

NEWSLETTER



DRUG POLICY
NETWORK SEE

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018



Budget Advocacy and Monitoring



Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges



New DPNSEE Staff members



"What stereotype are you?" - New awareness campaign for work stereotypes

News from the organizations of the Network

- Diogenis Drug Policy Dialogue, Greece
- "What stereotype are you?" - New awareness campaign for work stereotypes
 - International Overdose Awareness Day: Persons Who Use Drugs Count!
 - Call for proposals for an action plan on psychotropic substances in Athens.
 - Lecture: "Cannabis – Recent Legislative Developments"

UPCOMING EVENT

**DPNSEE General Assembly
scheduled**

Budget Advocacy and Monitoring



The Drug Policy Network South East Europe (DPNSEE) launched the project "Budget Advocacy and Monitoring in countries of South East Europe". The Open Society Foundations and the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association provided support to the project implementation. Since 2017, the Drug Policy Network South East Europe works with its member organizations from Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia on budget advocacy and monitoring. In December 2017, a training on the issue was organized for 11 participants coming from six harm reduction civil society organizations from the three countries.

The aim of the project is to support civil society advocacy for domestic investments in harm reduction in Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. Objectives include:

- Capacity building of NGOs active in Harm reduction programs through the technical assistance in field of budget advocacy
- Budget analysis, monitoring and advocacy of budget implementation and allocation for harm reduction

The civil society organizations from the three countries, engaged on harm reduction, public finances and public policies on local, regional and national level will benefit from the project. Indirect beneficiaries are communities of people who use drugs in the three countries who will have a sustained access to harm reduction services.

The project will be implemented in the period June 2018 - April 2019. We expect to achieve following outcomes:

- Three country budget analysis with identified sources for harm reduction produced and used in advocacy / distributed
- A regional summary of the country analysis produced and distributed/used in advocacy
- Three national trainings and one regional workshop conducted
- Mapping of national stakeholders with diverse skills and interests in harm reduction budget monitoring and advocacy in the three countries done
- Selection of three national consultancy teams
- Three national plans of action for budget analysis, monitoring and advocacy including terms of reference for budget analysis developed
- Budget advocacy conducted in the three countries in line with the national plans of action
- Regional support is tailored to country needs, proactive and timely to country monitoring and advocacy work

Partner organizations in countries will include leading DPNSEE member organizations in the area of harm reduction in the countries: Margina in Bosnia Herzegovina, Juventas in Montenegro and Prevent in Serbia. The training will be delivered by HOPS - Healthy Options and The Association for Emancipation and ESE - Solidarity and Equality of Women, the two experienced organizations from Skopje, FYRO Macedonia. The success of this project would be transferred to other countries in the region in the future and serve as the basis for a larger regional project.

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges



More than 15.000 researchers, activists and policy makers from more than 160 countries gathered in Amsterdam for the 22nd International AIDS Conference. The International AIDS Conference is the largest conference on any global health issue in the world. First convened during the peak of the AIDS epidemic in 1985, it continues to provide a unique forum for the intersection of science, advocacy, and human rights. Each conference is an opportunity to strengthen policies and programmes that ensure an evidence-based response to the epidemic.

The theme of AIDS 2018 was “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”, drawing attention to the need of rights-based approaches to more effectively reach key populations, including in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the North-African/Middle Eastern regions where epidemics are growing.

Six member organizations and DPNSEE had representatives at the Conference. We learned a lot of interesting things, met and discussed cooperation with many recent and new partners.

