



# EDPQS Toolkit 1: Selecting quality drug prevention initiatives for funding and support (Funding & Decision-Making Toolkit)

## Overview

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## About the EDPQS project

The EDPQS provide a set of principles to help develop and assess the quality of drug prevention. They offer a comprehensive resource outlining all the elements of drug prevention activities. The EDPQS have been developed by the European Prevention Standards Partnership from a research project co-funded by the European Union. The Partnership undertook a review and synthesis of existing international and national standards as well as consulting with more than 400 professionals in six European countries. The EDPQS are the first European reference point on high quality drug prevention based on a consensus incorporating scientific evidence and practical experience.

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## Further information

Please visit our website for additional materials on the EDPQS: [www.prevention-standards.eu](http://www.prevention-standards.eu)



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# Overview of EDPQS Toolkit 1

**This Toolkit is targeted towards policy-makers, policy-managers, policy-officers, decision-makers, commissioners and funders working in the field of drug prevention or health promotion at national, regional, county or local administrative levels.**

It aims to help those undertaking these roles and responsibilities to assure quality in the drug prevention related activities they support, or which they have been asked to consider for funding or other forms of investment.

It is intended to assist the decision making process by providing basic information about:

- i)** What quality means in drug prevention;
- ii)** Why quality is important; and
- iii)** How to achieve quality within drug prevention programmes.

In most cases it is *policy-makers, policy-managers, policy-officers* or *other decision-makers* that are responsible for developing and implementing policies, strategies and action plans. They may also be responsible for wider strategies including initiating plans related to health promotion or social development that encompasses drug prevention.

*Commissioners* work in diverse settings (e.g. government ministries, municipalities or schools, in a range of roles including local community/municipality managers/officers, school head teachers). They have the responsibility of making decisions about which health promotion and/or drug prevention interventions are selected and implemented, or what health promotion and/or prevention organisations are commissioned to implement a specific initiative or programme.

*Funders* are responsible for developing and implementing selection and funding mechanisms in order to finance initiatives, programmes and projects, whose focus includes drug prevention. They work in cooperation with policy makers and commissioners. In certain cases these roles are overlapping and are undertaken by the same person, organisation or body.

The Toolkit is based on the European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS), developed by the European Prevention Standards Partnership. The EDPQS manual provides a set of principles for helping to assess the quality of drug prevention by offering one comprehensive resource outlining all the formal elements that contribute towards high quality drug prevention activities.

# Components of Toolkit 1

Materials are available from <http://prevention-standards.eu/toolkit-1/>

- Overview
- Policy Guide
  - Policy Guide Part 1: Challenges for selecting quality prevention initiatives.
  - Policy Guide Part 2: Key issues for quality drug prevention.
- Assessment Quality Criteria Checklist: selecting and reviewing quality drug prevention programmes for funding and support.

## The Policy Guide Parts 1 and 2

The Policy Guide considers a range of issues related to drug prevention. It explores the drug prevention field with a particular focus on achieving high quality. It examines the different aspects of drug prevention programmes, considering important items for those who are in decision-making positions. It assumes that those in these positions such as policy-makers, commissioners and funders are faced with making difficult decisions given the expectation that they have to serve the public good and tackle a wide range of serious health and social issues, such as drug prevention, against a backdrop of economic and financial constraints. The Policy Guide offers clear recommendations on how to consider options for drug prevention work based on, and in order to achieve, high quality.

The Policy Guide Part 1 has a focus on some important general issues:

- Challenges for achieving quality in drug prevention.
- How policy can support quality.
- How policy can better support everyday practice by ensuring good selection and funding mechanisms are in place.

The Policy Guide Part 2 addresses some key issues for quality with an emphasis on:

- The practical aspects of needs assessment.
- Evaluation in drug prevention programme planning.
- Sustainability of programmes.
- Ethical issues.

The Policy Guide also suggests other resources that can be accessed for a deeper insight into the issues raised.

## The Assessment Quality Criteria Checklist

The Assessment Quality Criteria Checklist is an aid to help the prospective funders, commissioners, policy-makers and decision-makers review drug prevention proposals in a systematic way. It is a practical tool that should be adapted to meet local circumstances and used in everyday practice to support assessment in the funding decision-making process, as well as during the follow-up of the implementation of existing supported programmes.

