



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000
www.oas.org

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FIFTY-SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION
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PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH AS A BASE FOR DRUG POLICY: THE PORTUGUESE EXPERIENCE

Public health approach as a base for drug policy: the Portuguese experience

57th Session on the Interamerican Drug Abuse Control Commission - CICAD

Washington, 1st May 2015

M. D. João Goulão

National Coordinator on Drugs, Drug Addiction and the Harmful Use of Alcohol

General-Director for Intervention on Addictive Behaviors and Dependencies



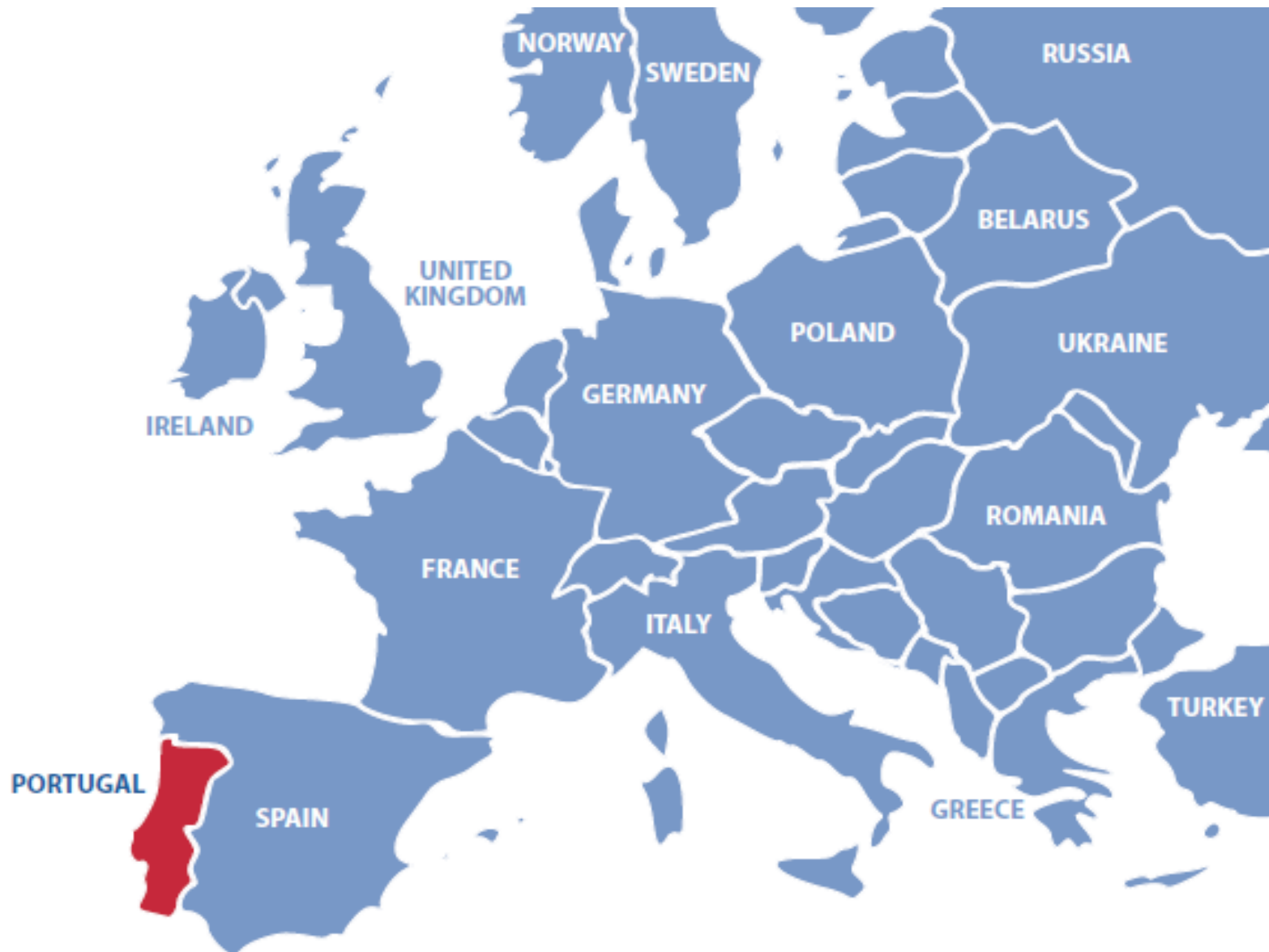
MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE



