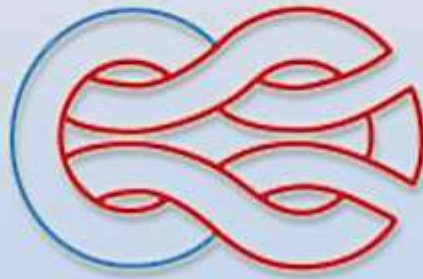


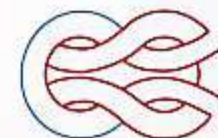
# **Drug Policy Network South East Europe**



# Global State of Harm Reduction 2022

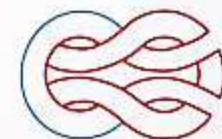
Country/ territory with reported injecting drug use	People who inject drugs	HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis C (anti- HCV) prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis B (anti- HBsAg) prevalen- ce among people who inject drugs (%)	Harm reduction response				
					Needle and syringe programme (NSP)	Opioid agonist therapy (OAT)**	Peer distribution of naloxone	Drug consumption rooms (DCRs)	Safer smoking equipment
Albania	7,000	0.5	34	20.2	✓ 2	✓ M, B	✗	✗	✗
Bosnia Herzegovina	10,500	0.1	39.5	0.2	✓ 2	✓ 12 M	✗	✗	✗
Bulgaria	17,000	4.4	67.8	6.0	✗	✓ M, B, O	✗	✗	✗
Croatia	6,000	0.4	36.7	1.0	✓ 137	✓ M, B, O	✗	✗	✗
Greece	3,000	3.2	66.8	2.5	✓ 16	✓ B, M	✗	✓	nd
Kosovo*	4,600	0.0	23.8	0.1	✓	✓ M	✗	✗	✗
Montenegro	2,300	0.1	44.2	0.0	✓ 2	✓ M, B	✗	✗	✗
North Macedonia	6,500	0.0	65.4	nd	✓ 16	✓ M, B	✗	✗	✗
Romania	17,024	19.4	72.7	3.2	✓ 2	✓ M, B	✗	✗	✗
Serbia	28,500	0.0	46.2	10.5	✓ 2	✓ M, B	✗	✗	✗
Slovenia	5,500	0.3	28.6	3.4	✓ 139	✓ M, B, O	✓	✗	✓
Turkey	Nd	0.1	53.5	4.4	✗	✓ B, M, O	✗	✗	nd

The Report is available at <https://www.hri.global/>



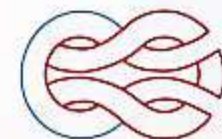
# Global State of Harm Reduction 2022

Country/ territory with reported injecting drug use	People who inject drugs	Difference to 2020
Albania	7,000	+20%
Bosnia Herzegovina	10,500	-16%
Bulgaria	17,000	+19%
Croatia	6,000	-4%
Greece	3,000	+10%
Kosovo*	4,600	-20%
Montenegro	2,300	+77%
North Macedonia	6,500	-3,7%
Romania	17,024	-79%
Serbia	28,500	+39%
Slovenia	5,500	+12%
Turkey	Nd	(12,733)



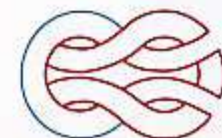
# Global State of Harm Reduction 2022

Country/ territory with reported injecting drug use	HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis C (anti- HCV) prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis B (anti- HBsAg) prevalen- ce among people who inject drugs (%)
Albania	0.5	34	20.2 (+84%)
Bosnia Herzegovina	0.1	39.5 (+25%)	0.2
Bulgaria	4.4	67.8	6.0
Croatia	0.4	36.7	1.0
Greece	3.2	66.8	2.5
Kosovo*	0.0	23.8	0.1 (-98%)
Montenegro	0.1	44.2	0.0
North Macedonia	0.0	65.4	nd
Romania	19.4 (+22%)	72.7	3.2
Serbia	0.0	46.2 (+48%)	10.5 (+192%)
Slovenia	0.3 (+38%)	28.6 (-32%)	3.4
Turkey	0.1	53.5	4.4



