

Support. Don't Punish Country activities 2019

Support. Don't Punish is a global grassroots-centred initiative in support of harm reduction and drug policies that prioritise public health and human rights. The campaign seeks to put harm reduction on the political agenda by strengthening the mobilisation capacity of affected communities and their allies, opening dialogue with policy makers, and raising awareness among the media and the public.

The Support. Don't Punish campaign aligns with the following key messages:

- The drug control system is broken and in need of reform
- People who use drugs should no longer be criminalised
- People involved in the drug trade at low levels, especially those involved for reasons of subsistence or coercion, should not face harsh or disproportionate punishments
- The death penalty should never be imposed for drug offences
- Drug policy should focus on health, well-being and harm reduction
- Drug policy budgets need rebalancing to ensure health and harm reduction-based responses are adequately financed.

Information about the global campaign is available from the website <http://supportdontpunish.org>.

The Drug Policy Network South East Europe coordinates activities of the campaign in South East Europe around the Global Day of Action 26 June - which is also the United Nations' International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Regional

For the launch of the Global Day of Action, DPNSEE will organise "Kick-off event" to start the campaign in South East Europe. The event will be held in the EU Info Centre in Belgrade, Kralja Milana 7, on 19 June 2019 at 10h.

Representatives of the Network will present the current situation in the countries of South East Europe. To contribute to the campaign, DPNSEE will present the key findings from baseline research on "Documenting Drug Related Cases of Discrimination", an activity within the project "Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations in South-East Europe and promote drug policy based on respect for human rights and public health" supported by the European Commission. This small scale research aims on raising awareness on existing discrimination in different areas of everyday life, map the situation and make a base for the further advocacy actions in decreasing stigma and discrimination towards people who use drugs.

DPNSEE will present the proposal for decriminalisation of drug use and possession made to the Working group on changes to the Criminal Law in Serbia.

Member organisation Prevent will present results of the regional project "Budget Advocacy Monitoring in South East Europe" in Serbia: the Declaration on support for harm reduction programs which was signed by several political parties and the budget analysis for the last three years.

In addition, DPNSEE member organisation Re Generation will present the results of their research "How the closing of the needle exchange programs affected the access to harm reduction services in two cities - Belgrade and Budapest".

Finally, DPNSEE representatives will present the activities in the region in scope of the Support. Don't Punish campaign.

Albania

Coordinating organisation: Aksion Plus

Place: Tirana and Durres

- Sensitization campaign in the cities of Durres and Tirana
- Lectures and workshops in high schools of Tirana and other cities
- Publications, T shirts and caps, dissemination of informing materials
- Informing booths/tables in the main square of the capital
- Involving PWID in the campaign by talking to people about their experience and challenges
- Support. Don't Punish banner and pictures campaign involving Aksion Plus staff and volunteers in all our network of OST centre
- Meeting with the local authorities, Regional Health Authorities and local municipalities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Coordinating organisation: Margina

Place: Tuzla

For this year Association Margina will once again organise street action disseminating promotional materials, meeting people and spreading information about the campaign and work of the association.

Opening activities of the day of action would also include public debate and press conference about Cantonal institution for drug diseases – Why don't we have it?, since that plan went out last year because just before start of the campaign, health workers started striking.

The duration of the debate is from 09:00 to 12:00, followed by a press conference and a cold buffer for the participants of the debate and the press conference.

This event will be introductory to the entire day marking program and through the media partners we want information about these important documents as well as the whole event for the Global Campaign to reach as many citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina as possible.

We also want to re-launch the process of establishing and opening a multidisciplinary institution, which is defined by the Law on Health Care and Non-implementation of the same by the Government and Ministries of the Tuzla Canton.

Croatia

Coordinating organisation: Terra

Place: Rijeka

- Pub quiz (theme: Drugs and Politics)
- Presentation of poster ONLY VARIETY CAN RESPOND TO VARIETY (poster from Harm Reduction Conference 2019, Porto)
- Presentation will be in Drop in Centre of Association Terra, for our clients, volunteers and others

Greece

Coordinating organisation: Greek NGOs Platform for Psychoactive Substances

Place: Athens

This platform is an unofficial initiative for joint action among organizations working in the area of drug policy and psychoactive substances, currently consisting of the following organizations: Centre for Life, Diogenis, Peers Network of Users of Psychoactive Substances, Positive Voice, Praksis, Prometheus and Steps.

This year the member-organizations of our Platform have decided to dedicate the “Support. Don’t Punish” campaign on women and highlight the need for a gender-sensitive approach to drug policy by raising the voice of women who use psychoactive substances themselves taking into consideration the different aspects of this population (e.g. single mothers, sisters, wives, lovers, activists etc.).