SICAD

Serviço de Intervenção nos Comportamentos Aditivos e nas Dependências

GEO-DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION



GEO-DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION



➤ Population	10.6m
➤ North/South	652 km
➤ East/West	218 km
➤ Surface	92 000 Km²

1990's:

Heroin, injection, HIV => **CRISIS**

Ongoing national debate:

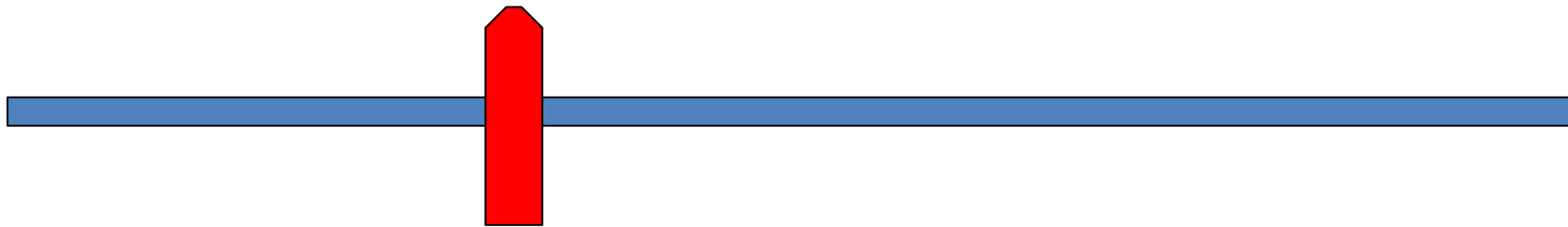
Criminalise / incarcerate users, addicts?

1998: Appointment of commission to define a new national strategy on drugs

Where should the balance be?

Punishment

Alternative



1. Reinforce International Cooperation...
2. Decriminalise consumption, forbidding it as unlawful administrative offense
3. Redirect towards prevention...
4. Expand and improve the care network...
5. Extend harm reduction policies...
6. Promote and encourage social reintegration...
7. Ensure access to treatment for addicted prisoners...
8. Enlargement to other dependencies and addictive behaviours...

...

From July 2001: Decriminalisation



Up to 10 doses, no supply

⇒ Administrative offence

⇒ CDT (Ministry of Health)

