

Overview of existing structures for collecting information on New Psychoactive Substances at European level

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- Background
- Objectives & methodological approach
- Main NPS networks at EU level
- Current situation
- Next steps

Need for detecting, monitoring, responding to, because...

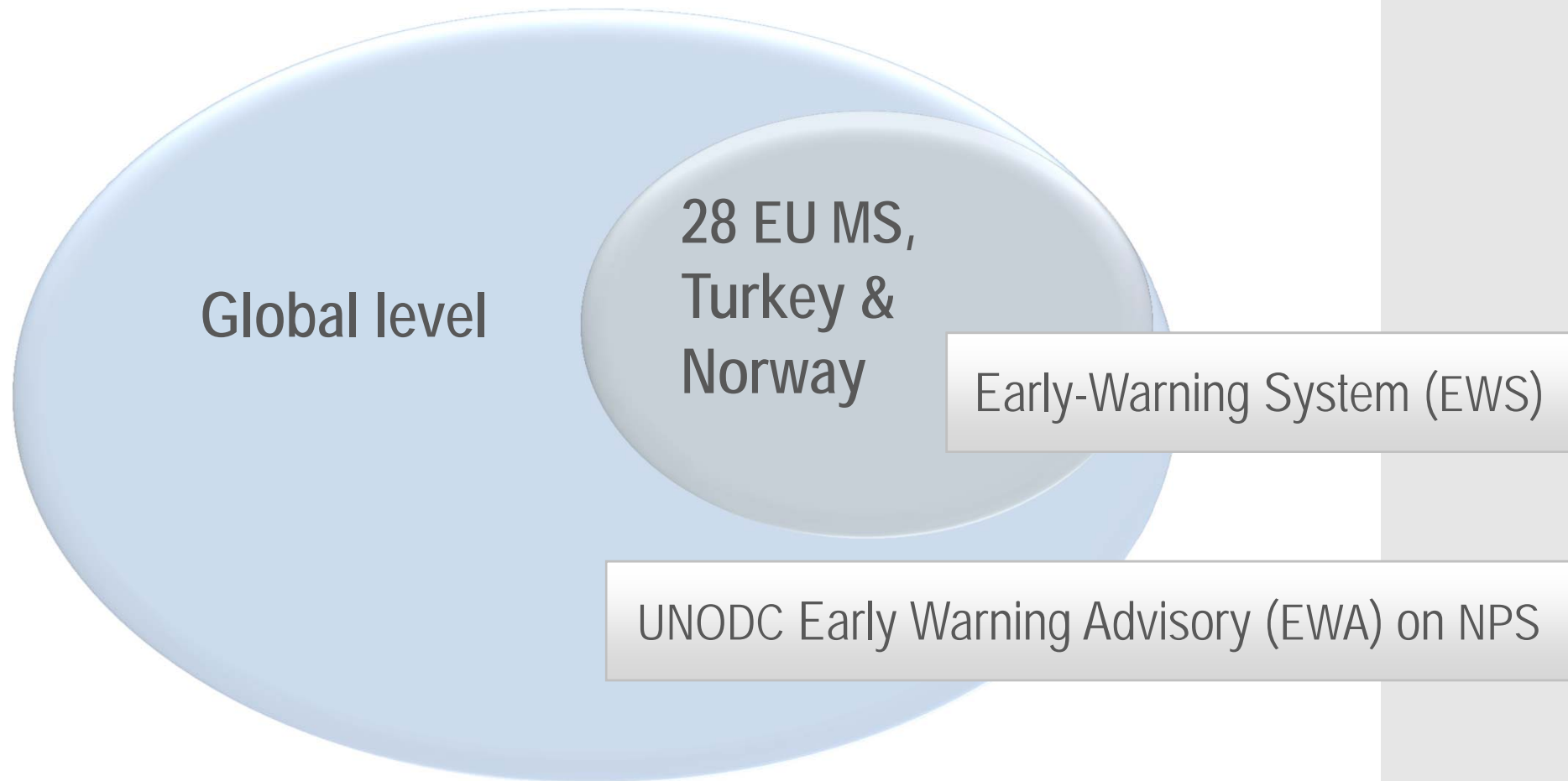
- Complex & fast moving drug market
- Increase of notifications of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (EU/globally)
- Detection & identification provide base for risk assessment & perspective controlling of dangerous new substances
- Establishment of reference point on NPS
- Enhancement of collection of NPS related information
- Facilitation of information exchange between stakeholders/professionals
- Promotion of good working practices

