



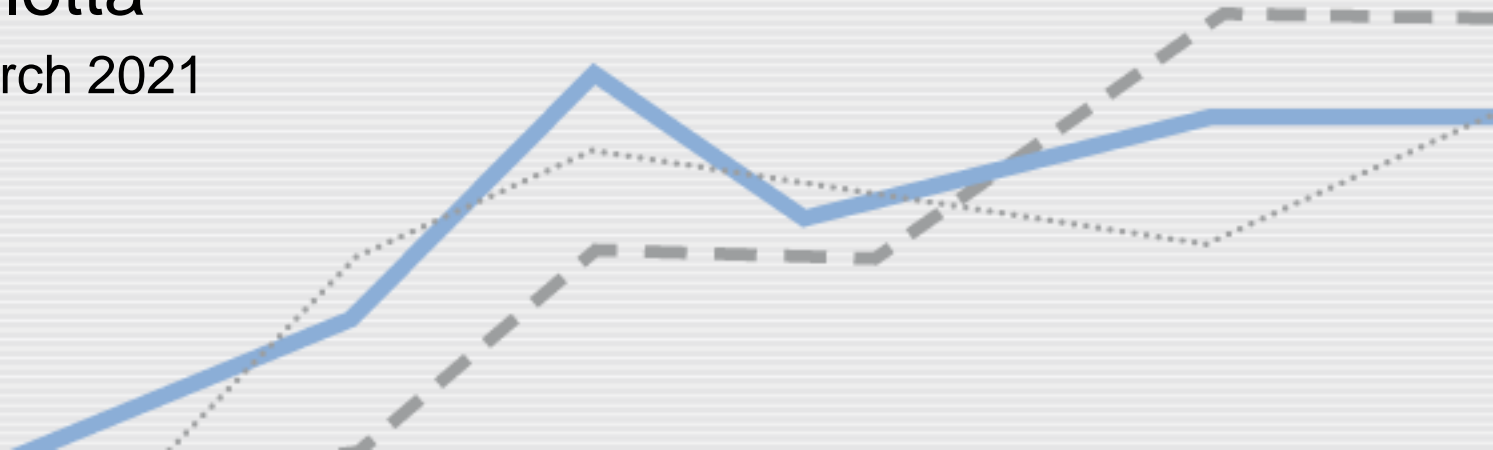
European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# The EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025

Danilo Ballotta

Lisbon, 24 March 2021

EMCDDA -



My Presentation

# 1



What is the European Union?




Unique economic and political partnership between 28 countries



# 2




Does the European Union have a (one) policy on drugs?




Exclusive competence trade/goods, currency, free mov. of people, agriculture, fishery, ....  
But not drug policy

# 3



The EU drugs strategy on drugs 2021-2025



NOTE  
From: Presidency  
To: Delegations  
Re: press doc.: 10671 14/12/2020 REU/2  
Subject: EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025

Delegations will find in the annex the draft EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025 for approval by the Council.

