

## DPNSEE Strategy 2020 - 2022

### About DPN SEE

The Drug Policy Network South East Europe is an initiative of NGOs from the countries of South East Europe. Currently, there are 24 ordinary and 2 associate members of the Network coming from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Northern Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. The Network organisations are primarily providers of preventive, therapeutic, harm reduction and rehabilitation services, focused on supporting drug users and connected key affected populations.

During four years of its existence, the Network created close and constructive relationships through open and objective dialogue with experts, key policy makers in national governments, regional bodies and international organisations and be recognised as a reliable partner with a wealth of expertise and experience.

### Drug policies in South East Europe

Legislation and policies around drugs in South East Europe are being updated and harmonised with European Union standards, both in EU member states and as part of the pre-accession process for candidate countries. Potential EU candidates have an interest in reconfiguring their drug policies in line with the EU Drug Strategy for 2013 - 2020 and upcoming new Union strategy. This involves the adoption of a balanced approach incorporating both demand and supply reduction activities.

### Process

After the first three years of existence, the Drug Policy Network South East Europe started developing the new strategy. The process started analysing the results of the Strategy 2017 - 2020 at the General Assembly held in December 2018 when level of achievement of the objectives and potential priorities were discussed. The Strategic Workshop held in May 2019 gathered member organisations' representatives to continue this process and define DPNSEE strategic priorities, goals and targets for the forthcoming period. Results of the Workshop were further developed by the Board on the meeting held in September. Finally, the DPNSEE General Assembly discussed the document on the session held on 20 February 2020. The outcomes of the whole process are presented in this document.

### Mission

The Mission of the Drug Policy Network South East Europe is adoption of more humane and effective drug policies in SEE.

## Core values

The Network is of the opinion that:

- National, regional and international drug policies and programmes must be grounded on the principles of human rights, harm reduction, social inclusion and public health.
- Policymaking processes must be transparent and policy makers must engage meaningfully with civil society, particularly with affected populations (such as people who use drugs, families and NGO initiatives).

The DPNSEE shares the concern that national and international policies and programmes responding to the cultivation, production, trade and use of controlled substances are excessively focused on harsh law enforcement and punishment. Such an approach has been ineffective in reducing the scale of the drug markets and use, have limited impacts in reducing the harmful consequences of the illicit market and have themselves lead to significant adverse consequences.

## **Strategic priorities**

### **Strategic Area 1 - Quality of services**

Strategy 1.1. Ensuring effective exchange of best practices, cooperation and multi-sectorial partnerships in South East Europe on regional and international level

Strategy 1.2 Providing the base for quality services of DPNSEE member organisations

### **Strategic Area 2 - Model for regulation of drugs**

Strategy 2.1. Improving the understanding of the model, creating partnerships with governments and other stakeholders

Strategy 2.2 Involving senior experts from different fields

Strategy 2.3 Using the success stories, good practise and experience

### **Strategic Area 3 - Rights of people who use drugs**

Strategy 3.1. Community involvement

Strategy 3.2 Legal issues and protection mechanisms

Strategy 3.3 Fighting discrimination and stigma

### **Strategic Area 4 - Effective and Sustainable Network**

Strategy 4.1. Financial sustainability

Strategy 4.2 Capacity building

Strategy 4.3 Improved governance of the Network

## Strategic Area 1 Quality of services

### Objective

Boosting capacity and innovations on drug related service provision in SEE region

### Analysis

In SEE region, service providers are facing different challenges including lack of capacities to answer to fast changing environment and trends related to clients, affected community, HCV, NPS and other issues. Member organizations are missing capacities in the area of working with new drugs, safety of community, peer support, fast-track interventions, screening, micro elimination, usage of new technologies as well as involving young people and redefining approach.

### Strategies and Activities

<b>Strategy 1.1. Ensuring effective exchange of best practices, cooperation and multi-sectorial partnerships in South East Europe on regional and international level</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Collecting existing information on research for NPS	DPNSEE Secretariat	End of 2021	Funds for Consultant
Conducting new researches and disseminating results	DPNSEE Secretariat and member organizations	Continuously	Funds for research Communication costs
Meetings with EU presidency country drug coordinator	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	End of 2021	Travel and logistics costs
Organizing and attending conferences and networking events	DPNSEE Secretariat	Continuously	Funds for travel and accommodation for venues and organization of conferences
Supporting the work of DPNSEE member organizations with national stakeholders	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	Continuously	Travel, accommodation and communication costs
Developing joint projects and programs	DPNSEE Secretariat and member organizations	Continuously	Funds for Consultants

<b>Strategy 1.2 Providing the base for quality services of DPNSEE members</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Amending existing and developing new recommendations, guidelines and toolkits on quality services for DPNSEE members	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	Continuously during 2020-2021	Expert services, translation, publication costs
Introducing and promoting new technologies for prevention and treatment	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	End of 2021	Expert services, travel and logistics, scholarship for members costs

