



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Estimation of drug dependence and problem drug use in EU: role and contribution of the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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Problem Drug use – what we are looking for?

- PDUs are core group of health and social problems, large impact on society
- Mostly a small proportion of all drug use
- Often later part of heavy drugs ‘careers’
- High morbidity, mortality (overdose, diseases)
- Difficult to measure, but highly policy relevant



PDU indicator – objectives

- To estimate the prevalence of PDU/IDU in EU member states (cross-sectional, comparative)
- To follow trends over time (serial prevalence estimates, trends in incidence)
- If possible with additional funding: to understand risk mechanisms, drug careers and relationship with interventions (harm reduction, treatment)



EMCDDA Definition – PDU (1)

- Is defined as: “**injecting drug use or long/regular use of heroin, cocaine and /or amphetamines**”
- Ecstasy and cannabis are not included
- No direct relationship with ICD or DSM classifications
- Global definition, results will vary according to exact estimation method and data used
- Recent changes in drug use patterns under discussion (poly-use, stimulants etc)



PDU indicator – concept (1)

- Drug possession and/or drug use in most countries prosecuted
- Drug users who are visible
 - Open scenes, addicts in treatment, prison, drug-deaths, etc.
- Drug users who are not visible - hidden population
 - Unproblematic socially integrated drug users
 - Users at the start of their career
- Estimating the hidden population
 - Using available data and applying an appropriate model

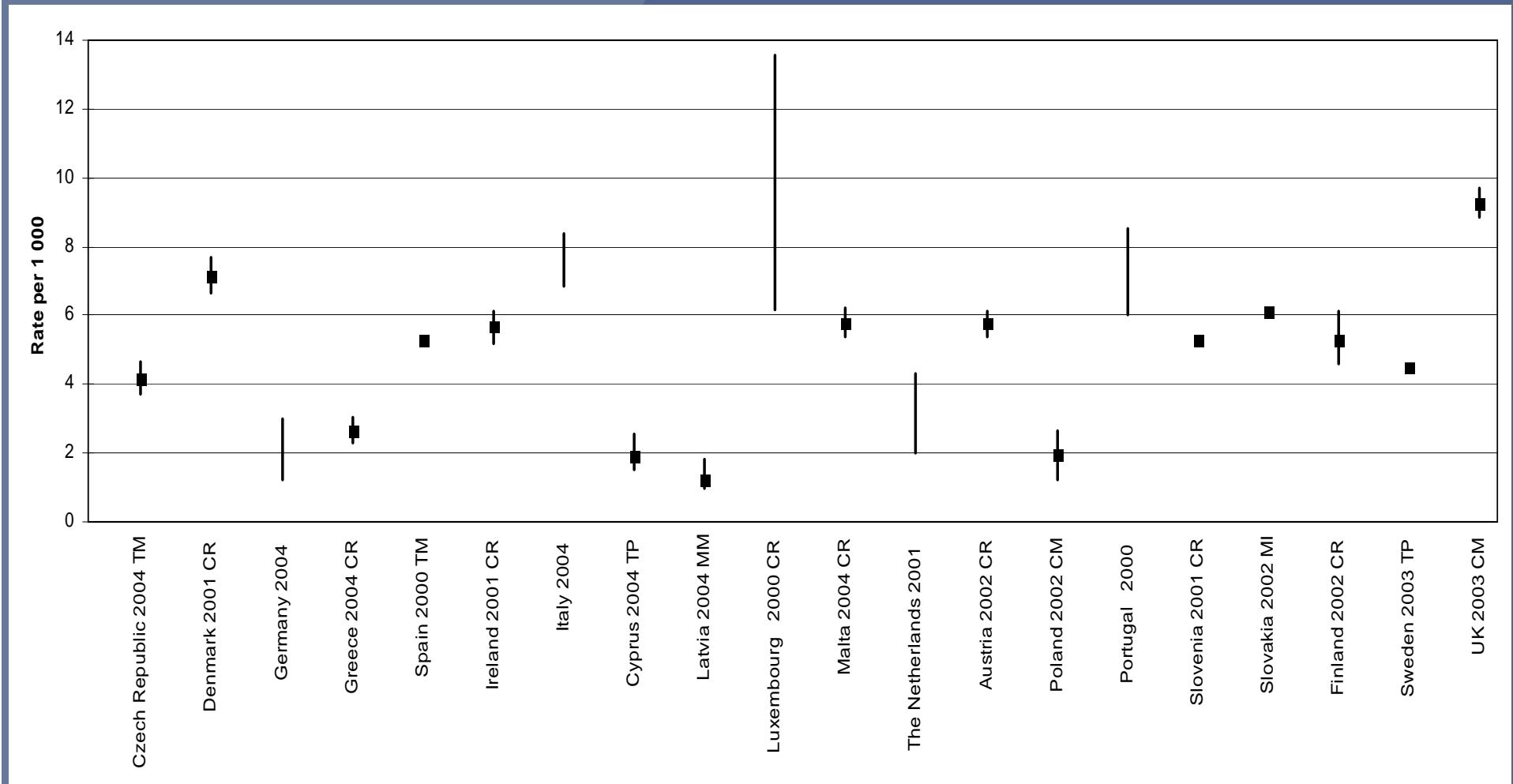


PDU indicator – concept (2)