New DPNSEE Staff members

Following the decision of the DPNSEE Board made at the meeting held by Skype on 22 June 2018, a Call for new Staff members was opened on 16 August 2018. The Call was published at the DPNSEE website and social media and shared by a few member organizations and partners, including the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The deadline for applications was set to 27 August 2018. The DPNSEE Board, on its meeting held on 24 September 2018 via Skype, appointed:

Nenad Maletin for the Financial and Administrative Officer

Nenad is from Pančevo, a nearby city to Belgrade, born in 1975. He graduated at the Faculty for Management in Novi Sad, Serbia and was active in the civil society sector for more than two decades. Recently, he served as the Coordinator of the Youth Office and Director of the Youth Centre in his city and Programme Coordinator and Acting Secretary General of the National Youth Council of Serbia. He was providing consultancies on strategic documents to several municipalities in Serbia and is still consultant for certifying youth workers at the National Association of Youth Workers. Nenad has competencies in organizational management, change management, human resources, training, project management, administration, planning, monitoring and evaluation. He uses ICT, computer office programmes and has a fair level of English and German.

Snežana Šundić - Vardić for the Communications Officer

Snežana, from Belgrade, is a copywriter with skills in marketing, sales, blogging and social networking. She is a freelancer in on-line marketing, managing blog "Mother and child" (<http://mamaidete.blogspot.com/>) and portal "Allergy and me" (<http://alergijaija.com/>) and a few Facebook pages for companies. She provides consultancies for several companies and was awarded for her success in selling and growth.



DIOGENIS DRUG POLICY DIALOGUE

GREECE

“What stereotype are you?” - New awareness campaign for work stereotypes

The new awareness campaign by “Diogenis Drug Policy Dialogue” is about stereotypes at work and the rights of people with a history of substance use. As part of the campaign, a series of television spots with a targeted message from the company "The Storytelling Gene" were created with the impressive participation of actors from the actors' school: “Improvibe”. You can see the campaign's video on the link:

<https://youtu.be/wHuNKrJF668> while on Diogenis' YouTube channel, you can see all 6 characters / stereotypes <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvAuCijacNVa7jm9tPwlL8g>

At the same time, for the promotion of the campaign, on Wednesday, September 26, a special event was held under the theme:

"Finding work and stereotypes for people with a history of use of psychoactive substances"

The aim of the video spot and of the open debate event was to highlight the difficulties and challenges faced by people with a history of use of psychoactive substances in their quest to find work, linking also the following 4 of the total 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN:

1. Stopping poverty in all its forms, everywhere
8. Promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, employment and decent work for all
10. The reduction of inequalities within and between countries
16. Promoting fair, peaceful and inclusive societies

The speakers at the panel, were:

- Mr Thanasis Apostolou, Director of “Diogenis Drug Policy Dialogue”: "Against Social Exclusion. The contribution of the stakeholders"
- Mr Emmanuel Koukidis, Sociologist - Criminologist MSc, OKANA spokesman: "Opportunities and restrictions in the labor market for social reintegration services"
- Mr Christos Anastasiou, spokesperson for the "Peer-to-Peer Network of Psychoactive Substances Users": "Reintegration into the labor market and its importance: the experience of people with a history of psychoactive substances use"

The event took place in the framework of the action "17 Days 17 Sustainable Development Goals 14 - 30 September 2018", while the whole of the action is implemented with the support of the Hellenic Platform for Development through the project "Sustainable Europe for All", and funded from the EC and the Open Society Foundations.

We are very grateful to the actors that appear in the video:
(in order of appearance)

- Katerina Zafiratos - "Anxious"
- Vassiliki Kissa - "Millennial"
- Apostolos Giouvritsas - "Relaxed"
- Tzortzis Hortarias - "Omniscient"
- Lamprini Xenou - "Selfish"
- Menelaos Prokos - "Spiritual"

Photo credits:

Evita Paraskevopoulou
and Nikos Stergiou



International Overdose Awareness Day: Persons Who Use Drugs Count!

On the occasion of the International Overdose Awareness Day (August 31st), the organization “DIOGENIS Drug Policy Dialogue” continues the awareness campaign with the slogan “Persons Who Use Drugs Count”. This International Day was established as a day of remembrance for people who have lost their lives or have suffered harm as a consequence of overdose. Although overdose deaths can be prevented, the necessary emphasis has not yet been given to effective management of this phenomenon.

