“Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol”

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Illicit drugs’ impact

- UNODC: 29 million people drug abuse disorders
  14% HIV – every year some 300,000 deaths
- In the EU alone: 8,000 to 9,000 deaths every year
- EU estimated value of illicit drugs market: € 25 billion
- Rapid changes: NPS in 2018: 55; now 730 – Oxycodone in US, swapping over
Impact of our most popular drug: alcohol

WHO: 5% global burden of disease

- 12% of all cancers
- cardio vascular diseases
- accidents
- Dependence, e.g. in AUT some 350,000 alcoholics
What these statistics don’t show

- Disturbance of public order and safety
- Misery in countless families
- Disruption of the social fabric
- Costs to public budget
- Resource utilisation in health and social welfare + law enforcement etc.
Nothing we can do?

• A growing body of scientific evidence over effective strategies and measures

• Requiring proactive involvement of relevant sectors, including social welfare
The role of the European Centre

- Previous publications and projects
- Association and partnerships with
  - WHO
  - The European Alcohol Policy Network (APN)
    - February 2019: Workshop West Ukraine
    - APN Symposium October 2019: “Lisbon Addictions”
- European Commission projects: EPPIC + SWaPol
Prevention and treatment of substance abuse

1. Drug abuse as a problem of health and as a problem of criminal justice
2. Health services in criminal justice systems – varieties of diversion
3. Criminal justice clients in drug prevention
4. Treatment of drug users in public space: Cooperation between social work and policing
5. Further research topics
Caution the offender
Conditional suspension of prosecution
Deferring the execution of sentence
Drug treatment courts
Conditional early release on probation

In-patient homes and hospitals
“Attenuated custody” – drug treatment in prisons
Out-patient / ambulant treatment
Psycho-therapy
Early intervention - counselling services
Case management – “peer navigators”
Medical treatment, substitution therapy
Psychiatry
Psychology
Pedagogics: Vocational training
Social Work: Probation services
Counselling and case management
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

SOCIAL WORK AND POLICING
Vocational Training in Public Order Management

Austria

Belgium

Portugal

Preliminary Training Package --- Pilot Trainings

Revision

Revision

Revision

Training schedule
Handbook for trainers

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union
Structure of the training (3 “modules”):

1. Public order management – Cooperation between Social Work and Police
2. Substance use among young people: Prevention and harm reduction in nightlife
3. Homelessness
Further research, project ideas, learning from good practice ...

- **Trust relations** in Health Professions in Criminal Justice Systems
- Comparative research on **effectiveness of alcohol policies**
Thank you for your attention

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