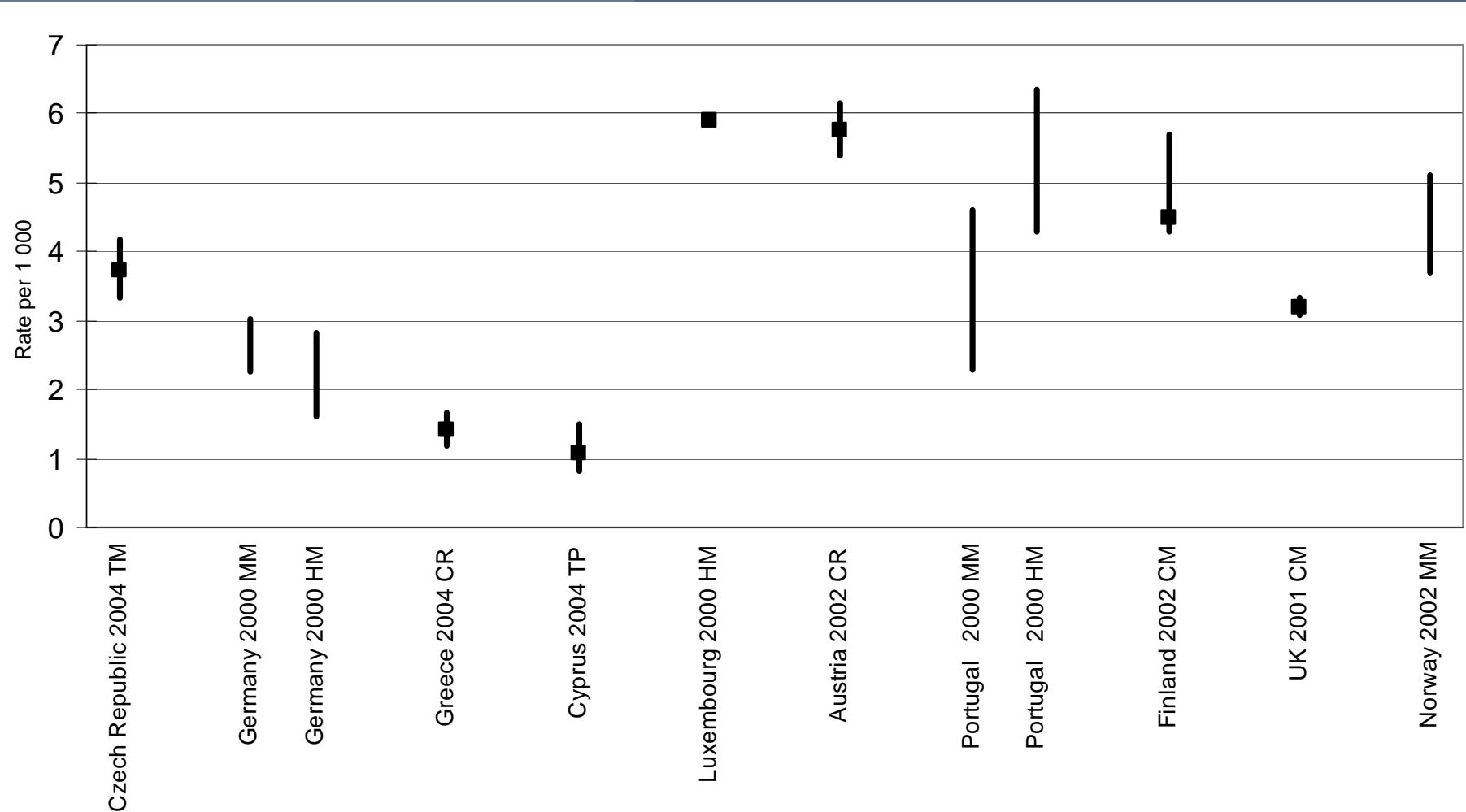
- Multiplier Methods
 - Extrapolation from treatment data
 - Extrapolation from police data
 - Extrapolation from drug-related deaths data
 - Extrapolation from HIV/AIDS data
- Capture-Recapture (2, 3 or more samples)
- Multivariate Indicator Method
- Other (demographic method, truncated Poisson, case finding, nomination etc.)



