

## ***Evaluation of the 2005–2009 Czech Drug Policy Strategy: Research Design and the Summary of the Main Results***



KIŠŠOVÁ, L.<sup>1</sup>, MRAVČÍK, V.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Secretariat of the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Prague

<sup>2</sup> National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Prague

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**BACKGROUND:** The recognition of the need to evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of national drug policies has become an integrated part of approved drug policy documents. Countries face the issue of adequate evaluations of their national drug strategies/programmes and/or action plans; the issue of appropriate design and methodology is a topic for discussion among researchers and policy analysts. The Czech Republic was also confronted with this issue when evaluating its National Drug Policy Strategy for the Period 2005–2009 at the turn of 2010. **AIMS:** This article describes the research design, methods, and main findings of the evaluation of the Czech drug policy in the last five years. **METHODOLOGY:** The Czech drug policy evaluation was based on a (simplified) policy cycle model. It focused on the phase of the formulation of drug policy documents, their implementation and subsequently on the outcomes of the drug policy. Different methods of data collection and analysis were used with respect to the focus (of the individual segments) of evaluation: document analysis, semi-structured interviews, questionnaire surveys, SWOT analy-

sis in working groups and analysis of epidemiological data sets. **FINDINGS:** The evaluation succeeded in describing the level and status of the accomplishment of the strategic goals in broader terms: the evaluation identified factors which may have had an influence on the achievement of the strategic goals during both the formulation and implementation of the drug policy. The results indicate that the nature and potential of the activities incorporated in the action plan and their successful implementation correspond with the level of fulfilment of the strategic goals, the achievement of which they were intended to contribute to. **CONCLUSIONS:** The lessons learned during the evaluation process, together with the evaluation findings, contribute to the debate on research into the drug policy and its evaluation. The evaluation provided qualitative feedback on the formulation phase of the drug policy and its implementation, development and outcomes in the period 2005–2009. It also provided input facilitating reflection on the drug policy and the development of drug policy documents in the future.

**KEY WORDS:** DRUG POLICY – POLICY EVALUATION – NATIONAL DRUG POLICY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – DRUG POLICY STAKEHOLDERS – EVALUATION DESIGN – EVALUATION METHODS

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**Address for correspondence:** Lucia Kiššová / [kissova.lucia@vlada.cz](mailto:kissova.lucia@vlada.cz) / Secretariat of the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, nábřeží E. Beneše 4, 118 01 Prague 1, Czech Republic