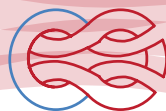


NEWSLETTER



DRUG POLICY
NETWORK SEE

JANUARY - MARCH 2016



DPNSEE Board Meeting in Belgrade, Serbia



DPNSEE Office in Belgrade established!



**Vienna
59th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**

News from the organizations of the Network

Association Margina

Regular Activities regarding Harm
Reduction programs

NGO 4Life

- Centre for rehabilitation & re-socialization of women addicted to Drugs
- New cooperation with local authorities
- At the Parliamentary Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare
- National Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse

Association Prevent

- European Health Program in Serbia

NGO Viktorija

- Regular Activities regarding Harm
Reduction programs

UPCOMING EVENTS

3-4/6/2016: "Drug Policy after the UNGASS"
Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece

26/6/2016: International Day against Drug
Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

DPNSEE Board Meeting in Belgrade, Serbia

On February 15, 2016 a meeting of the DPNSEE Board took place in Belgrade, Serbia. Firstly, Board members made an assessment regarding the developments of the network's progress since 2015. We remind that the official registration of DPNSEE (Drug Policy Network in South East Europe) has taken place on October 15th, 2015. The organization acquired legal status by registering at the competent authority (Business Registers Agency) in Belgrade. The registration of the Network as a legal entity was one of the main objectives of the project Strengthening NGO capacity and promoting public health and human rights oriented drug policy in South East Europe. Also, the members of the Board discussed in detail about the Action Plan of 2016. The actions of the project, the budgetary consequences and timeline for each activity were examined. Moreover, it was decided to start the recruitment of the executive director, the secretariat and the financial officer for the new office of DPNSEE in Belgrade. It was agreed to nominate a selection committee for this reason. The persons of the selection committee for the recruitment of the personnel were: Thanasis Apostolou, Vlatko Dekov and Denis Dedajic. The next Board meeting was decided to take place in combination with the UNGASS Conference that will take place in June 2016 in Thessaloniki, Greece

DPNSEE Office in Belgrade established! Staff presentation

The Board of the Drug Policy Network South East Europe appointed members of the Staff at the end of March. A small and enthusiastic team of three took over their positions on 1st April. Most of their work in the first month was concentrated on arranging the Office in newly rented premises in Belgrade and fighting with the necessary administrative hurdles. The Staff is now looking forward to preparing the Board meeting and participating in the Diogenis conference in early June. That will be an excellent opportunity to meet the member organisations and get fully involved in the life of the Network.

The Staff members are:

Milutin Milošević Executive director Milutin is informatics engineer with Master in management, but for the whole life he was engaged in the non-profit sector, managing organisations, from strategic decisions to hands on actions, or supporting community service networks. Originally Scout, he also worked in the areas of environment and youth work, on national level, in South East Europe and internationally. His key strengths are organisational development, human capital management and training, but his interests range from photography and blogging to talent management and emotional literacy. More about Milutin is available at <https://ch.linkedin.com/in/milutinm>

Irena Molnar Staff secretary of the Network Irena has BA in Anthropology and at the moment she is graduate student of Southeast European Studies at University of Athens, Faculty of political science. As an anthropologist she was interested in social aspects of drug use that led her professional career development to engagement in drug policy and its reform. Throughout years she was involved in projects supporting vulnerable communities like Roma and youth in risk. In addition, she is actively advocating for implementation of nightlife outreach programs in Serbia. Irena is co-founder and program officer of the NGO Re Generation and board member of Youth Organizations for Drug Action in Europe (YODA). She is active in video advocacy work and interested in research concerning new ways of education and sensibilization of society regarding psychoactive substances and substance use. More about Irena is available at <https://rs.linkedin.com/in/syrehna>

Julijana Daskalov Chief Financial Officer Julijana is a seasoned civil society and development professional with 20 plus years of progressive experience that ranges from providing direct technical assistance to youth and environmental organizations and up to strategic planning to central and local governments, designing and conducting trainings, to managing complex capacity building projects. She holds BA degree on Foreign trade and exercises her creativity in budgeting and financial management. Julijana managed, monitored and implemented large civil sector reform programs in South-Eastern Europe. Certified international Feng Shui practitioner, person who loves to travel and discover, she is active citizen who advocates alternative urban transport, as modest contribution towards mitigation of climate change. More about Julijana is available at <https://mk.linkedin.com/in/julijanadaskalov>