# 1

## What is the European Union?



*Unique economic and political partnership between 28 countries*

# What is the EU?



Subsidiarity and Proportionality

1951: **6** Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

1973: **9** Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom

1981: **10** Greece

1986: **12** Spain and Portugal

1995: **15** Austria, Finland and Sweden

2004: **25** Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia

2007: **27** Bulgaria and Romania

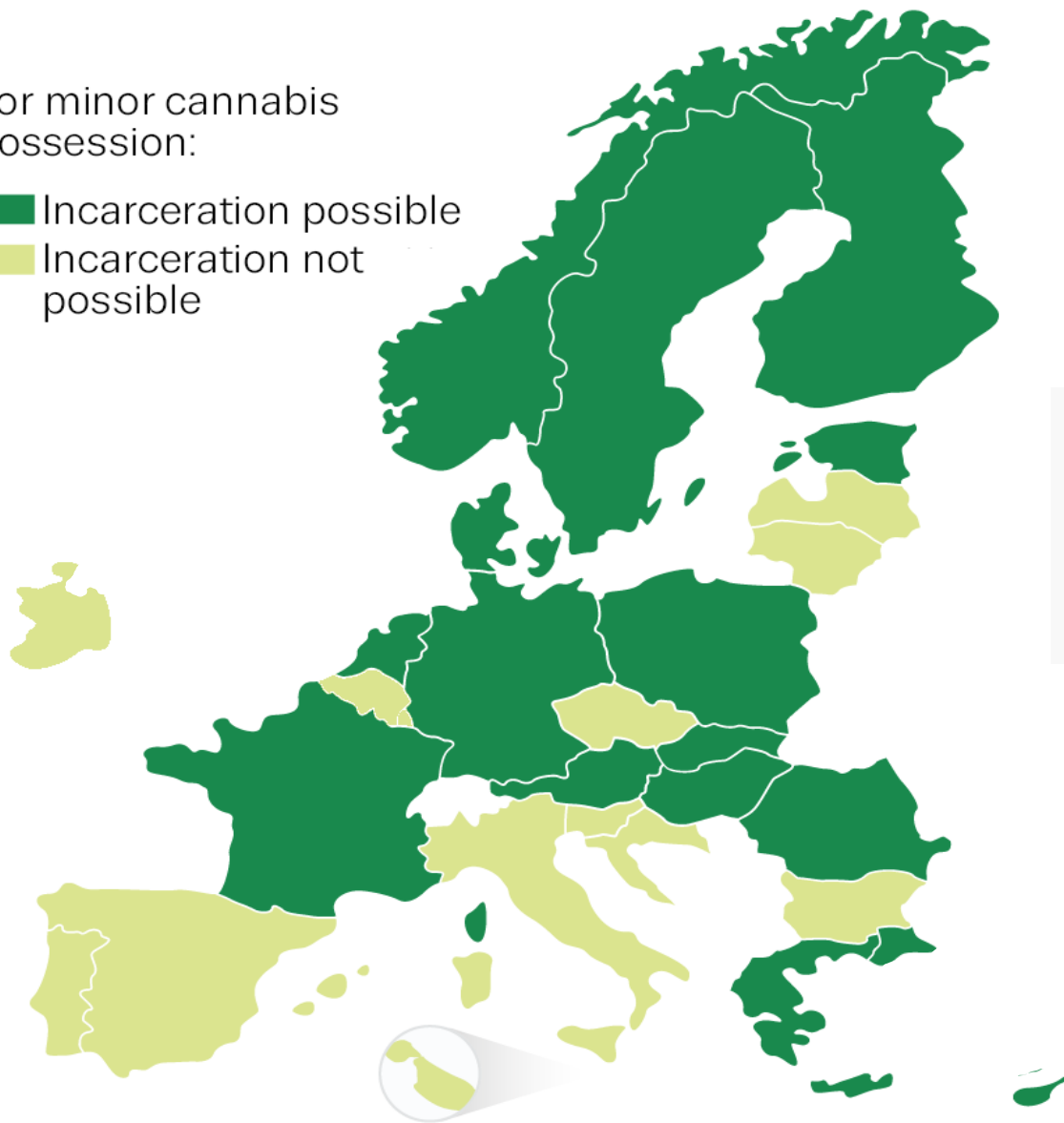
2013: **28** Croatia

2020: **27** (United Kingdom)

# Penalties in laws : possibility of incarceration for possession of cannabis for personal use (minor offences)

For minor cannabis possession:

- Incarceration possible
- Incarceration not possible



**Differences  
Exists**

# 2

*Does the European Union have a (one) policy on drugs?*



Exclusive competence  
trade/goods, currency, free mov. of  
people, agriculture, fishery, .....