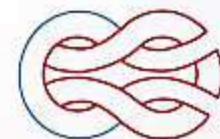
# Global State of Harm Reduction 2022

Country/ territory with reported injecting drug use	Harm reduction response				
	Needle and syringe programme (NSP)	Opioid agonist therapy (OAT)	Peer distribution of naloxone	Drug consumption rooms (DCRs)	Safer smoking equipment
Albania	✓ 2	✓ M, B	✗	✗	✗
Bosnia Herzegovina	✓ 2	✓ 12 M	✗	✗	✗
Bulgaria	✗	✓ M,B,O	✗	✗	✗
Croatia	✓ 137	✓ M,B,O	✗	✗	✗
Greece	✓ 16 (12)	✓ B,M	✗	✓	nd
Kosovo*	✓	✓ M	✗	✗	✗
Montenegro	✓ 2 (13)	✓ M,B	✗	✗	✗
North Macedonia	✓ 16	✓ M,B	✗	✗	✗
Romania	✓ 2 (63)	✓ M,B	✗	✗	✗
Serbia	✓ 2	✓ M,B	✗	✗	✗
Slovenia	✓ 139 (12)	✓ M,B,O	✓	✗	✓
Turkey	✗	✓ B,M,O	✗	✗	nd





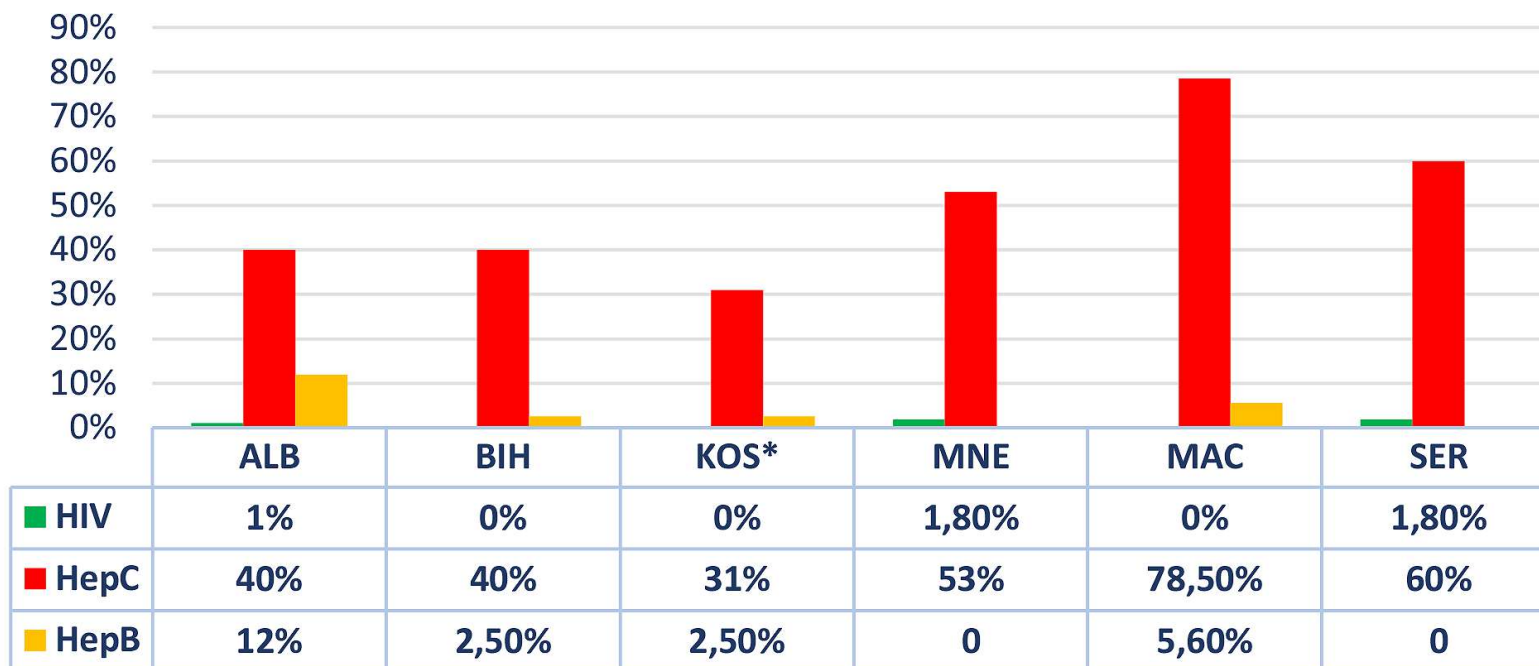
# Situation in the Western Balkan



# Situation in the Western Balkan



## Prevalence of HIV, HCV, HBV among people who inject drugs in WB6 countries



Increasing cases of syphilis

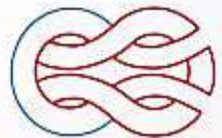


# Albania



## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- **Action Plus implements the Methadone Maintenance Treatment program** (in Tirana, Durrës, Vlorë, Shkodër, Elbasan, Berat, Korçë, Sarandë and Fier), **as well as condoms, lubricants, IEC materials**
- **Stop AIDS implements needle and syringe programming** (in Tiranë, Durrës, Vlorë, Shkodër, Elbasan, Berat and Korçë)
- **Outreach services are also available, using mini-vans and operating daily or weekly**
- **Provision of harm reduction services via “storage” approach is employed**



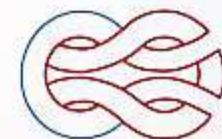


# Albania



## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- **Global Fund funded NGOs provide other STI testing through both outreach and drop-in centres**
- **In the framework of the GF Grant, implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, there are HIV prevention interventions in place for PWID. The packages of services fall under two main strategies:**
  - a) preventing / reducing injecting drug use
  - b) reducing harm related to drug injection

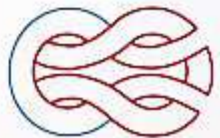


# Albania



## Barriers and challenges

- **Uncertainty of funding for activities for KAP after the GF**
- **It is expected that the Albanian Government will be committed to support already initiated projects by the GF**
- **Lack of local NGO networks to address the transition issues adequately**

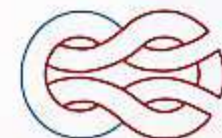


# Bosnia Herzegovina



## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- **Services closed in Sarajevo (capitol), Banja Luka, Mostar, Bihać and outreach**
- **Until 2018, there were 11 - 14 newly tested positive HIV cases. Since the Global Fund stopped supporting Bosnia Herzegovina and services started closing, the situation went worse:**
  - **2019 – 23 new cases**
  - **2020 – 28 new cases**
  - **2021 – 43 new cases**
  - **2022 – 60 new cases**

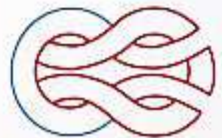


# Bosnia Herzegovina



## Barriers and challenges

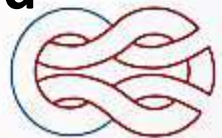
- **A complex administrative structure - no national (state) Ministry of Health, Public Health Institute and Health Insurance Fund**
- **Challenges on the side of the government which is continuously failing to address the sustainability**
- **Challenges with the legal framework and political willingness to address the HIV and AIDS related issues**
- **Withdrawal of the TGF**
- **Loss of trust and low level of cooperation amongst the CSOs resulting with hesitancy of potential donors to support projects and services**





## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- Nearly 79% of PWID knew of HIV prevention programs and services in their area, nearly 2/3 had actually utilized them
- Harm reduction programmes are available in Gjilan, Peja, Pristina and Prizren, run by NGO Labyrinth for approximately 2800 (in 2022) people
- Males utilized the services twice more than females, which shows a poor coverage of programs for female PWIDs
- 83% of PWID in Prishtina and 95% in Prizren reported using sterile needles or syringes at last injection
- 40% in Prishtina and 49% in Prizren reported being tested for HIV in 2017

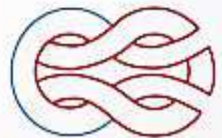






## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

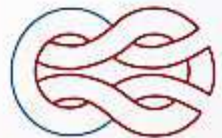
- Coverage of OST is quite low if compared to the estimates of PWID (370 clients/month in 2022 out of 5000 estimated PWID)
- Outreach programme, performed by peers and social worker, with:
  - Distribution of kits with condoms, auto-disable syringes, alcohol swabs, distilled water and needles for three days, and a storage pouch;
  - Collection of used needles and syringes in special containers – later delivered to a health facility for destruction;
  - Mapping of hotspots/shooting galleries
- No harm reduction services are available in the north of Kosovo





## Barriers and challenges

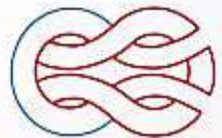
- **Public health authorities, health-care providers, specialists and other stakeholders do not consider the current figures to be an accurate portrait of the HIV situation**
- **Procurement and supply management remains a continuous challenge in the task of ensuring timely provision of services**
- **Kosovo has no baseline scenario and no plan for the prevention and control of viral hepatitis, and the overall response is currently fragmented**





## Barriers and challenges

- **Services provided by Labyrinth are not sufficient in reach and quantity to assist the entire area**
- **Increase coverage to PWID of a comprehensive package services, including OST, needle and syringe programmes, testing for viral hepatitis and other infections, and linkage to care**
- **Limitation of being funded by an international donor and not by a public organization does no good for the accountability and ownership of the awareness, prevention, diagnosis and follow-up provided by the NGO**
- **Of those who got arrested, 11% injected drugs in prison**

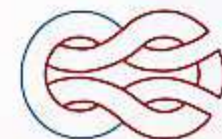


# Montenegro



## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- **78.81% of PWID reached with HIV prevention programs (2021)**
- **Needle and syringe exchange are available in capitol Podgorica and Bar for approximately 1000 – 1200 users**
- **13.5% of PWID have received an HIV test during the reporting period and know their results (2021)**
- **HIV testing is available only in Public health centres in 8 cities. According to the last IBBS (2020/2021) with 400 users, HCV rates are 62,8% for positive antibodies test and 47% for positive PCR test**

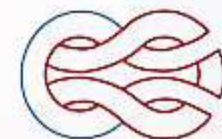


# Montenegro



## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- **Methadone and buprenorphine substitution therapy is available in 8 Montenegrin cities, financed by state**
- **In 2018, there were 956 PWID on Methadone (273% increase from 2017) and 426 on Buprenorphine (data from 5 OST sites)**
- **Buprenorphine users are not provided by additional support other than pills, which has a negative influence on the situation, and resulted in uncontrolled influx of prescribed buprenorphine to black market**
- **Harm reduction programs in prisons**



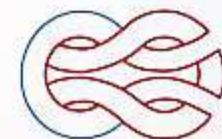


# Montenegro



## Barriers and challenges

- No official population size estimate of PWUD/PWID
- No available data on overdose and no program of its prevention
- Access to testing and treatment (HIV, HCV) for PWUID is very limited
- Lack of strong system for sustainable funding
- Limited number of available places in methadone treatment combined with low quality of operations within buprenorphine treatment
- Lack of coordination between institutions

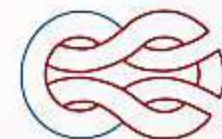


# North Macedonia



## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- **14 harm reduction programs in 12 cities (Tetovo was closed 3 years ago)**
- **OST is available in 10 cities in the country, including Skopje** (all programs provide methadone and buprenorphine)
- **OST is available in the prisons**

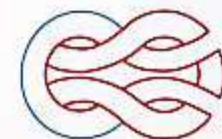


# North Macedonia



## Barriers and challenges

- Sustainable mechanism for funding of needle exchange programs
- Absence of naloxone
- Political - general elections next year
- Lack of programs for rehabilitation and re-socialization for drug users
- Absence of program for children and youth who use drugs
- Lack of programs for new psychoactive substances

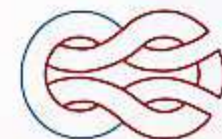


# Serbia



## Provision of harm reduction services, access to treatment

- **OST is available in 22 cities (slightly centralised)**
- **Needle and syringe exchange coverage in 2 cities (approximately 3%)**
- **Testing for HIV and Hepatitis C exists in drop in centers and in outreach activities, as well as counseling by social workers and psychologists**

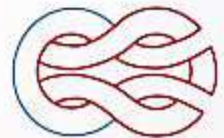


# Serbia



## Barriers and challenges

- In the capital, there were no harm reduction programs from 2015 to 2018 and in Niš, the third largest city, there are no programs since 2015
- After the Global Fund left in 2014, the state did not take over funding of the services. Currently, this is being done through co-financing of the GF project.
- Take home Naloxone is not allowed by the law
- Drug testing is prohibited by the Criminal Code
- New protocol and rule book on harm reduction being drafted





# DPNSEE Resource centre

Document categories: Legislation on drugs ( 77 ) ▼


Document countries: Document countries ▼

Document languages: english ( 152 ) ▼


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Grid view icons: 2x2, 3x3, 4x4




**Закон за здравственото осигурување**



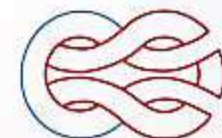
**Medical services Act**



**Policy Paper on reduction of drug related harm in Montenegro**



**Закон о супстанцама које се користе у недозвољеној производњи опојних дрога и психотропних супстанци 2005**



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