ASSOCIATION MARGINA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Regular Activities regarding Harm Reduction programs

During the first quarter of 2016, Association Margina continued its activities and direct work with beneficiaries in the field of harm reduction (PWID1 and PWID serving their sentences in prisons. From January to March (2016), Margina's staff responsible for outreach work and drop-in centers reached a total of 1061 new clients and recorded a total of 3144 contacts with clients. Through those contacts, a total of 3289 IEC (Informational and Educational Materials) and 4831 condoms were distributed. Also, clients received over 67000 units of sterile needles and syringes, alongside with other materials or injecting equipment (tourniquets, cookers, alcohol pads etc.) and at the same time a total of 47975 pieces of used injection equipment was collected back from the clients and will be sent to company specialized in the removal of infectious waste. Regarding PWID serving their sentences in prisons, once a month our outreach workers visit four prisons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the same period, they reached a total of 188 clients and made 195 contacts within prison setting. A total of 2511 condoms, 459 lubricants and 657 IEC were distributed. Every client receives social counseling and information about post-penal protection and their post-release choices. Prison visits are conducted in cooperation with medical teams from VCCT centers, so every client gets an opportunity to be tested for HIV and Hepatitis as well. All clients and their families can be tested and receive social or legal advice, if they need so. A couple of clients are being prepared to enter a treatment program, so they and their families are undergoing preparation needed for this process through social counseling.



NGO 4LIFE

MONTENEGRO

Centre for rehabilitation & re-socialization of women addicted to Drugs

In January 2016, the Centre for rehabilitation and re-socialization of women addicted to drugs was officially opened in Kakaricka Gora, Podgorica. The centre was inaugurated by the Mayor of Podgorica, Slavoljub Stijepović, in the presence of project partners, representatives of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, President of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, and numerous guests. The initiative for its construction was realized as part of the project "Rehabilitation and re-socialization of psychoactive substances addicts in Montenegro", which is financially supported by the European Union in cooperation with the Government of Montenegro and the Capital. Project leader is the public institution for accommodation, rehabilitation and re-socialization of psychoactive substances in Podgorica, and project partners are the main town, Niksic Municipality, Tivat Municipality, the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro and NGO "4 LIFE". The total budget of the project is 620,000 euros, 62 percent of which was funded by the European Union Delegation to Montenegro, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2011), Component 1 Support for the reform of local government, "Grant Program for inter-municipal development". The centre was built according to modern standards in this area, and it is planned to accommodate up to 16 women.

New cooperation with local authorities

In order to strengthen and establish rehabilitation treatment for drug addicts and drug users in the north of Montenegro, a cooperation was agreed between the Municipality of Bijelo Polje and NGO 4 Life for a two-year project which is planned to be implemented in two phases. In the first phase of the project, NGO 4 Life in cooperation with the Office for Drug Prevention in Bijelo Polje, established a Counseling Center for drug addicts and their families. Counseling services officially started on the 12th of January in 2016 and are available two days per week (Monday and thursday from 10.00 -15.00) in the Office for Drug Prevention in Bijelo Polje, carried out by the expert team of NGO 4 Life. In addition to counseling services, drug addicts receive treatment through NGO 4 Life program. Also, during the first phase of the project, the following activities will be provided: production and distribution of related informational flyers, a roundtable discussion with representatives of the police, prosecutors, courts, health centers, hospital of Bijelo Polje, school principals and teachers on the project objectives and the establishment of cooperation, maintenance of prevention lectures in schools for students and parents and training of professional staff working with drug addicts using NGO 4 Life program. In the second phase, it is envisaged that Counseling services as described in the first phase will grow into the Daily Center for helping drug addicts, modeled on the Daily Center of the NGO "4 LIFE" in Podgorica, where trained professional staff will continue to lead and implement activities under professional supervision and supervision of an expert team by NGO "4 LIFE". This phase will take place during the second year of the project, after which the Centre will start to function independently.