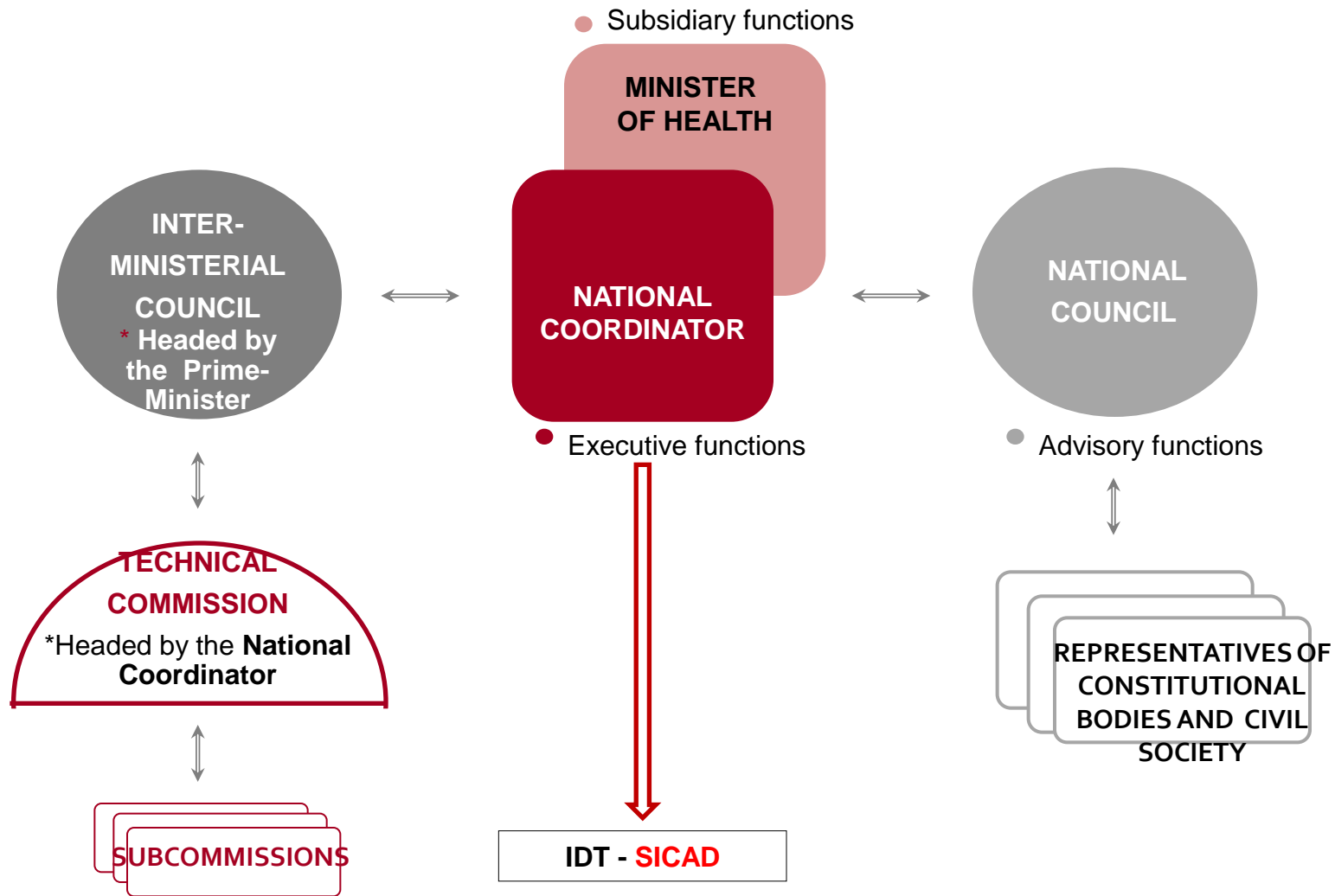
More than 10 doses, no supply

⇒ Criminal offence

⇒ Court (Ministry of Justice)

- CDT (Comissão para a Dissuasão da Toxicodependencia):
- Exist in every district, see every user
- 3 members (Ministries of Justice and Health), plus support team.
- Aim: treat any addiction and rehabilitate the person using the most appropriate interventions
- Options: warnings; banning from certain places or from meeting certain people; obligation of periodic visits to a defined place; removal of professional licence or firearms licence; fines (not for addicts), which may vary by drug involved.

COORDINATION STRUCTURE FOR DRUGS, DRUG ADDICTION AND THE HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL



THE INTERMINISTERIAL COUNCIL

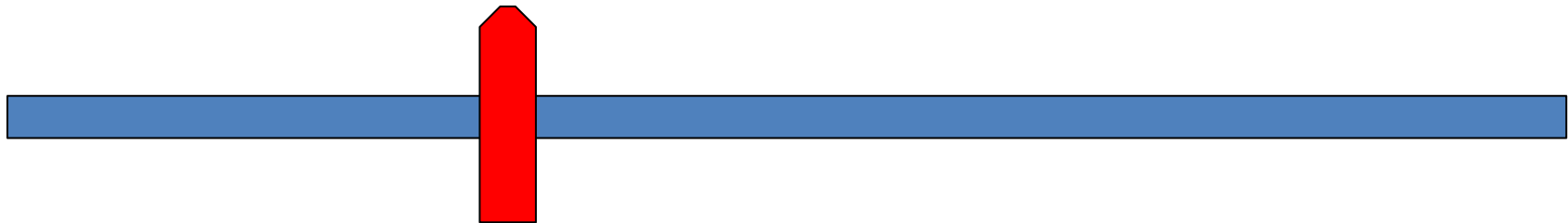


The balance in Portugal

UN Conventions – “*may provide, as alternatives to conviction or punishment,*”