Adopting and promoting new approach in harm reduction	DPNSEE Secretariat, Board and member organizations	End of 2021	Expert services, travel and logistics, scholarship for members costs
Providing capacity building for all DPNSEE member organisations on community work and users involvement	DPNSEE Secretariat	End of 2021	Expert services, travel and logistics, scholarship for members costs
Accreditation of services, training and licencing of service providers	DPNSEE Board and member organizations	End of 2021	Expert agency, travel and logistics, scholarship for members costs
Empowering new generation leaders in drug policy area	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	Continuously	Expert services, travel and logistics, scholarship for members costs
Carrying out Informational and awareness raising public campaigns about the quality services of all DPNSEE members	DPNSEE Secretariat	Continuously	Contacts, PR experts and advertising costs

## **Strategic Area 2. Model for regulation of drugs**

### Objective

Implementing innovative, evidence based regulation models and contributing to the improvements of the drug regulation in SEE countries

### Analysis

The regulation of drugs in the region of SEE generally stays behind the European innovative trends. The region as a whole keeps focus on control and repression measures which significantly prevail over the activities aimed at prevention, rehabilitation and harm reduction. In most of the SEE countries balanced measures such as alternatives to imprisonment, tolerated drug possession, medical cannabis use, drug injection rooms, naloxone distribution and others, are not implemented and are not even a subject of a public debate. The reasons route in the deep societal stigma towards PWUD, which impedes the involvement of politicians and supporters of the innovative ideas out of the narrow-profiled professionals. The legislative models applied throughout the region contribute for deepening the stigma and adverse consequences associated with illegal drug use.

## Strategies and Activities

<b>Strategy 2.1. Improving the understanding of the model, creating partnerships with governments and other stakeholders</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Creating platforms of NGOs who will lead the initiative	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	End of 2020	Contacts, travel and accommodation, meeting and communication costs
Carrying out advocacy actions and public campaigns about the model	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	Continuously until 2021	Contacts, PR experts and advertising costs
Organizing multi stakeholder events (conferences) about the model	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	Continuously until 2021	Contacts, event costs
Carrying out media activities	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	2020 Continuously	Contacts, PR experts and advertising costs
Organizing meetings with political parties and governmental officials	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	Continuously	Contacts, travel and accommodation, meeting costs
Involving international authorities	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	Continuously	Contacts, travel and accommodation, meeting costs
Actively participating in international and national activities and networks on this topic	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	Continuously	Travel and accommodation, event costs

<b>Strategy 2.2 Involving senior experts from different fields</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Producing and disseminating reports and analyses of the current situation from different viewpoints (drug field, public health, economics, academia, social policy)	DPNSEE Secretariat and member organizations	Continuously	Expert services, printing and communication costs
Organizing events with experts (conferences, public discussions, round tables)	DPNSEE Board, Secretariat and member organizations	Continuously	Expert services, PR expert, advertising and communication costs
Inviting international speakers to expert events	DPNSEE Board, Secretariat and member organizations	Continuously	Expert services, travel and accommodation costs

<b>Strategy 2.3 Using the successful stories, good practise and experience</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Piloting the new models of drug regulation	DPNSEE Secretariat, Alliance of NGOs for Drugs and Addiction	Continuously	Pilot projects funding
Organizing study visits for studying new models of drug regulation	DPNSEE Secretariat	2020	Travel and accommodation costs
Conducting comparative analysis of current models for regulation of drugs	Coalition margins	Yearly	Expert services and study materials costs
Conducting periodic analyses of current strategies and legislation on drugs	Coalition margins	Yearly	Expert services and communication costs
Documenting results and value of harm reduction services and disseminating case studies about them	HOPS, Terra	Continuously	Expert services and communication costs

### Strategic Area 3: Rights of people who use drugs

#### Objective 3

Mobilizing structured support and human rights discourse in enabling rights of people who use drugs

#### Analysis

This is not enough developed and explored area of our work, although it is of a great importance for achieving the Mission of the Network. Issue of human rights is mainly related to LGBTI population, less to drug users, sex workers, PLHIV and other vulnerable populations. There are several documents and increased attention to human rights of vulnerable populations this year worldwide. There are similarities of the situation across the region, but also some major differences. In some of our member organisations and partners (ERA) we have some very good experiences/work/results

#### Strategies and Activities

<b>Strategy 3.1. Community involvement</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Involving PWUD and other self-help groups and creating structured open discussions	All DPNSEE member organizations	Continuously	Rent, technical assistance, refreshment
Supporting and encouraging strong voice of PWUD	All DPNSEE member organizations	Continuously	Media representative (journalist), video advocacy costs
Analysing DPNSEE and member organisations' manuals, procedures and other documents	DPNSEE Expert working groups	End of 2020	Expert fees, accommodation, travel