Objectives

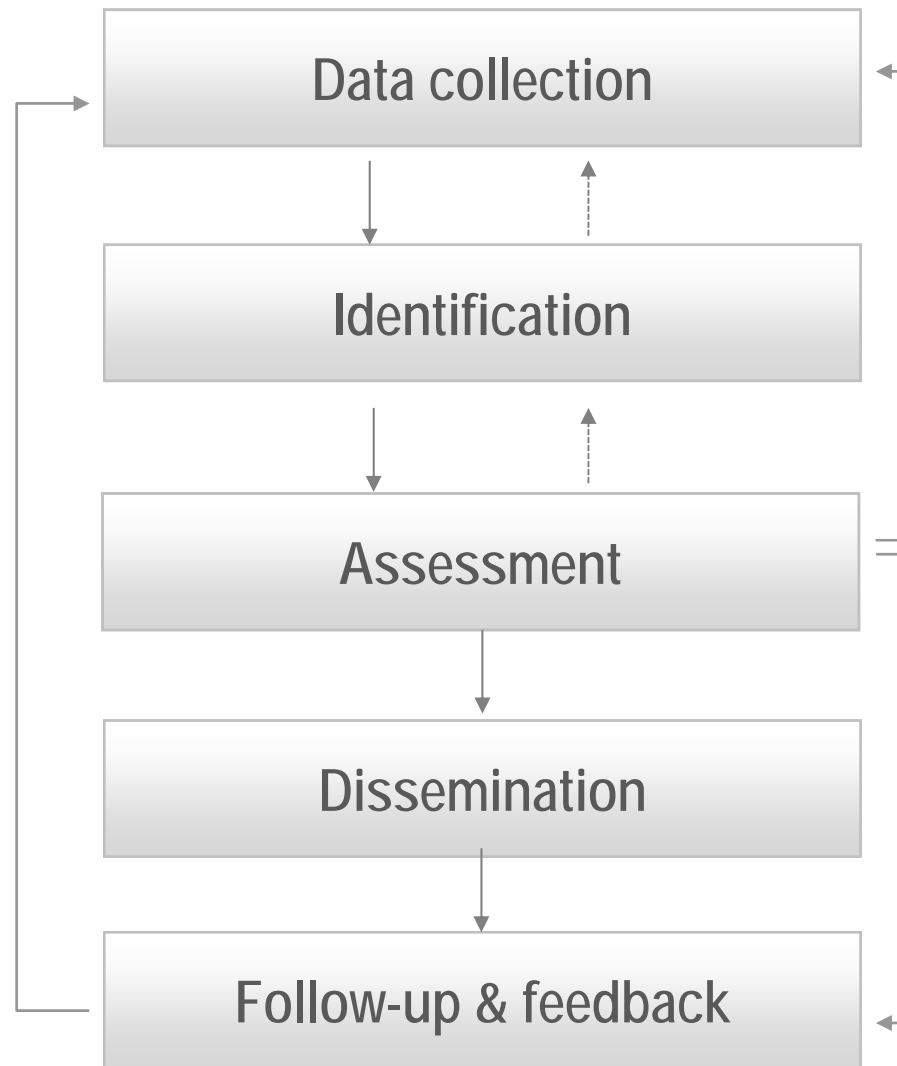


- Contact of experts/stakeholders (EU & national level)
 - EMCDDA, Europol, EMA, UNODC
 - NFPs Austria, Finland, Germany; Switzerland (Safer Nightlife Schweiz, Addiction Switzerland, Swissmedic)
- Data collection (filled-in questionnaires, interview)
- Internet search to identify projects & studies related to NPS
- Consultation of documents/publications/reports on implementation of NPS monitoring activities or similar actions