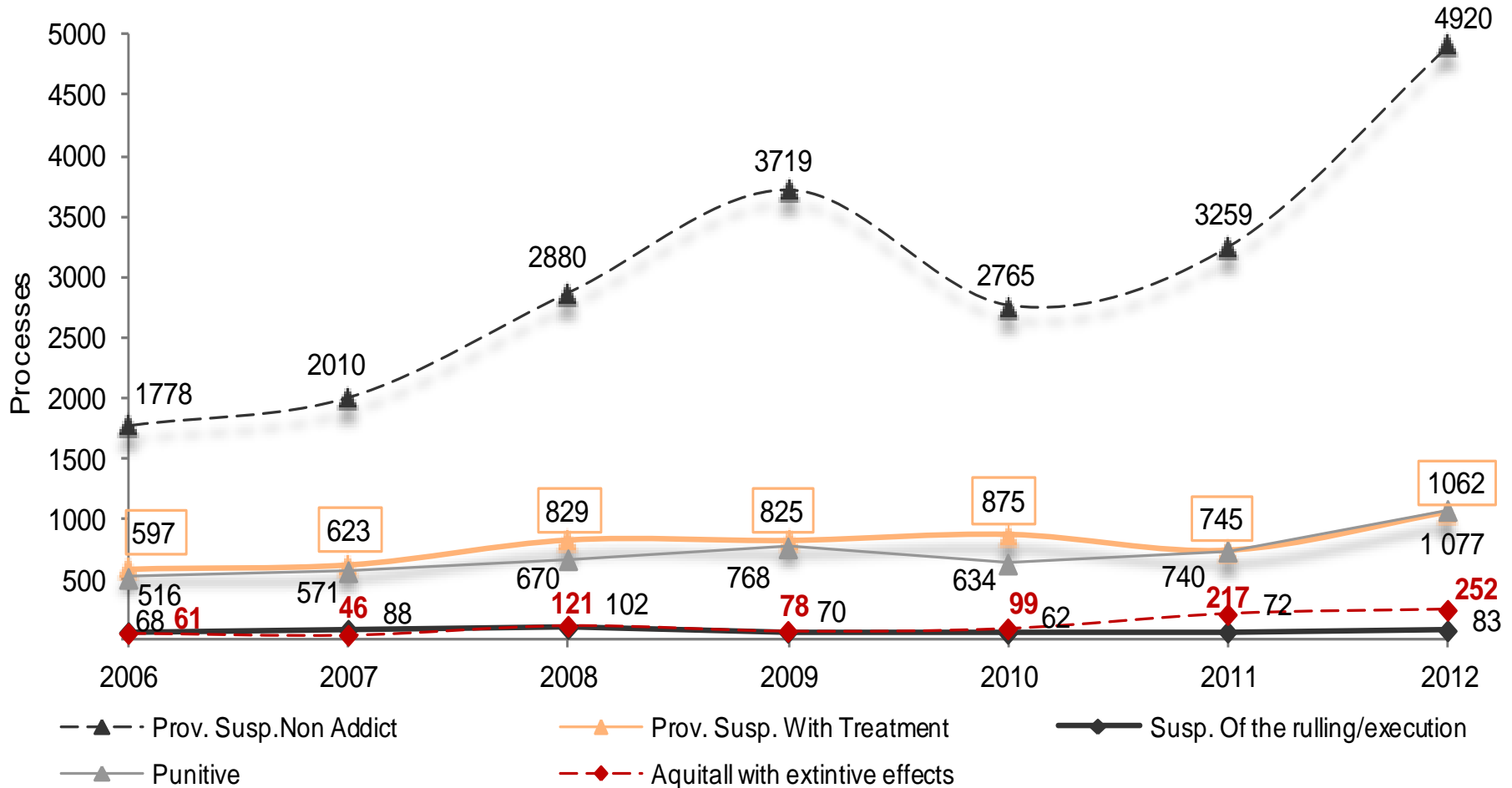
Punishment

Alternative

