



# CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS IN THE EU

**The Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD) is an expert group of the European Commission, created in 2007 on the basis of the Commission Green Paper on the role of civil society in drugs policy in the EU.**

**The CSFD membership comprises 45 CSOs from across Europe and representing a variety of fields of drug policy, and a variety of stances within those fields.**

**Its purpose is to provide a broad platform for a structured dialogue between the EC and the European civil society which supports drug policy formulation and implementation through practical advice.**

**Dear colleagues,**

I hope you and your loved ones are well and safe.

We are entering the last semester with a very intense activity at European and international levels. The EU is building a new strategy currently on the way, the German presidency's priorities and channels for dialogue with civil society are developing and the pandemic situation is still, as you very well know, impacting the most vulnerable populations including drug users in Europe and the services who care for them. That's why we will allocate some more time in our agenda to assess and exchange views with the EMCDDA on the subject in October.

The CSFD is building on previous experiences and present channels of communication with institutions to assess its priority, and the project partners are "all hands on deck" to bring you as much help, tools and analysis.

With this newsletter we aim to inform a broader range of stakeholders on CSFD activities and results and related news and updates. We specifically encourage representatives of civil society organisations in the area of drug demand reduction to contact us with questions and remarks.

For more information on the CSFD and the different members please check our website: [WWW.CIVILSOCIETYFORUMONDRUGS.EU](http://WWW.CIVILSOCIETYFORUMONDRUGS.EU)

All working groups are gathering and exchanging views online, on a regular basis to follow news and bring Civil Society's input in a reactive fashion. We collectively continue the work to bring expertise from the ground and the voice of civil society actors to policy makers even during these challenging times, and are still at your disposal if need be. Enjoy your reading!

With our strongest support and solidarity,  
Laurene Collard  
Chair of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs

## CSFD UPDATE

### CSFD Secretariat

#### EU Drug Agenda

On July 24, 2020, the European Commission published a Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region on the EU Drug Agenda and Action Plan (2021-2025).

The CSFD reviewed this communication, by comparing it to the previous EU Drug Strategy and Action Plan and other relevant drug policy documents. Based on this review, the CSFD has launched an extensive consultation among its members and prepared a Statement summarising positive feedback and points of concern. This Statement is shared with the European Commission and the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG).

More information on this will follow shortly.

#### German Presidency

From July till December 2020 Germany is holding the EU Presidency. An important priority topic is the negotiation and adoption of the new EU Drug Agenda. Furthermore, Germany will address the topic of vulnerable groups in the area of prevention, early intervention and harm reduction. A specific meeting of the national drug coordinators will be held on 14 October. The CSFD will present a statement during this session and prepare a position paper, covering the three priority areas. Potential input is appreciated and should be sent to Matej Kosir and Katrin Schiffer.

#### vvCSFD Plenary Meeting

On 7-8 October the CSFD will have its annual Plenary Meeting, which will be organised as online event this year. Main agenda points of this meeting are the new EU Drug Agenda, Covid-19, update on developments in the different working groups and the renewal of the CSFD, which is expected to be announced at the end of this year.

If you do have any other question, remark or input, please let us know as well. You can contact us: [KSCHIFFER@CORRELATION-NET.ORG](mailto:KSCHIFFER@CORRELATION-NET.ORG) and [IRAULET@CORRELATION-NET.ORG](mailto:IRAULET@CORRELATION-NET.ORG)

Katrin Schiffer,  
On behalf of the CSFD Project

### WG 1 EU Actions Plan on Drugs

Over the last several months, we've worked intensively on the CSFD contribution for the EU Drug Agenda 2020-2025. It is quite a challenging process, with multiple channels of communication, reiterative process of developing our input, and stakeholder discussions. We are currently preparing the final draft to be send to the European Commission and HDG by the end of the month.

Due to the increasing travel restrictions and the arrival of the second wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, we have decided to again postpone the meeting on the future of the European drug policy. With a focus changed to policy implementation challenges and opportunities, we plan to organise the meeting in early spring 2021.

Finally, we've been continuing our research activities in the area of the EU Drug Strategy 2013-2020 evaluation,

collecting contributions from selected researchers regarding the situation on the ground in their countries, as well as designing the research process for the ex-post quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the Strategy by the civil society experts.

Iga Kender-Jeziorska,  
On behalf of the Working Group 1

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## WG 2 Relations with International Institutions

We welcome two new members to the working group: Mat Southwell from the European Network of People who Use Drugs (EuroNPUD) new representative to the CSFD and Anna Ollo from Asociación Proyecto Hombre who will be supporting Oriol Esculies work.