Main NPS networks

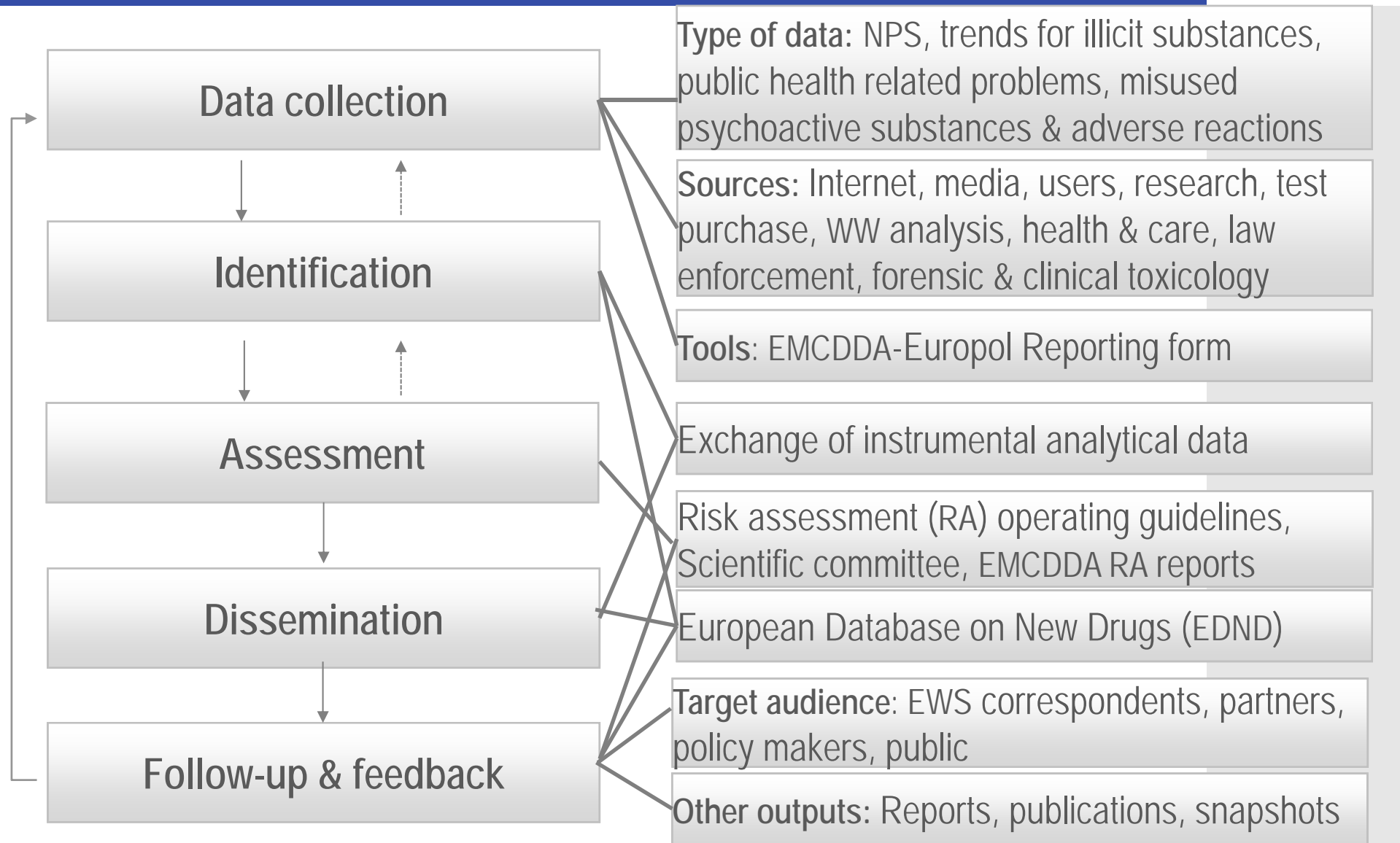


Early Information Function: Operational steps



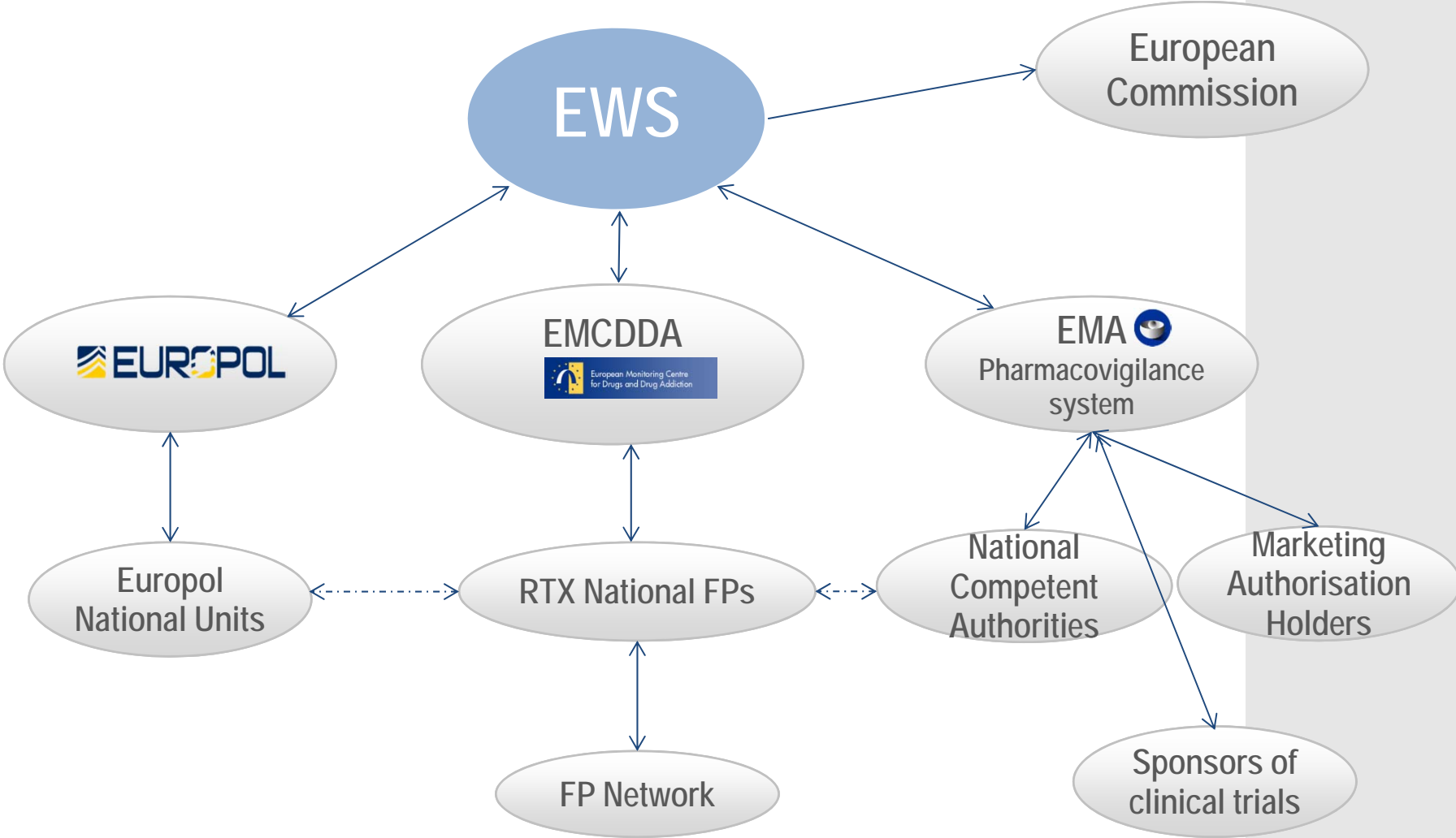
Source: Alvarez et al. 2003

EWS key features

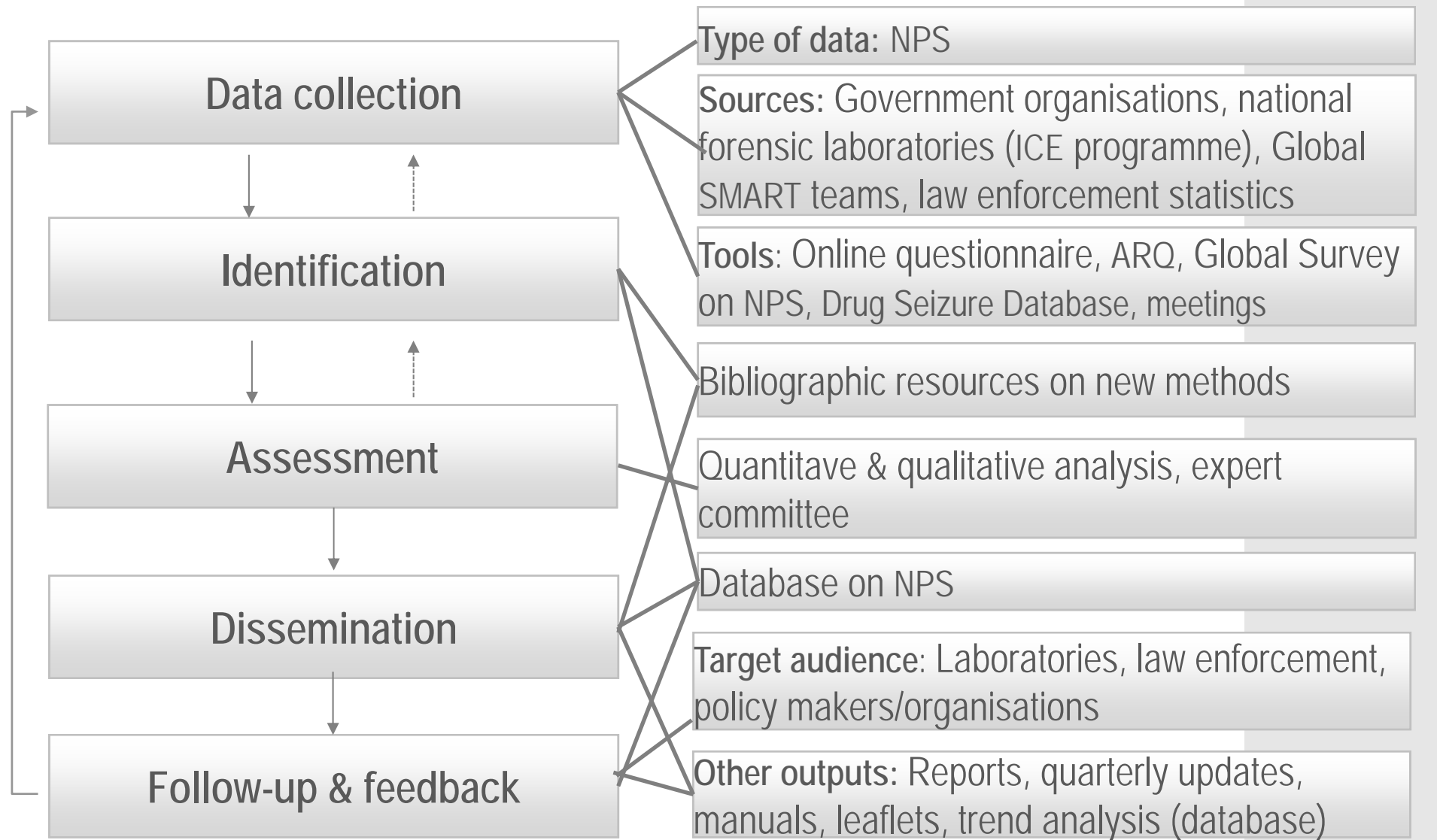


Source: EMCDDA 2007; 2013

EWS institutional partners & information flow



UNODC EWA on NPS key features



Source: UNODC 2013; DBDD enquiry 2013/14

- Useful practices
- Current challenges
- Coping with the challenges

- Established programmes & formal information networks (e.g. RTX network, UNODC Global SMART programme)
- Personal contacts (networking) increase motivation of partner organisations
- Establishment of meetings in the same field & with involvement of different disciplines
- Information exchange on regular basis
- Existing databases & electronic tools (e.g. EDND, EWA)
- Inclusion of „new“ information sources, e.g. drug checking, internet-based surveys, WW analysis, product monitoring

Source: DBDD enquiry 2013/14

- Variety of national regulations, different legal systems & approaches
- Interesting aspects of NPS phenomenon explored, innovative ideas supported & helpful methods developed; still helpful results are later getting “lost”
- Duplication of efforts
- Inconsistencies regarding terminology on NPS
- Very few reliable information regarding mental, physical & social consequences of NPS use

Source: DBDD enquiry 2013/14

Coping with the challenges

- Bringing together all information available
- Further efforts on standardised collection of information related to existing methodologies
- Focus on the development of friendly & easy to use tools, also for field-level workers
- Modern technology in collecting, sharing & analysing data
- Efforts on “unexploited” information sources (e.g. health & care system)

Source: DBDD enquiry 2013/14

- To explore options for enhancing collection & dissemination (consumers, drug treatment centres employees & decision makers) at European level
- To develop recommendations for improvement of data flow as well as combination & dissemination of available information on NPS



- Report document, incl. detailed improvement proposals for continuous dissemination of updated information

Thank you

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