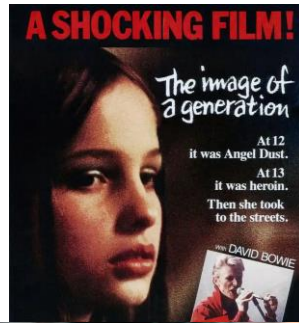
**But not drug policy**

# EU DRUG POLICY Timeline

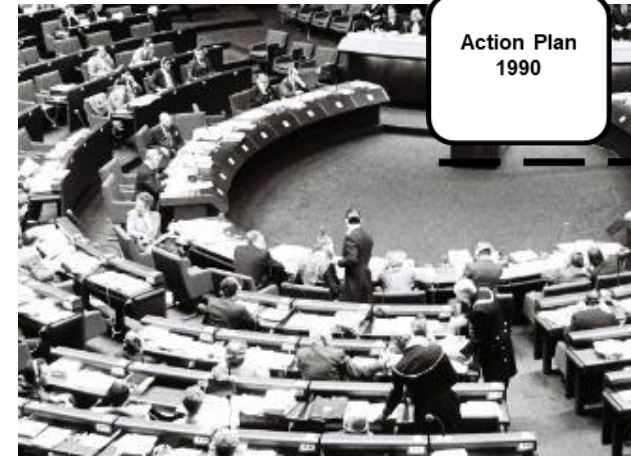
founder Countries of EEC



1958



70s-80s-90s

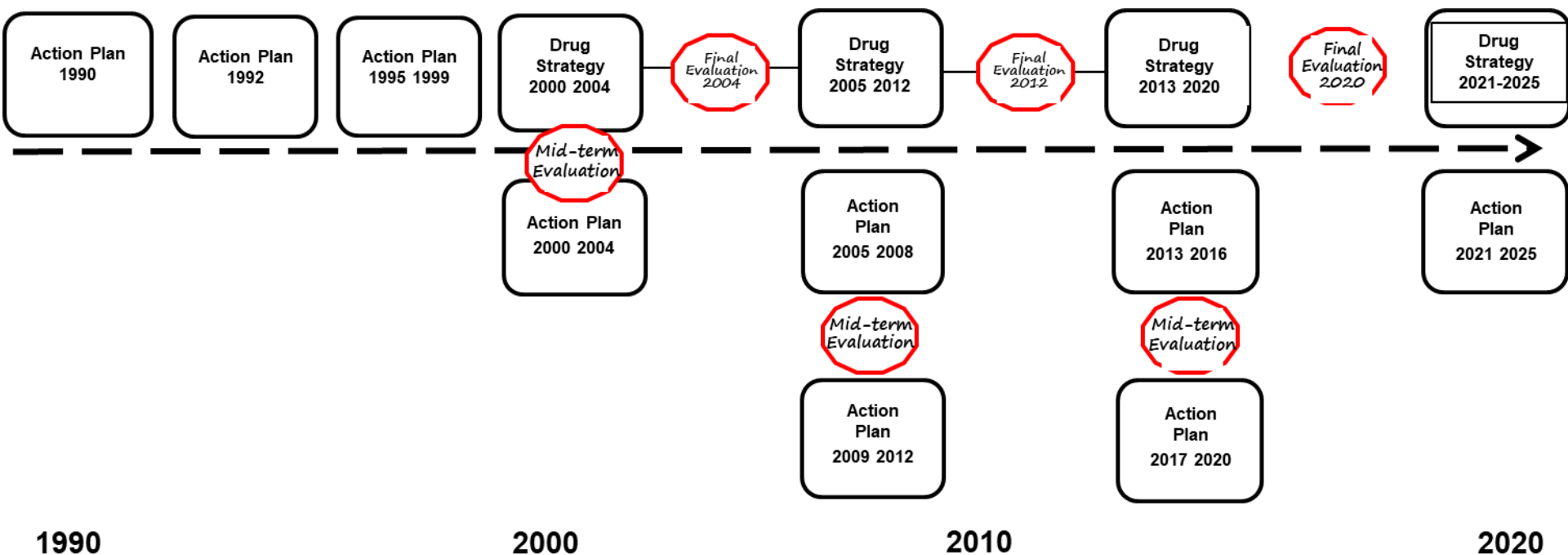


Action Plan  
1990

1989

# EU Policy on drugs - 13 drugs plan since 1990

*an increasingly consolidated EU approach*





# Council of the EU Open Method of Coordination



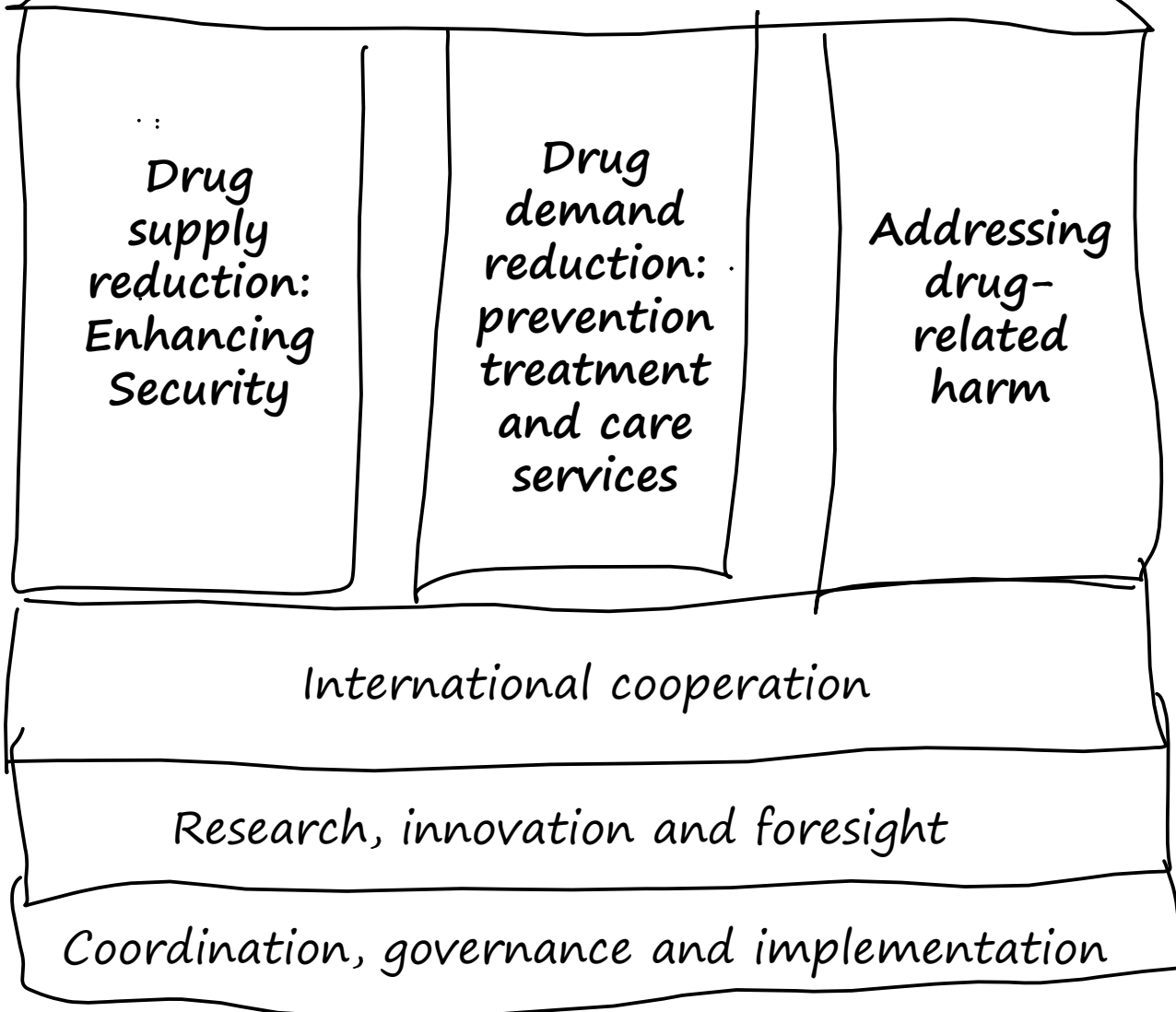
# 3

## The EU drugs strategy on drugs 2021-2025

 <b>Council of the European Union</b>		<b>Brussels, 14 December 2020 (OR. en)</b>
		<b>13932/20</b>
		<b>LIMITE</b>
		<b>CORDROGUE 76 SAN 464 COSI 246 RELEX 994 UD 385</b>
<b>NOTE</b>		
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## EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025



Drug  
Strategy  
2021-2025



Action  
Plan  
2021 2025

2020

# The EU Approach To Drugs



*“This drugs strategy takes an evidence-based, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to the drugs phenomenon.”*

*also incorporates a gender equality and health equity perspective*



# The Aim of the Strategy



*The Strategy aims to protect and improve the well-being of society and of the individual, to protect and promote public health, to offer a high level of security and well-being for the general public and to increase health literacy.*