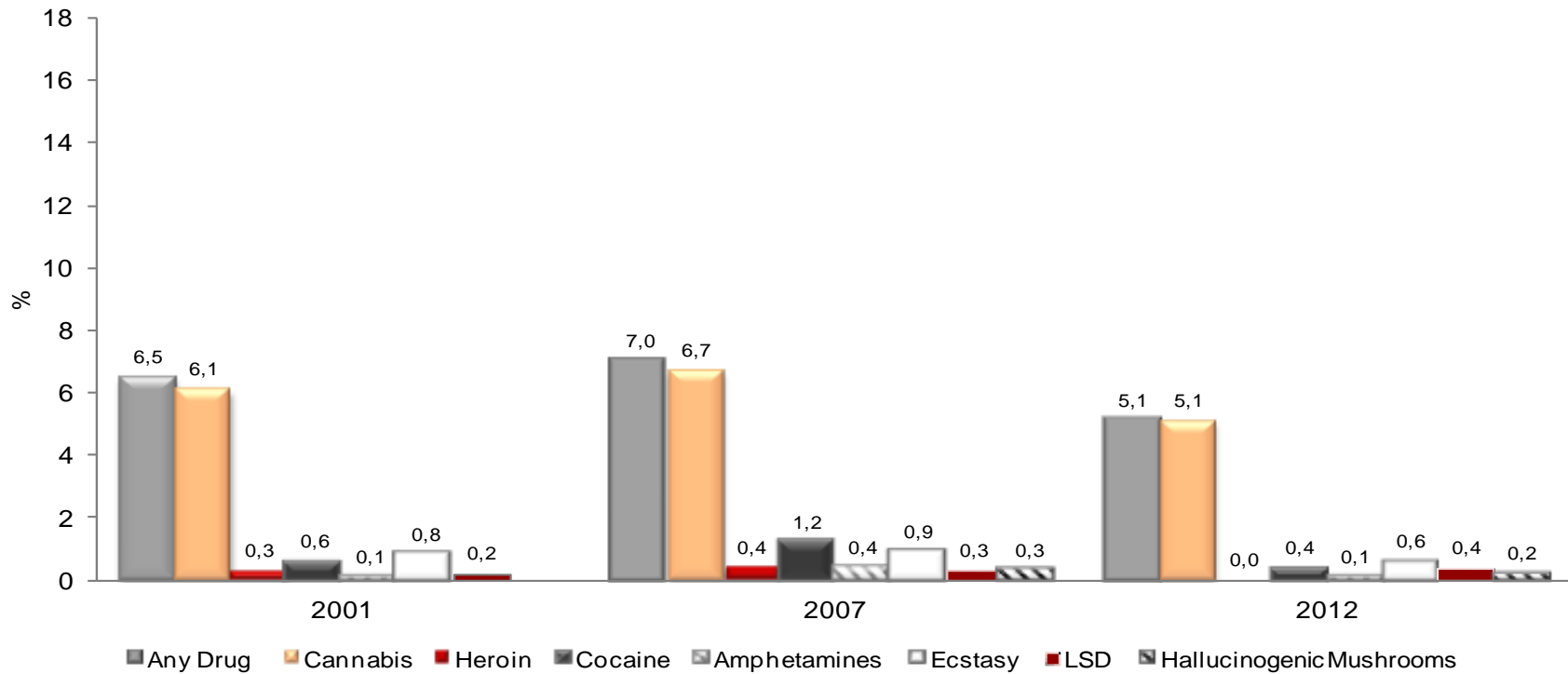


Consistent and coherent...

