of transparent selection and funding mechanisms that encourage quality, including needs assessment and evaluation

Toolkit 2 for practitioners

- Online and printed tools to support practitioners with self-assessment and self-improvement
 1. Self-assessment checklist
 2. Complete synthesis profile ⇒ identify critical areas
 3. Use self-improvement questionnaire to review and identify actions to develop own activities



Toolkit 3 for trainers



- To support trainers/educators with delivering professional training on quality standards in drug prevention
 - ▣ For half, one or two days training events
 - ▣ Includes PowerPoint slides, handouts for participants, trainers guide
 - ▣ Suggestions for different units, including interactive exercises and group-work activities to help participants experience the benefits of using standards in practice

Toolkit 4 for ‘prevention coordinators’



- To support people who wish to promote quality through quality standards from a strategic point of view (where no up-to-date quality standards exist)
 - How to develop (adapt) quality criteria based on EDPQS?
 - How to translate existing EDPQS materials?
 - How to promote the use and implementation of quality standards?

EDPQS supporting materials

- Explain the key concepts and considerations that informed the development of the EDPQS



- ▣ EDPQS Summary
- ▣ Position Paper
- ▣ EDPQS Theory of Change
- ▣ Questions & Answers

European drug prevention quality standards Phase II

With financial support from the Drug Prevention and Information Programme of the European Union

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Promoting Excellence in Drug Prevention in the EU - Phase II of the European Drug Prevention Quality Standards Project

The Prevention Standards provide the first European framework for high quality drug prevention. Organised in an eight-stage project cycle, the Standards outline the necessary steps in **planning, implementing** and **evaluating** drug prevention activities.

Read more about the Standards Examples of use

For more information and to
access the toolkits

www.prevention-standards.eu

Further questions?

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