# Concepts and Principles



HUMAN RIGHTS

Prison

Serious  
CRIME

Evidence

Gender

Harm Reduction

Individual  
Needs

Users

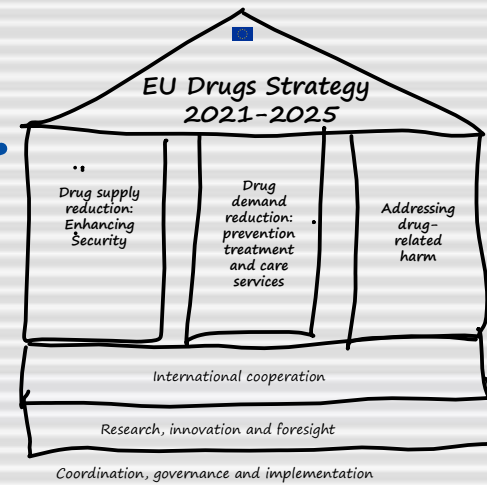
Civil Society

Stigma

# Drug Policy Language



Rest of  
the world



*The global drugs problem*

*Drugs Phenomenon*

*Drug addicts/drugs users*

*People who use drugs*

*Drugs abuse*

*Drug use*

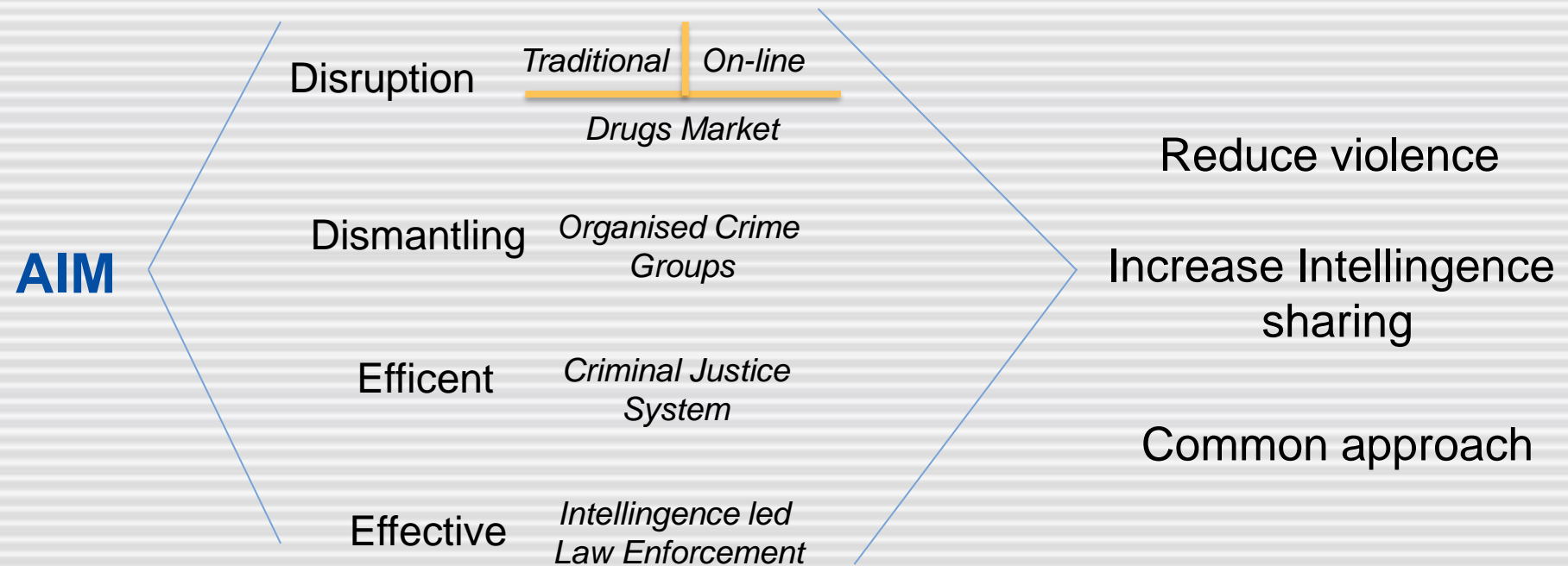
*Anti drugs strategy*

*The EU drugs strategy*

*To fight/ To combat*

*To protect, to improve, to promote*

# 1. Drug supply reduction: Enhancing Security





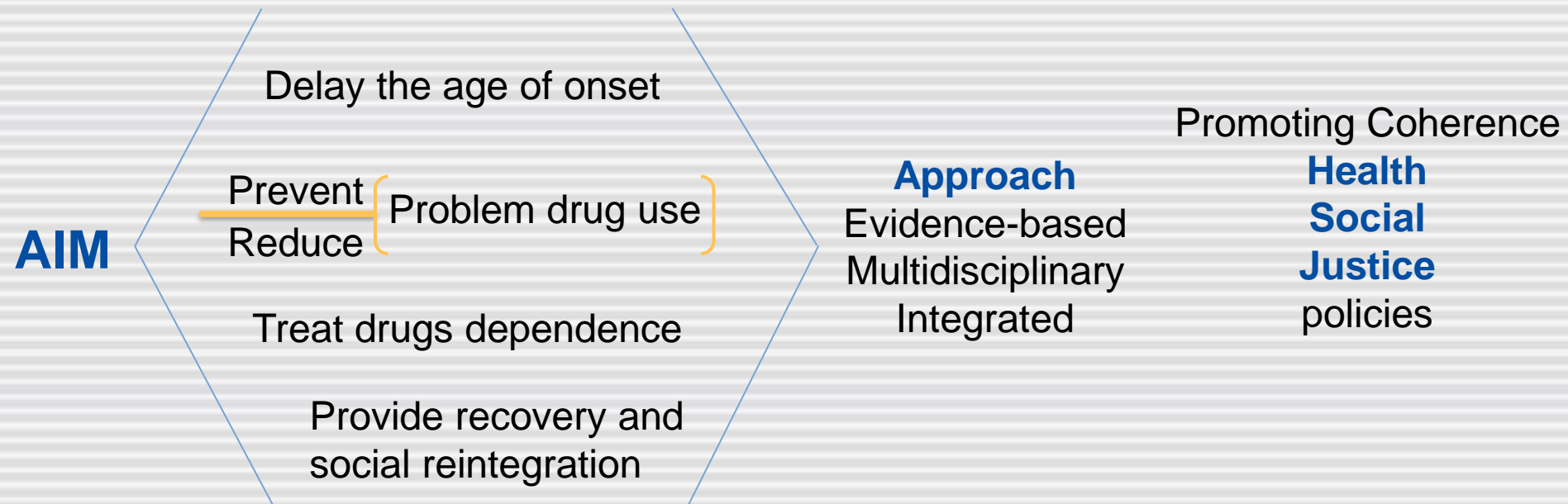
# 1. Drug supply reduction: Enhancing Security

## Strategic priorities

- 1: *Disrupt and dismantle high-risk drug-related organised crime groups operating in, originating in or targeting the EU Member States; address links with other security threats and improve crime prevention*
- 2: *Increase the detection of illicit wholesale trafficking of drugs and drug precursors at EU points of entry and exit*
- 3: *Tackle the exploitation of logistical and digital channels for medium- and small-volume illicit drug distribution and increase seizures of illicit substances smuggled through these channels in close cooperation with the private sector*
- 4: *Dismantle illicit drug production and counter illicit cultivation; prevent the diversion and trafficking of drug precursors for illicit drug production; and address environmental damage*

## 2. Drug demand reduction: prevention treatment and care services

**Objective** Health/Safe  
Development *and* **Reduction**  
Children/Youth of the use  
of illicit drugs



## 2. Drug demand reduction: prevention treatment and care services

### *Strategic priorities*

*5. Prevent drug use and raise awareness of the adverse effects of drugs*

*6. Ensure access to and strengthen treatment and care services*

### 3. Addressing drug-related harm

#### Objective

Policies  
Measures

Prevent  
or  
Reduce

- Health risks
- Social risks
- Harm for users
- Harm for society
- Harm in prison settings

### 3. Addressing drug-related harm *Strategic Priorities*

*7: Risk- and harm-reduction interventions and other measures to protect and support people who use drugs*

*8: Address the health and social needs of people who use drugs in prison settings and after release*

# Conclusion

**The long series of EU Drugs Strategies and Action Plans adopted by EU Member States since 1990 have increasingly consolidated EU drugs policy principles in a unifying common, balanced, evidence-based approach.**

**The EU Drugs Strategy represents a pragmatic, realistic, health and human rights oriented drugs policy.**

**There is a need for professionals in and outside Europe to publicise it, spread its principles and use it in programmes and projects.**