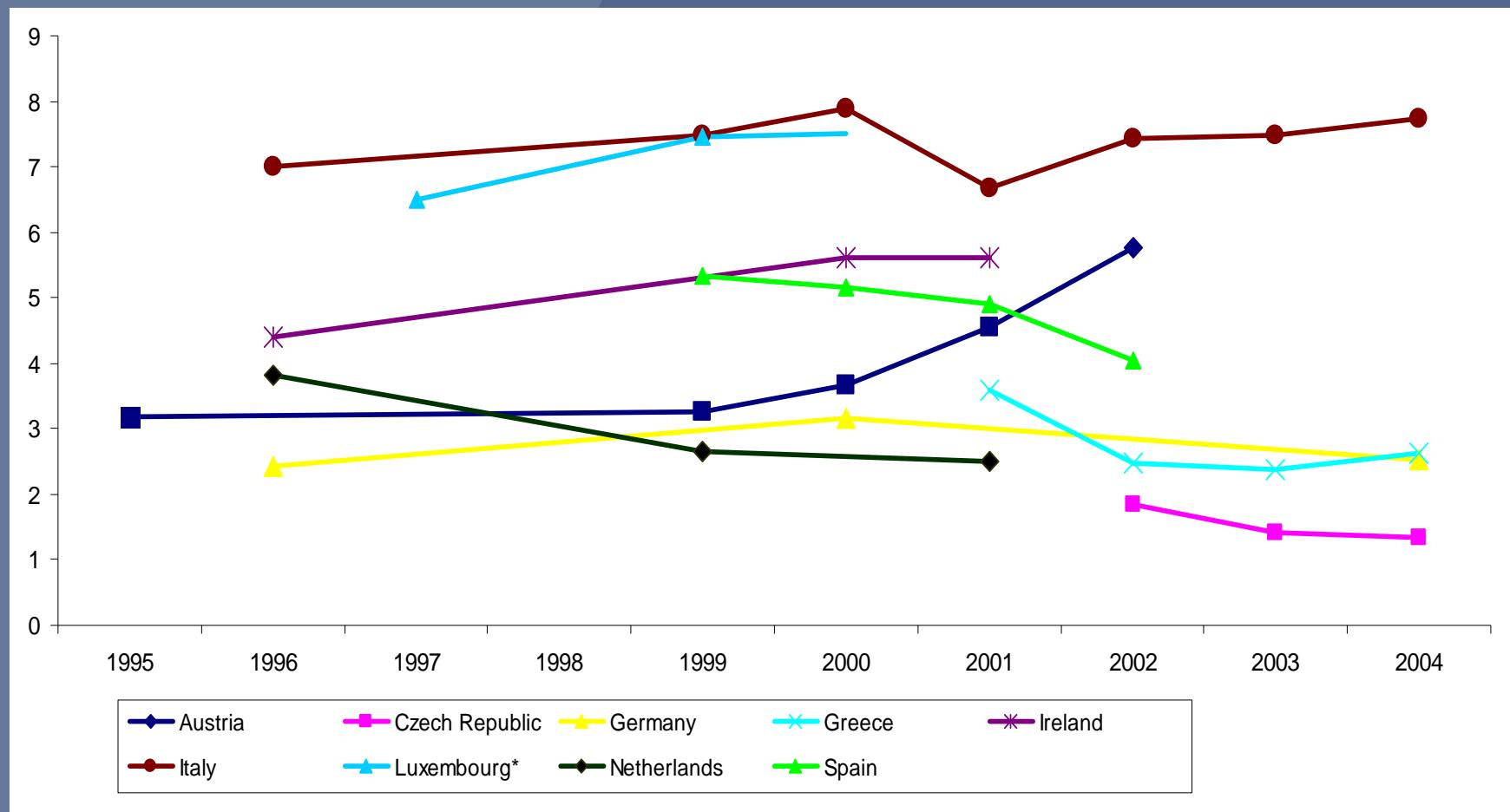
Estimates of the prevalence of problem drug use, 2000-2004 (rate per 1000 population aged 15-64)



Estimates of the prevalence of injecting drug use, 2000-2004 (rate per 1000 population aged 15-64)



Trends in the prevalence of problem opioid use, rate per 1000 population aged 15-64



PDU – Current issues

- Strengthen capacity, commitments and resources for ongoing PDU monitoring
- Develop better estimates for: IDUs, Stimulants, (other drugs?)
- Reach conclusion on PDU definition
- Reduce number of recommended methods
- Decide how to deal with poly-problematic use
- Development of minimal requirements at national level?