<b>Strategy 3.2 Legal issues and protection mechanisms</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Mapping, analyses and monitoring of existing anti-discrimination laws and their implementation	DPNSEE Working groups	End of 2020	Fees for members, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Mapping and analyses of functioning of human rights protection mechanisms	DPNSEE Working groups	End of 2020	Fees for members, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Providing legal support to PWUD and other connected vulnerable populations	Legal experts	Continuously	Legal experts fees and facility costs



<b>Strategy 3.3 Fighting discrimination and stigma</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Mainstreaming human rights in DPNSEE and member organizations' work	DPNSEE Board and all member organizations	End of 2020	Funding for Board work, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Collecting data about cases of discrimination and stigmatization related to drug use	All DPNSEE member organizations	Continuous	Fees for work, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Creating and disseminating position papers, analyses, expert papers, recommendations and instructions for fighting discrimination and stigma related to drug use	DPNSEE Expert working groups	Continuous	Fees for work, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Fighting hate speech and promoting drug sensitive language	All DPNSEE member organizations	Continuous	Fees for work, travel, accommodation, translation, publishing and communication costs
Promoting human rights, international standards, anti-discrimination laws, legal protection, mechanisms of protecting human rights, documents and regulations through the region	DPNSEE Secretariat, all member organizations and other partners (international legal advocates)	Continuous	Fees for work, PR expert, advertising and communication costs

## Strategic Area 4: Effective and Sustainable Network

### Objective

Build an effective, efficient and sustainable network and member organisations

### Analysis

DPNSEE don't have sustainability through national funds in next years. Sustainability should mainly be built through international funds. A good basis for achieving sustainability is the operational grant from the Open Society Foundations 2019 - 2021. Grants from embassies are opportunity for financing of Network (USA, Netherland, Swiss, Sweden, Norway, Germany - GIZ, French- 5%, etc.) Most of countries are candidates for EU membership and we can expect EU support through different EU funds.

### Strategies and Activities

<b>Strategy 4.1. Financial sustainability</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Following open calls of national, regional and international organizations and submitting applications if possible	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	Continuous	Funds for Secretariat and the Board, Expert fees, communication, travel and accommodation costs
Actively participating and supporting member organisations to participate in GFATM calls for applications	DPNSEE Secretariat and the Board	Continuous	Funds for Secretariat and the Board, communication, travel and accommodation costs
Exploring possibilities of financing from EU health fund	DPNSEE Secretariat	End of 2020	Funds for Secretariat, communication, travel and accommodation costs
Identifying potential partners and building cooperation with organizations, institutions and networks for joint applications to donors	DPNSEE Executive Director and the Board	Continuous	Funds for Executive Director and the Board, communication, travel and accommodation costs

Lobbying potential donors for better conditions and eligibility of DPNSEE for calls	DPNSEE Executive Director and the Board	Continuous	Funds for Executive Director and the Board, communication, travel and accommodation costs
Organising and supporting actions that ensure sustainability of DPNSEE member organizations and DPNSEE	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	Continuous	Funds for Secretariat and Board, communication, travel and accommodation costs

<b>Strategy 4.2 Capacity building</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Organizing the training for DPNSEE member organizations on writing shadow reports to international institutions (UN, EU...)	DPNSEE Secretariat	End of 2020	Expert services, travel and logistics, events related costs
Organizing the training for DPNSEE member organizations on advocacy	DPNSEE Secretariat	End of 2020	Expert services, travel and logistics, events related costs
Organizing capacity building for member organizations: trainings, conferences, mentorships, webinars and study visits on different expressed needs	DPNSEE Secretariat	Continuous	Expert services, travel and logistics, events related costs, publication cost
Publishing and disseminating an array of publications and building the knowledge base	DPNSEE Secretariat	Continuous	Expert services, translation, publishing and communication costs
Fully developing the DPNSEE Resource Centre and providing its services for a variety of stakeholders	DPNSEE Secretariat	End of 2022	Fees for work, facility, communication and operational costs

<b>Strategy 4.3 Improved governance of the Network</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who is Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Improving communication of DPNSEE with member organisations and between the members by making it more frequent, friendly and proactive	DPNSEE Secretariat	Continuous	Funds for Secretariat, communication costs
Formally defining the number of member organizations and their profile in the DPNSEE	DPNSEE Board	End of 2020	Funds for Board, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Recognising new ordinary and associate members in accordance with the Network policy	DPNSEE Board	End of 2020	Funds for Board, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Developing operating manuals	DPNSEE Secretariat and Board	End of 2020	Funds for Board, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Forming ad hoc working groups work on specific issues of interest	DPNSEE Board	Continuous	Funds for Board, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Implementing, monitoring and evaluating the 2020 - 2022 DPNSEE strategy	DPNSEE Secretariat, Board and member organizations	Continuous	Funds for Board, and Secretariat, travel, accommodation and communication costs