The months of summer have given us the chance to plan the activities for the upcoming months. We plan to:

- Work on a position paper of the CSFD towards WHO recommendations regarding the medical use of cannabis.
- Contribute to the statements of the EU at the CND Thematic Session on 19-21 October.
- Present an application as civil society speakers to the VNGOC for the CND Thematic Session.
- Work in the contribution for the next bilateral meeting EU-CELAC, with members of 33 Latin America and the Caribbean member states in late October.
- Explore how the lesson learned from COVID concerning drug-related services are affecting people using these services.

Busy months ahead!

Lucía Goberna,  
On behalf of the Working Group 2

## WG 3 Civil Society Involvement with National Drug Policy

The Rights Reporter Foundation and AFEW International are currently compiling an Assessment Report on Civil Society Involvement, building on existing literature and previous work in the field. Members of the WG have contributed actively and provided useful comments and input.

The report is expected to be published in October 2020 and will inform the development of principles for meaningful CSI. Furthermore, it will support CSOs in developing structures for CSI on national level.

Katrin Schiffer  
On behalf of the Working Group 3

## WG 4 Minimum Quality Standards

One of the most important aims of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD) and especially its Working Group on Minimum Quality Standards in Drug Policy in the following years is to increase the quality of services in the area of drug demand reduction in the EU Member States by an active involvement of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This will be achieved by promoting the implementation of minimum quality standards in EU Member States (advocacy) and improving knowledge and skills among CSOs on how to implement minimum quality standards on the national level.

A comprehensive advocacy plan is in the phase of development and will be discussed by the CSFD members very soon. The advocacy plan will support the promotion of the minimum quality standards in EU Member States and more specifically the guidelines and recommendations, which were developed and published in the previous CSFD project (2017-2019). The advocacy plan will stipulate all relevant advocacy actions and will address several key stakeholders and target groups, including policy and decision makers on the national and European level, and service providers and CSOs on the national level.

The advocacy plan will be implemented in the period of 2020-2022 and includes specific activities, such as: (1) policy briefings with relevant stakeholders at EU and national level (policy and decision makers); (2) media activities to inform different relevant stakeholders and target groups on existence and importance of minimum quality standards, assessment of implementation in reality and available training (which will be developed within this project as well); (3) promotion activities during relevant European conferences in the field of drug demand reduction depending on the COVID-19 situation (e.g. Lisbon Addictions 2021, European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR) conferences 2020-2021, European Harm Reduction Conference (EHRC 2020) etc. through active participation and presentations); and (4) preparation of a thematic paper on minimum quality standards, focusing on the specific needs of marginalised groups and gender-related issues which are not adequately addressed in the present Council Conclusions document (future considerations regarding standards).

Matej Košir  
On behalf of the Working Group 4

## NEWS

### Warsaw CSFD workshop on the EU Drug Agenda

Due to the current developments of the EU Drug Agenda 2021-2025 adoption, as well as taking into consideration the current travel restrictions and epidemiological situation in Europe, we have decided to postpone the meeting. It will hopefully take place in spring 2021 with updated aims, focusing on the issues related to the implementation of the Agenda.

We will keep you updated regarding this meeting in Warsaw.

### International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on 31 August each year that aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related death.

**CHECK HERE** the reports, events and news.

### Facts and myths about overdose and take-home naloxone — EMCDDA publishes new resources

Over the past five years, more than 40 000 people have died of a drug-related overdose in the European Union and the UK; around 80% of these being linked to the use of heroin or other opioids. Yet, with effective intervention, they could have been prevented.

**READ MORE**

### CSFD Project — 8 case studies on the European Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020

**HOW THE EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN ON DRUGS 2017-2020 (AP) HAS INFLUENCED THE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES IN THE EU MEMBER STATES?**

**WHAT OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS OF THE AP ARE REFLECTED AND ADOPTED IN THE NATIONAL APS? AND WHAT IS ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED ?**

**WHICH KEY ACTIONS ARE THE MOST RELEVANT IN CSO PERSPECTIVE AND CAN SUPPORT CSO ADVOCACY AT NATIONAL LEVEL?**

**HOW THE EUROPEAN AP RECOMMENDATIONS ON CS INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG POLICY ARE INCLUDED IN NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED?**

To find an answer to these questions, in order to better understand if and to what extent European Action Plan play a positive role in MSs national drug policies and support CSO in promoting more effective, evidence and human rights based drug strategies, the CSFD Project II 2020-2021 (WP2) is carrying on a qualitative research based on 8 national case studies. This research will integrate and build upon the previous quantitative researches promoted by the CSFD (WG1) on these topics.

The countries involved are Greece, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Netherland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain.

The research group started its work in September, consequently the national case studies findings and the overall research report are expected by the end of the year.

The research is coordinated by Forum Droghe (IT).



### Is your model of care the best?

INHSU is excited to launch the Connecting with Care Competition; a global award to identify innovative models of hepatitis C care in order to highlight emerging ways of working and to inspire others in the sector.

Open to entries globally, applicants are invited to submit their model of care as an opportunity to showcase to the world how their model effectively provides access to hepatitis C treatment and care for people who use drugs.

The award is part of Connecting with Care, an ongoing project led by INHSU.

Connecting with Care inspires and educates the global hepatitis C community by sharing innovative case studies from every corner of the globe, with the ultimate aim of creating an interactive online Model of Care Toolkit to provide services with the practical tools they need to enhance hepatitis C care for people who use drugs.

**READ MORE**



# CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS IN THE EU



## Renewed CSFD Website

The updated CSFD website is available online, please check it over for regular updates, news and publications coming from Civil Society forum on Drugs:

**[WWW.CIVILSOCIETYFORUMONDRUGS.EU](http://WWW.CIVILSOCIETYFORUMONDRUGS.EU)**

In order to give your input to the website in terms of news, events or publications please contact Ion Raulet

**[IRAULET@CORRELATION-NET.ORG](mailto:IRAULET@CORRELATION-NET.ORG)**

or submit your contribution using the Information Collection Tools  
**[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/KB89XHN](https://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/KB89XHN)**



## 5th European Harm Reduction Conference

Unfortunately,  
Due to the unstable situation around COVID-19 rules and regulations, the EHRC2020 team have decided to postpone the conference to 2021. Please follow updates regarding the new dates at

**[WWW.HARMREDUCTIONCONFERENCE.EU](http://WWW.HARMREDUCTIONCONFERENCE.EU)**

## WEBINARS & EVENTS



## 11th EUSPR Conference and Members' Meeting, October 7th – 9th 2020, online event

The theme this year is 'Make prevention science relevant for all: co-production and impact' and keynotes and special sessions will focus on reducing the gap between science and practice in prevention, understanding co-production and the role of policy makers, practitioners, communities and researchers to develop efficacious, sustainable and cost-effectiveness prevention interventions in practice. They invite you to prepare and submit abstracts on the conference theme, but also welcome submissions on all prevention science related topics, including discussion papers, and theoretical and methodological developments. The 11th EUSPR conference will be presented for the first time in a virtual and open format. Even though this year's conference will be free of charge, only EUSPR members will grant access to the recorded sessions and a reduced fee for the 2021 conference to be held in Tallin, Estonia, September 28th to 30th 2021. Therefore, we encourage renewal of 2021 membership previous to the celebration of the online conference.

**[READ MORE](#)**



## Webinar to mark the International Recovery day!

Date: Tuesday 29th September  
Time: 14:00 (Stockholm-time) CEST.  
Where: Zoom (link will be sent prior to the webinar)

On the 29th of September, WFAD invites you to take part in the second webinar around recovery. Research indicates that people discriminate more often when they are not familiar with certain phenomena. Therefore, one of the first steps is to celebrate recovery and make recovery visible in order to create a common bond and to challenge exclusion and stigmatization. Recovery communities have been celebrating recovery by holding local events for some time now. But the Internet and the ongoing pandemic has enabled us to bridge the space and time zone barriers, and helped us join our international forces and global voices to celebrate and promote recovery, especially during the September, Recovery Month, and 30 September, the International Recovery Day. In this webinar we will learn more about the recovery process from two experts from the field from SAD and the UK. We welcome our two speakers Robert Dupont and Huseyin Djemil. The discussions will be led by Mulka Nisic.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**



## Save the Date for a live webinar: OPIOID USE DISORDER: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TREATMENT Italy, Europe and USA: comparing different experiences

San Patrignano Head of Health and therapeutic Programm , A. Boschini, in collaboration with Jonathan Avery, (Director of Addiction Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College NewYork) organized this Distance Learning program and live streaming webinar to discuss the treatment opportunities for OUD available in USA, Europe and Italy and their efficacy, with teh contribution of experts from these countries.

**[READ MORE](#)**



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## PUBLICATIONS



### Save the date: European Drug Report 2020 was released on 22 September

(8.9.2020, LISBON)

- How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting drug use, supply and services?
- What are the health costs of drug use in Europe today?
- What do the latest data tell us about drug production and trafficking trends?

The EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) launched its European Drug Report 2020: Trends and Developments in a live online media event on 22 September.

In this latest annual review — marking 25 years of monitoring — the EMCDDA describes the drug situation at the end of 2019, along with recent changes brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

The report (in English) provides a comprehensive analysis of patterns emerging across the EU, Turkey and Norway in the areas of drug supply, illicit drug use and associated public health problems. National data sets are also provided across these themes and on key harm-reduction interventions. In a new format, chapters are organised primarily by drug type and by related harms.

The publication is an essential resource for developing evidence-based policy and action and provides a valuable baseline against which future changes in the drugs field can be measured.

Accompanying the report this year will be a Key Issues summary (in 24 languages), presenting a selection of the main findings from the latest analysis, chosen for their policy relevance and general interest. The 2020 Statistical Bulletin, containing the European dataset underpinning the report, will also be available.

The report delivers the most detailed and up-to-date snapshot available of the drug situation in Europe.

### On 24 July 2020, the Commission adopted the EU Agenda and Action Plan on Drugs 2021-2025

[CLICK HERE](#) in order to download the respective documents

### THE IMPORTANCE OF RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT DRUG OVERDOSES

The number of drug overdoses has increased in Russia in 2019. This is shown in the report on the drug situation in Russia in 2019 by the State Anti-Drug Committee. In 2019 the country registered 18,053 cases of drug poisoning, while in 2018 this number was 10% less – 16,336. The number of deaths from drug overdose also increased to 4,569 people in 2019, which is 2.8% more than in 2018 (4,445 people). Despite these alarming figures, there has been little change in Russian drug policy to tackle this problem. Drug use is still criminalized, harm reduction services are under harsh pressure by the government, and stigma and discrimination by health care workers, police, and society in general remains a significant obstacle for drug users to seek help. AFEW International and specialists from Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Netherlands discussed the problem of overdose in the EECA region and in the world.

[READ MORE](#)



### Briefing paper by Nobody Left Outside (NLO) coalition

**For the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development**

Since the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic crisis took off, the marginalised communities in Europe, who are underserved with respect to healthcare, are facing even tougher situations.

NLO initiative which aims to improve the healthcare access for those communities, has published a briefing paper to explain to policymakers the particular challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to government responses among marginalised groups in Europe.

[READ THE PAPER](#)

### Would Europe be able to cope with a potential synthetic opioids epidemic?

**The partners of the project SO-PREP are digging into data**

COVID-19 showed us that being prepared for a national health emergency is crucial. And many of us and our countries were not. How can we be better prepared in the future, for instance, for a potential synthetic opioids epidemic?

SO-PREP project studies that by mapping national health emergency responses of European countries to a public health threat. SO-PREP project partners are digging into this data and identifying mechanisms that may apply to synthetic opioid preparedness in Europe.

[READ MORE](#)



### The Oldest Harm Reduction Organisation in Bulgaria Shut Down

In June 2020, all harm reduction services with public funding stopped in Bulgaria for the second time in three (2017-2020) years. The oldest, biggest, and most experienced harm reduction organisation, Initiative for Health Foundation, shut down too. No needle and syringe programs remained open in the country. Read our report on Drugreporter!

[READ MORE](#)

## COURSE & TRAINING

### Executive Course – Global Health and Drug Policy

Check-out this intensive online three-day course with renowned faculty and leading practitioners organised by the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute. It will combine theory and practice through lectures, high-level panels and exercises.

For more information please click [HERE](#)

For program click [HERE](#)



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## CALLS



### Provision of support to former prisoners for successful re-integration into the community - ReCover

Within the project “Provision of support to former prisoners for successful re-integration into the community- ReCover” implemented by NGO Juventas and financially supported through the grant scheme “Support in providing services of social and child protection”, as a part of the EU and Montenegro Programme on Employment, Education and Social Policies, Juventas are hiring two EU experts.

In that regard, We would like to bring your attention to those two open calls:

1. OPEN CALL for an *EU expert in the field of improving the treatment of prisoners and their re-integration*

**READ MORE** for details

2. OPEN CALL for an *EU expert for the development of the guidelines for improving the treatment of prisoners and development of accredited trainings for professional workers*

**READ MORE** for details

The deadline is extended to 30.09.2020



### Call for expressions of interest Phase 1 of collection of models of good practice Joint ECDC/EMCDDA PWID Guidance (2011) update

The joint ECDC & EMCDDA guidance on *Prevention and control of infectious diseases among people who inject drugs (2011)* is currently being updated. In addition to ongoing systematic reviews of peer-reviewed literature, a collection of models of good practice has been initiated by the two agencies, that should add practice-based evidence derived from interventions implemented in real-life, European settings.

**READ MORE**

