

Webinar

# Drug Policy evaluations: Opportunities to support inclusive, effective and evidence-based public policy

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Hosted by: Drug Policy Network South East Europe, Trimbos Institute for mental health and addiction

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# Evaluation of the National Strategy of Cyprus Challenges, Advantages and Disadvantages

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- need for an objective, reliable, evidence based evaluation of the strategy and NAAC as a whole
- at the same time that we drafted the new strategy 2021-2028



# Advantages

- Evaluation was conducted by Trimbos Institute, which has a lot of experience in evaluation
- Travel costs were invested in translation and more time to analyze relevant documents
- External, independent evaluation of the effectiveness of our Strategy
- Very good communication/ work relationship between our team and the evaluators. They were very organized, everything was delivered on time
- Flexibility of conducting everything through telecommunications- online (change of plans due to COVID 19 pandemic)
- Interviews with 32 professionals despite the physical distance
- Three focus groups with prisoners, ex-users, current users
- Recommendations included in the final report were used for the consultations with all the actors at national level.

# Disadvantages

- No face- to- face conduct
- Lack of responses by some key stakeholders despite of the reminders. It was easier for people to be interviewed
- Language barrier, however, an interpreter was used during the interviews



# ConsultationS

- Civil Society
- Citizens
- Ministries
- Institutions
- Stakeholders
- Evaluation



# Conclusions

- Good Communication
- Organization – structure – clear plan - timetables
- Willingness to utilize the results
- Professionalism
- Commitment
- The hosting country should be a good facilitators with very clear boundaries so as not to interfere in the evaluation
- the best should be working on this project to succeed