An indicative list of activities that will be organized can be summarized as follows (activities may be enriched or slightly vary):

- raising awareness event: with the active participation of women from the aforementioned community who will share their experience, present needs and challenges they face in everyday life and promote the human rights of women and a gender-sensitive approach to drug policy.
- collect and distribute personal hygiene items for women in open drug scenes in the city of Athens
- create and promote guidelines on human rights and drug policy especially for women who use psychoactive substances that will use as an advocacy tool towards the national decision-makers
- contact will be made with an artistic team that will contribute in capturing the message of the campaign in a creative and interactive way
- SDP resources (flyers, t-shirts and badges) will be distributed
- Publish a press-release

Kosovo

Coordinating organisation: Qendra për Informim dhe Përmirësim Social

Place: Prishtina

A march on the city centre

This includes: Marketing on social media for the event, printing and designing banners, making props to place in front of the government building.

Distribution of posters and leaflets

This includes: Designing the posters and leaflets. Posters will be put up around the city during the early morning, leaflets will be spread during the day.

Showing movies/documentaries relating to the effectiveness of supporting drug users in combating their addictions.

The movies/documentaries have yet to be decided on. Place of showing will be Termokiss (<http://termokiss.space/>), during the evening.

North Macedonia

Coordinating organisation: HOPS

Place: Skopje

This year our focus of the campaign will be about a low quality of substitution treatment and absence of treatment and care for children who use drugs.

The main activities are:

- Producing short video
- Campaign on social network
- Creative public event – artist and drug users will produce an artistic installation work with message for need of quality of substitution treatment including treatment and care for children who use drugs.

Montenegro

Coordinating organisation: Juventas

Place: Podgorica

- Opening of twitter account named „Support.Don't punish.Montenegro“
- Media/press release about campaign activities
- Video material, with an accent on people who really support PWID/PWUD in Montenegro
- Photo exhibition, with supportive thematic photographs done by local activist for human rights
- Photo booth, which will be available during the exhibition
- This year, same as year before, NGO Juventas will mark the campaign along with Montenegrin Harm Reduction Network LINK. Planned activities are, certainly a press release and media coverage, to draw the attention once again on problems of PWID/PWUD, to raise awareness about necessity to respect human rights of PWID/PWUD, as well as to talk about the programs and services that are being implemented and provided within our organizations.
- The activities of this year's campaign aim to ensure that, in addition to the problems faced by people who use drugs, the emphasis is placed on those individuals and institutions that support people who use drugs in Montenegro, who, together with our organizations, are trying to change laws, policies and influence the respect of human rights of this category of people. In order to draw attention to those who support the activities of the civil sector dealing with the problems of people who use drugs, this year we decided to create video materials in which these people would show their messages of support, but once again put focus on the need for even more support and understanding by the general public, as well as by the need to establish missing services that should be provided by non-governmental organizations and state institutions.
- In addition, it is planned to produce and exhibit photographs, also with a supportive theme, by local civil society activists, who would be held on the main city square on the day of the campaign marking, and later exhibited in one of the galleries in the capital of Montenegro.
- Also, at the time of the exhibition, a photo booth will be available, where they will have the opportunity to photograph themselves with the logo campaigns and the organizations that conduct it.
- Photos from the exhibition will be donated to those individuals and institutions that support PWUD / PWID.

Romania

Coordinating organisation: Romanian Harm Reduction Network

Place: Bucharest

- Conference with experts from academia, service providers, NGOs, prisons, (ex-)users on the state of services in Romania for PWUDs; the problem of occasional use by youth and the lack of drug checking/nightlife services; the holes in the legislation, e.g. no quantities for personal use
- Media presence at the conference
- Thematic movie evening: drug use, poverty and discrimination

Serbia

Organisation: ReGeneration

Place: Belgrade

Within the "Support. Don't Punish" Global Day of Action in 2019 NGO Re Generation is planning to organize a movie screening evening event that will aim to address the main obstacles and main problems regarding current state of drug use, and responses to it in form of service provision and generally Drug Policies in Serbia. This year's special focus will be putted on the new ways and concepts of psychoactive substance use among young people, MSM community and NPS users, therefore we will present patterns of drug use and their different contexts from what we come to think and what is familiar.

This year we are proud to present:

- movie about the ChemSex, premiered in HR19, premier screening for public in Serbia
- movie about the Alpha PVP that will have its own premier at the event.

After the movie screening we will stimulate a debate/open conversation to address the cultural change in drug use and try to move understanding on harm reduction to support Full Spectrum Harm Reduction, promoting harm reduction programs and services that are oriented towards recreational use and mental health of young people who are using drugs

The venue of the event is still in negotiating phase, but most likely it will be Student Cultural Centre or Info Prajd Centre. Date of the event will be 26th of June.

Photo shooting with the Support Don't Punish signs, to promote the idea what they think when it comes to drugs and safety, order to stipulate their way of thinking and in the same time evaluate it so we know what is the general opinion on Harm reduction by young people, as well as to promote them.

Online promotion of the campaign

Organisation: Association „Prevent“

Place: Novi Sad

- Public action at the city beach
- Distribution flyers " Support Don't Punish. "
- Distribution of T-shirts and badges " Support Don't Punish "
- Taking photos with the selfi cab with the slogan " Support Don't Punish "
- Painting the large-format logo of campaign
- Drawing graphite on the topic " Support Don't Punish "
- Setting frames to Facebook's photo profile
- Publishing info graphics on social networks
- Boosting posts on Facebook through paid advertising
- Appearance in media