In the effort to prevent overdose deaths, in EU, 10 Nationwide Naloxone programs are being implemented, including training for relatives and friends of users with the ability to have their own Naloxone home program. Also in 7 EU countries there are supervised consumption rooms (78 in total) to prevent overdose deaths to those who are homeless or do not have a supportive environment.

“Diogenis” supports the need Greece to follow this example through the adoption of a National Strategy, which includes the grant of Naloxone as a measure to prevent death from overdose. The adoption of a corresponding policy is also part of the EU’s drugs policy (2017-2020) and of the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This campaign is within the frame of the project “Strengthening NGO capacity and promoting public health and human rights oriented drug policy in South Eastern Europe”, funded by the European Commission and by the Open Society Foundations.

You can read more at the follow link: <https://bit.ly/2pRiciG>



Call for proposals for an action plan on psychotropic substances in Athens.

The Platform of NGO for Psychoactive Substances, in which Diogenis participates, was invited by the Greek Ministry of Health to submit its proposals for an Action Plan to Address the Consequences of the Use of Psychotropic Substances in the capital (Athens).

The aim of the Ministry of Health is all the involved stakeholders, including for the first time the organizations of Civil Society, to contribute to the enlargement of the policies that are already applied in the field of dependencies, with submission of proposals for the elaboration of an Action Plan for mitigation the harmful consequences for society and dependents of the use of psychotropic substances, especially in the area of Athens.

The Platform of NGO on Psychoactive Substances welcomes the Ministry's initiative and is already working on its response to contribute at the development of the Action Plan.

Lecture: “Cannabis – Recent Legislative Developments”

In the context of the 16th Panhellenic AIDS and Hepatitis Conference, held on September 27, 2018 in Athens, the director of “Diogenis Drug Policy Dialogue”, Thanasis Apostolou, gave a lecture on:

“Cannabis – Recent Legislative Developments”

The lecture refers to the history of international cannabis legislation, while presenting new developments for both medicine and recreational use.

You can read or download the lecture at the follow link (in Greek):

<https://bit.ly/2Qgp4oy>

**UPCOMING EVENT**

DPNSEE General Assembly scheduled

The regular annual DPNSEE General Assembly will be held as part of the conference "Regional cooperation for the development of civil societies and open dialogue - RECODOD", supported by the Central European Initiative, from 14 (arrival) to 17 November (departures) 2018 in Belgrade.

The first day of the Conference will be dedicated to discussing drug policy developments and trends and exchanging experiences and best practices in the region on:

- Legislation and procedures in cases of arrest and judiciary process for drug users
- Accreditation of services by national health institutions
- Drugs and immigrants

The second working day will be for the General Assembly including a workshop to discuss DPNSEE strategic priorities, which will then be developed by the Board and shared and agreed with the member organizations.



DRUG POLICY NETWORK SEE

4Life, Podgorica, Montenegro

Aksion Plus, Tirana, Albania

Aliat, Bucharest, Romania

ARAS, Bucharest, Romania

Cazas, Podgorica, Montenegro

Centre for Life, Athens, Greece

Coalition 'Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities', Skopje, FYRO Macedonia

Diogenis, Athens, Greece

HOPS, Skopje, FYRO Macedonia

Initiative for Health Foundation, Sofia, Bulgaria

Juventas, Podgorica, Montenegro

Labyrinth, Kosovo

Margina, Tuzla, Bosnia Herzegovina

Positive Voice, Athens, Greece

Prevent, Novi Sad, Serbia

Proi, Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina

Re Generacija, Belgrade, Serbia

RHRN, Bucharest, Romania

SEEAN, Ljubljana Slovenia

Terra, Rijeka, Croatia

Viktorija, Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina

Romanian Harm Reduction Network (RHRN), Romania

Prometheus, Greece

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.

Reactions can be sent to: Diogenis Drug Policy Dialogue, Fokionos 8, 10563 Athens, Greece

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FUNDED BY:

