

DPNSEE Operational Plan 2023 and 2024*

Strategic Area 1 Quality of services

Coordinators:

Nebojša Đurasović, Nicoleta Dascalu and Berina Bahić

Objectives

To provide high quality harm reduction services, structured in accordance with the needs of people who use/inject drugs, respect their human rights and dignity and can be replicable in other contexts.

To define and set a quality standard for harm reduction services, that can be used by member organisations and also can be implemented by other civil society organisations (CSOs).

Analysis

Considering different factors (mainly the lack of funding and legal barriers), harm reduction services are limited in meeting the needs of the categories we work with. This causes several negative results: increase in the number of HIV/Hepatitis/TB etc. cases among people who use/inject drugs, increased social vulnerability, homelessness, etc. Adjustments made during the coronavirus pandemic showed that flexible approaches are possible and efficient.

Activities

Strategy 1.0. Exploring full potential of harm reduction services based on the needs of people who use drugs and other connected populations			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Mapping the needs of communities we work with and collecting information on adjustments to the harm reduction services made during the coronavirus pandemic	Member organisations (MOs), Nicoleta and Berina	End of November 2023	Questionnaire
Assessment of harm reduction services among member organisations (needs vs reality)	MOs, Nebojša	February 2024	Questionnaire
Analysis of the information collected and proposals for improvements in the future	Board	March 2024 (at the General Assembly)	External consultant

* Activities in green shall certainly be implemented; those in yellow if there would be resources for their implementation; while remaining will be implemented in 2025 or later

Strategy 1.1. Ensuring effective exchange of best practices, cooperation and multi-sectorial partnerships in South East Europe on regional and international level			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Identification of best practice holders (which CSO, which best practice) and drafting a best practice map	Nicoleta	Spring 2024	Desk research
Identification of the needs of exchange/cooperation among members (who needs/wants to do what)	Nebojša	Spring 2024	Questionnaire
Organizing and attending conferences and networking events	Board	Continuously	Funds for travel and accommodation for venues and organization of conferences
Supporting the work of DPNSEE member organizations with national stakeholders	Board	Continuously	Travel, accommodation and communication costs
Developing joint projects and programs	Board	Continuously	Funds for Consultants

Strategy 1.2 Providing the base for quality services of DPNSEE members			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Advocacy campaign on wider distribution of naloxone via third sector organisations, police officers, club and festival staff, families, peers, etc.	Board and MOs	Second part of 2023	Campaigns, projects, media coverage, social media appearance
Definition of quality standard in harm reduction services	Board	Spring 2024	A workshop on the issue
Introducing and promoting new technologies for prevention and treatment	Board	End of 2024	Expert services
Accreditation of services, training and licencing of service providers	Board and MOs	End of 2024	Expert agency, travel and logistics

Strategy 1.3 Providing policies on standards for work of the DPNSEE member organizations			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Creating basic guidelines for conducting work with people who use/inject drugs among member organizations	Board	Spring 2024	Expert meeting, consultancy
Developing the method of Optimisation of Harm Reduction Services among the member organisations	Board	Autumn 2024	Expert services

Strategic Area 2. Model for regulation of drugs

Coordinators:

Besnik Hohxa and Zharir Simirin

Objective

Establish trust, transparency and two-way communication with the community and other stakeholders and to improve the stakeholders' engagement approaches and implement better practices, raise awareness of decision-makers about the problems related to drug policies, empower the communities to participate in decision-making and implement innovative, evidence based regulation models.

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 legislative models applied throughout the region contribute for deepening the stigma and adverse consequences associated with illegal drug use. Forming, strengthening and maintaining good relationships between the NGOs, the community and other relevant stakeholders is essential to ensuring genuine stakeholder participation and engagement.

Activities

Strategy 2.1. Improving the understanding of the model, creating partnerships with governments and other stakeholders			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Create a Working group on new models of regulating drugs	Board	Autumn 2023	Working group meeting

Make contacts, reach out to various stakeholder groups, request meetings and invite them to events (such as 'Support! Dont Punish' campaign.	DPNSEE Working group, MOs	Continuously	Campaigns, projects
Draft and disseminate educational and informational materials	Working group	Continuously	Meetings, consultants
Organising stakeholder update meetings. (once per 6 months)	Working group, MOs	Twice a year	Online meetings
Reach out to new stakeholder groups, and allow currently engaged stakeholders to take on new roles. Understand that some stakeholders may rotate off. Remember to celebrate successes and stakeholder contributions.	Board and Working group	Continuously	Meetings
Actively participating in international and national activities and networks on this topic	Board and Staff	Continuously	Travel and accommodation, event costs

Strategy 2.2 Involving senior experts from different fields – creating Advisory committee

Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Establish local stakeholder advisory mechanisms and community advisory boards.	DPNSEE working groups/ local stakeholders	Continuously	
Network with other NGOs and invite their experts to present their positions, experiences and results	Board and Staff	Continuously	Travel, accommodation and fees
Create the DPNSEE Advisory committee to provide expertise to the DPNSEE bodies	Board	Summer 2023	Annual meetings of the Advisory committee

Strategy 2.3 Using the successful stories, good practise and experience

Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Conducting comparative analysis of current models for regulation of drugs	Board	Yearly	Expert services and study materials costs
Conducting periodic analyses of current strategies and legislation on drugs	Board	Yearly	Expert services and communication costs
Documenting results and value of harm reduction services and disseminating case studies about them	Board	Continuously	Expert services and communication costs

Strategy 2.4 Supporting development, implementation and evaluation of national drug policies, strategies and action plans			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Being part of the Strategic Plan working group, in the country where the member organisations operate	MOs	Continuously	
Preparing shadow reports on implementation of national drug strategies	MOs, DPNSEE Staff	One per year	Consultancy fees

Strategic Area 3: Rights of people who use drugs

Coordinators:

Marios Atzemis and Marija Mijović

Objective

Strengthening and capacity building of the PWUD community and other connected communities in risk (LGBTIQ persons, PLHIV, persons providing sex services, former prisoners, prisoners, Roma population, etc.) in order to achieve legally guaranteed human rights, through the provision of support from organisations dealing with this topic.

Analysis

The period behind us, the period of the COVID-19 epidemic, showed us how many gaps there are when it comes to practicing the basic human rights of PWUD (but also other connected communities in risk). Our entire region is facing similar issues, but there are certain differences in service provision. The very mission of this network is to provide the same outcomes for everyone in this community, when it comes to practising rights, which is what the activities of this strategic area want to achieve. Member organisations, but also cooperation with networks that deal with this topic, have given results in the past, so this strategy is based on mutual cooperation, in addition to individual work.

Activities

Strategy 3.1. Community involvement			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Strengthening PWUD (and other subcategories) through support and self-support groups	MOs, Board, Staff	Continuously	Travel and accommodation

Encouraging visibility and supporting PWUD community voice	MOs, Board, Staff	Continuously	Campaigns, projects, media coverage, social media appearance
Collecting and analysing DPNSEE and member organization documents and procedures	DPNSEE Working group	End of every year	Expert fees, travel and accommodation

Strategy 3.2 Legal issues and protection mechanisms - inclusive advocacy			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Analysing existing laws as well as making recommendations regarding the improvement of the existing legal framework, especially on decriminalisation and alternatives to coercive sanctions	DPNSEE Working group	End of every year	Member fees, travel and accommodation, communication costs
Updating the existing database with new, additional documents regarding anti-discrimination laws and protocols	DPNSEE working group	End of every year	Staff working time
Mapping and analysing functioning of mechanisms of human protection	DPNSEE working group	End of 2024	Member fees, travel and accommodation, communication costs
Providing legal support for at risk communities (PWUD and subcategories)	Legal experts in member organizations	Continuously	Legal expert fees
Promotion of conclusions derived from analyzes of laws, protocols and other documents on social networks and media	All member organisations	End of 2024	Payed add costs for social media

Strategy 3.3 Fighting discrimination and stigma - inclusive advocacy			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Promotion of human rights (laws, standards, legal protection) through the region	MOs, DPNSEE and other partners	Continuously	Working fees, PR, advertising and communication costs

Focusing work on issues related to stigma and discrimination among categories at risk by DPNSEE and member organizations	MOs, DPNSEE Board	Continuously	Fee for Board members, travel and accommodation
Collection of data on cases of stigma and discrimination related to drug use	DPNSEE Working group	Continuously	Working fees, travel and accommodation, communication costs
Fighting and reacting to hate speech and promoting drug sensitive language	DPNSEE and MOs	Continuously	Communication costs
Creating and disseminating position papers, analyses, shadow reports, expert documents, recommendations and instructions for fighting discrimination and stigma related to drug use	DPNSEE expert working group	Continuously	Working fees, travel and accommodation costs, publication costs

Strategy 3.4 Gender equality			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Analysis of the current situation and legal framework and creation of recommendations related to this area	DPNSEE expert working group	Continuously	Working fees, travel and accommodation costs, publication costs
Promoting the importance of gender equality among the general population and decision-makers, through participation in the media and on social networks, conferences, campaigns, etc.	DPNSEE, MOs	Continuously	Paid adds costs, working fees, travel and accommodation costs
Empowering women in relation to the expression of needs and rights in relation to gender equality, through structured support and self-support groups	All MOs	Continuously	Rent, technical assistance, refreshments

Strategic Area 4: Effective and Sustainable Network

Coordinators:

Nebojša Đurasović, Nicoleta Dascalu, Berina Bahić, Besnik Hohxa, Zharir Simirin, Marios Atzemis and Marija Mijović

Objective

Contribute to building effective and efficient network and member organizations, united around the same goal, common values, mission and vision.

Analysis

Harm reduction crisis affects significantly several member organisations in countries of the region. The hardest situation is currently in Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Romania, but those from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia are in a fragile situation too. The DPNSEE network does not have sustainability from which potentially non-project activities could be financed. The general trend of shrinking space for civil society in the region, but also wider, certainly influences organisations working with communities in risk. DPNSEE have achieved a solid level of recognition in the region and wider, but we need sustainability to continue with the good work.

Activities

Strategy 4.1. Financial sustainability			
Coordinators: Nebojša and Nicoleta			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Identification/mapping of funding sources, both at regional and national level	Board and Staff	Continuously	Participation in events
Promotion of the network in different other platforms/networks, for new connections and funding opportunities	Board and Staff	Continuously	Participation in events
Drafting a calendar for different funding opportunities and identifying the people to work on proposals	Board and Staff	Continuously	Participation in events
Monitoring of the GFATM funding opportunities and situations	Board and Staff	Continuously	Participation in events
Identifying potential partners and building cooperation with organizations, institutions and networks for joint applications to donors	Board and Staff	Continuously	Participation in events

Strategy 4.2 Capacity building			
Coordinators: Besnik and Berina			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Monitoring the opportunities for trainings/ capacity building/ resources/ webinars	Board and Staff	Continuously	

Organizing capacity building for member organizations: trainings, conferences, mentorships, webinars and study visits on different expressed needs	Board and Staff	Continuously	Expert services, travel and logistics, events related costs, publication cost
Publishing and disseminating an array of publications and building the knowledge base	Board and Staff	Continuously	Expert services, translation, publishing and communication costs
Fully developing the DPNSEE Resource Centre and providing its services for a variety of stakeholders	DPNSEE Staff	End of 2024	Fees for work, facility, communication and operational costs
Providing regular meetings for member organizations	Board	Annually	Travel and accommodation
Empowering new generation leaders in drug policy area	Board and Staff	Continuously	Expert services, travel and logistics, scholarship for members costs

Strategy 4.3 Improved governance of the DPNSEE (network as Focal point, establishing the Resource Centre, knowledge platform on thematic issues of the Network)			
Coordinators: Marios, Marija and Zharir			
Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Resources
Establishing more efficient cooperation between DPNSEE and member organizations, which would be proactive, more frequent and friendly	Board, Staff and MOs	Continuously	Secretariat funds, communication costs
Recognizing new ordinary and associate members in accordance with Network Statute, policy, mission and vision, and defining status of all network members	Board	Continuously	Board funds, travel and accommodation costs
Develop operation manuals and working protocols for the Network	Board and Staff	End of 2024	Board and Secretariat funds, travel and accommodation costs, communication costs

Forming ad hoc working groups work on specific issues of interest	Board and Staff	Continuously	Funds for Board, travel, accommodation and communication costs
Implementing, monitoring and evaluating the DPNSEE strategy	Board, Staff and MOs	Continuously	Board and Secretariat funds, travel and accommodation costs, communication costs