Moreover, NGO 4 Life, within the context of the aforementioned project "Rehabilitation and resocialization of psychoactive substances addicts in Montenegro", conducted two studies: "Situation Analysis The position of drug addicts in Montenegrin society" and the output study "Prospects for the development of addiction diseases treatment of women in Montenegro". More information you can find in www.nvo4life.me

At the Parliamentary Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare

Besides, NGO 4 Life was present at 119 sessions of the Parliamentary Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare dedicated to the current situation in the field of drug abuse in Montenegro. Representatives of the organizations NGO 4 Life, Juventas, Cazas and Preporod met Committee members and discussed about the current situation, providing 25 measures and recommendations/requests to implement in order to improve the current situation. It was pointed out that urgent steps must be taken to: primarily strengthen prevention programs, support existing services in order to protect addicts and their families, provide free rehabilitation and social reintegration services, provide increased access to treatment, opioid substitution therapy, form the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and include NGO representatives in the decision making, as well as to include NGO representatives in the National Council for the prevention of drug abuse. The Chairman of the Committee, Zoran Jelic said that all or some those proposals are going to be recommended for adoption and implementation by the relevant ministries.



National Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse



Finally, after a public call NGO 4 Life, Mr. Filip Vujanovic - President of Montenegro and also Chairman of the State Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse - held a session of the National Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse. Mr. Mijovic Sasa, the executive director of NGO 4 Life was present at this meeting and presented an analysis on the situation in Montenegro. NGO Preporod, Juventas and CAZAS were also represented. In order to improve the current situation and effectively address it, Council Members submitted 22 specific measures and recommendations, proposed by the participating NGOs.

ASSOCIATION PREVENT

SERVIA

European Health Program in Serbia**THE THIRD HEALTH PROGRAMME 2014-2020
FUNDING HEALTH INITIATIVES**

After six years of waiting, Serbia finally entered the European Health Program. By entering the third health program (2014-2020), Serbia has opened itself the possibility to improve the current situation on health care, extend and improve the capacity of health services through applying for funding from the European Union. "The Ministry of Health has recognized the benefits of this program, primarily aimed at improving the health care system within the development plan for the health care of the Republic of Serbia. The program runs until 31 December 2020 with a total budget of 446 million euros", said Mr. Zlatibor Loncar - Minister of Health. Serbia will get the opportunity to participate in major research projects in the field of health and healthcare. Mr. Michael Davenport - Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia - said that that participation in this program will open a wide range of new opportunities for the health sector in Serbia. Mr. Nebojsa Djurasovic, President of the Association Prevent, has attended the presentation of this program held in Belgrade in March 16th.



NGO VIKTORIJA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Association of citizens "Viktorija" as a sub-recipient of the means of Global Fond (GF) for Bosnia and Herzegovina and one of implementers of activities, showed significant success in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable populations, especially in the field of information, communication and behavior changing in the population of injecting drug users and prisoners. During January-March 2016, "Viktorija" is implementing activities such as the outreach work with drug users, peer education in prisons setting, prevention activities with IDUs in Drop-in centers, capacity building of non-government and government institution in the field of drug abuse, HIV and hepatitis, HIV and high risk profession, etc. During this quarter, the outreach and drop-in center staff (4 Drop-in centers in Banja Luka, Doboj, East Sarajevo and Trebinje) reached a total of 4684 contact with beneficiaries. Through those contacts, a total of 5409 IEC (informational and educational materials) and 5657 condoms were distributed. Moreover, beneficiaries received over 64676 units of sterile needles and syringes, alongside with other materials for injecting (tourniquets, cookers, alcohol pads etc.) and at the same time a total of 28040 pieces of used injection equipment was collected from the clients and will be sent to company specialized in the removal of infectious waste. Peer education work with prisoners is organized in all prisons in Republika Srpska (Banja Luka, Doboj, East Sarajevo, Bijeljina, Foca and Trebinje). Preventive activities based on peer education with prisoners who are trained to implement project activities - inform and educate prisoners about the problems such as HIV and blood born and sexually transmitted diseases. Prisoners had access to condoms, lubricants and printed educational material. It is also important to emphasize that the mobile unit team visited prisoners and provided HIV testing. During the last quarter, they reached a total of 426 clients. A total of 4507 condoms and 1049 IEC were distributed. Every client receives social counseling and gets informed about post-penal protection and what to do after they are released. Within the project outreach activities, each drug user is treated with respect, dignity, sensibility and respect for their cultural, ethical, gender and age background. Also, all preventive interventions in the field have been personalized for each individual person engaged in high risk behaviours. In addition, psychotherapy and counseling for drug users and their family members is provided. AC "Viktorija" is in a constant process of finding donors for harm reduction programs, but also is in constant cooperation with public institutions and other civil society organizations.