CDT Rulings 2006-2012

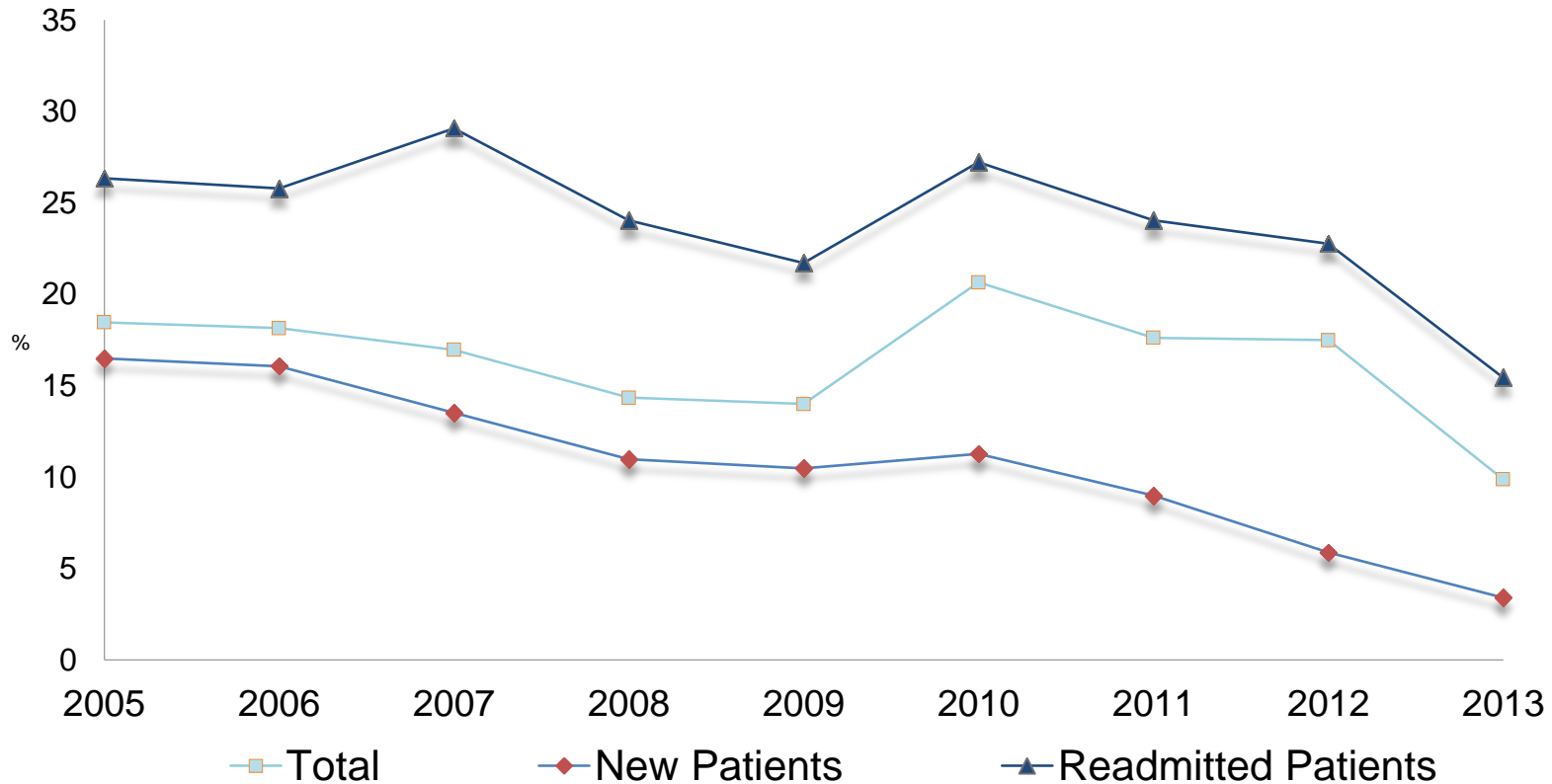


Young Adult Population (15-34 years), last 12 months prevalence, by type of drug (%)



Intravenous drug use in the last 12 months

Patients starting treatment in the year: Public Network– Outpatient



Evaluation – does it work?

Positivist:

- Many statistics, many interpretations
- “Resounding success” or “disastrous failure”?
- How much has the situation changed because of the policy?

Social Constructivist:

- Various governments of different colours have not changed the system
- Not mentioned in national Parliament
- Not a concern of the public

General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviors and Dependencies (SICAD)

Thank you for your attention

joao.goulao@sicad.min-saude.pt

www.sicad.pt