



Signals and recommendations by the Group Leaders -Group of the policy makers (Group Leader Dr. Pietsch)

- It is a matter of fact that politicians need policy makers because they rely on them
- Therefore it is important to define the role of policy makers
- Policy makers such as experts in the scientific field as well

as in the practitioners field should be brought together in organised and structured institutions focused on a local/regional/national/international level

- Results of ongoing discussions should be achieved in a bottom up process which enables politicians to decide on facts and expert opinions
- It is of utmost importance that there should be a consensus on minimum quality, standards, criteria and bench marks for prevention and specific programmes
- All relevant stakeholders including NGOs and representatives of civil society should get involved in the decision making process.
- Therefore it is necessary to establish a self confident and strong networking, comprehensive cooperation and constructive coordination on local/regional/national/international level
- Collecting of reliable and comparable data according to a certain monitoring is precondition for a rational political decision and prevention of emotional discussions
- Without doubt there is a strong need for ongoing motivated discussions and exchange of views between administrative authorities, experts in the field and politicians to gain a necessary balance between what policy desires and experts and advisory councils recommend
- Budget and funding problems are crucial: it will be the challenge to get addressed in an appropriate manner especially regarding the role and value signs of politicians as well as of other stakeholders including the representatives of industry to avoid discussions on “good” or “bad” money
- Last but not least evaluation should be primarily conducted as an instrument for practical improvements to interventions; if it is reduced to a means to convince fund raisers to lobby for resources, this will distort the scope and purpose and reduce the usefulness of the results
- Policy decisions are based on results and various outcomes; we have to be aware that there are always different expectations, controversial proposals and hardly ever only one solution. But it is up to us – whether we are stakeholders or policy makers – to influence all of them. Let’s face the challenges in a spirit of achieving common goals of prevention and drug policies.