Vienna: 59th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs/ CND, March 2016

DPNSEE representatives attended the 59th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna from the 14th-22nd March, 2016. Our team in Vienna included: Thanasis Apostolou (President of the DPNSEE Board and Executive Director of the organization DIOGENIS Drug Policy Dialogue), Tanja Mandic (Deputy Treasurer of the DPNSEE Board and Finance Officer of NGO Victorija) and Galinaki Sofia (Advocacy officer at organization DIOGENIS Drug Policy Dialogue). CND is the central UN policy-making body in drug-related issues and meets every year to discuss the current situation and the developments regarding the global drug control system, the work program of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and to make decisions and adopt resolutions on the action needed for the upcoming years. 1500 delegates representing Member States, governmental and civil society organizations were present during this meeting in Vienna. This year's Session included a special segment on the preparation for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem that took place in April 2016 in New York. After intensive discussion, debate and negotiations, which stressed out the need of changing the current drug control system towards a public health and human rights oriented approach, Member States agreed on an outcome document to be adopted by the General Assembly at the UNGASS 2016.



Drug Policy after the UNGASS 2016

Heads of State, ministers and representatives of member states assembled at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 2016, recognized that, while tangible progress has been achieved in some fields, the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity and declared to reinforce national and international efforts to face those challenges. Expectations that the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations would be the culmination of the debate of the previous two years were not fulfilled. The Assembly has chosen to adopt the proposal of the CND at the very beginning of the session without discussion. This has taken away any dynamic of this event. Notwithstanding this rather disappointing procedure, the adopted document is valuable in many respects. We refer to four points that may be considered as the framework of action in the coming three years.

a. The approach to the drugs phenomenon is changing. The outcome document points out that human beings are to be placed at the centre of international and national drug policies, and that drug dependence as a treatable multi-factorial mental and physical health disorder has to be addressed "through effective scientific evidence - based drug treatment, care and rehabilitation program".

b. There is a recognition that initiatives which in the past were criticised and considered contrary to the conventions, are now subject of serious consideration. The paragraph on demand reduction contains an invitation to member states to consider, effective measures for prevention treatment and rehabilitation and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.

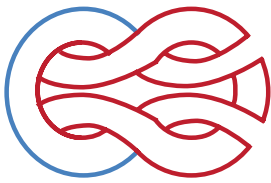
c. The UNGASS document refers to strong commitment to improving access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard.

d. The outcome document seems to create room for new approaches to drug policy. it calls upon the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide legal advice and assistance to States, upon request, for the revision and update of their drug policies, taking into account their different national realities and needs. It is a perspective that needs to be implemented by Member States, if they want to modernize their drug control system and make it fair and more effective.

You can read the full article [here](#)



Mr. Thanasis Apostolou Director NGO Diogenis – Drug Policy Dialogue



DRUG POLICY NETWORK SEE

ALIAT – Alliance for the Fight Against Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Romania

Romanian Harm Reduction Network (RHRN), Romania

Aksion Plus, Albania

Healthy Options Project Skopje (HOPS), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Juventas, Montenegro

The “South Eastern European and Adriatic Addiction Network”, SEEAN, Slovenia

NGO Viktorija, Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina

Association Margina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association Prevent, Novi Sad, Serbia

DIOGENIS, Drug Policy Dialogue, Greece

Centre for life, Greece

Positive Voice, Greece

NGO 4life, Montenegro

The newsletter is aiming to inform and keep updated organisations, institutions and individuals on drug policy developments along with news in the website and social media of the network. Our plan is to actively involve member organisations to report about their activities and about developments in their countries.

The Newsletter is prepared and published by the Diogenis, Drug Policy Dialogue.

Members of the drug policy network feed into the Newsletter following on topics related to criminal justice, social and Health programmes, human rights and events of interest.

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