

# 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.**

With this newsletter we aim to inform CSFD members on relevant CSFD activities, developments and related news and updates. We specifically encourage all of you to share relevant information and updates, so we can use it in the next newsletter.

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

## CSFD UPDATE

### CSFD Secretariat

The second CSFD Project started in February 2020 and we are now approaching the first half of our project term. A lot has been done achieved in this time. We updated the CSFD website, improved our communication strategy with internal and external communications and newsletters and carried out many different activities in the different working groups.

Covid-19 has impacted our work and activities significantly. Although, we were unable to organise face-to-face project meetings and events, we have organised and participated to more than 35 online meetings. We organised and contributed to meetings with important

external stakeholders, including the Horizontal Drug Group, the EU Drug Coordinator Meeting, the Pompidou Group and the EMCDDA.

Time will show how Covid-19 will impact our activities in 2021. We hope that we will be able to organise relevant events, including the mini conference on drug policy (to be organised by WG1), the CSFD training (WG2 and WG3) and the planned Civil Society Involvement Conference, which is planned to be organised in cooperation with the CSF on HIV/Aids, HCV and TB and other civil society networks in the field.

More about all this in in 2021. Until then, I wish you a happy and safe holiday time.

Katrin Schiffer,  
On behalf of the CSFD Project

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)

### Small interviews with the CSFD Chair and Working Groups' Chairs

#### CSFD Chair Laurene Collard

**1. Do you consider CSFD successful in its activities? Does it serve as a platform which represents the opinion from different parts of the European community?**

Yes, the CSFD is certainly a successful project. With its precious help, a large amount of contributions and assets for training are produced. It is also helping the voice of CS reach political stakeholders. The diversity of views within the CSFD is reflecting the plurality of perspectives on the subject of drug policy in Europe, while still maintaining a dynamic perspective between members.

**2. What are the main things you would like to mention or share about the past three years of CSFD?**

The recent years have proven our capacity to evolve in our views and to find common ground on a growing number of subject, in a scientific and evidence based approach. These last mandate has also allowed our vigilance to grow considering our identity as an expert group to the Commission, and has tested the limits of our current format. I think it gave us a very strong chance to act and anticipate new procedures to keep being effective, in the fragile equilibrium between being a consultative group to the political stakeholders and acting as an independent expert group.

It has also been one of the most challenged mandate with the COVID crisis and was characteristic of the need for open dialogue and widening the channels of consultation, with the renewed relation with other stakeholders, such as the EMCDDA, the CSF on HUV HepC TB, the recent meeting with the Pompidou group.

It has proven its ability to engage in a productive way with the Council and the HDG at regular occasions and on sensitive matters, as illustrated by the regular invitation to contribute by the Presidency for the NDC meeting for instance.

And I think the involvement of PWUD in the forum was key for our success, on breaking new grounds.

**3. What are your hopes for the forthcoming CSFD Mandate?**

I sincerely hope first-of-all that the members who are willing to continue our good collective work will be selected by the Commission for the next round.

Then, I am confident we will manage to widen our perspectives even further, to discuss even more concrete aspects and subjects on this theme as already discussed during the last plenary meeting, considering the gender perspective, the importance of taking into account prison settings, homelessness and the social impacts of both addiction and the policy framework in place on the most vulnerable population. These aspects should also be at the core of a renewed communication and contribution process with the European Institutions, and the results of the survey currently circulating will be a key help in this perspective.

So I hope that all our members will be able to contribute to that questionnaire and beyond, feeding that process with their numerous and valuable ideas, and I am looking forward to this renewed framework of actions for CS!

#### Chair WG1 – EU Actions Plan on Drugs, Iga Kender-Jeziorska

**1. What are the most important achievements of the CSFD in terms of the EU Drug Agenda?**

The CSFD, through the work of the WG on the EU Drug Policy, has contributed in numerous ways to the development of the new EU Drug Strategy 2021-2025. We've submitted numerous position papers (on the Roadmap, Drugs Agenda 2021-2025 and the draft of the Drug Strategy 2021-2025). We've had several calls with the European Commission and recently the German Presidency and the HDG where we have expressed our recommendations and highlighted the most important issues. Many of CSFD's recommendations on the EU Drugs Agenda were taken into consideration and included in the new draft of the EU Drug Strategy, eg. strong embedment of the Strategy in human rights and UN documents, separation of drug prevention from crime prevention, the inclusion of cross-cutting themes (following the current Strategy), the inclusion of gender perspective and other vulnerable groups, the inclusion of the civil society and highlighting its role in drug policymaking.

**2. What should be our hopes regarding the final document?**

We hope that the final document will keep the best from the current EU Drug Strategy 2013-2020, at the same time reflecting new developments on the drug markets as well as lessons learnt during the COVID pandemic. We believe that the final result will be a balanced document highlighting the need for evidence-based policies, but also ad-hoc innovations in the face of a global crisis.



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### 3. What should be our hopes regarding the drafting of the EU Drug Action Plan?

We hope to be meaningfully involved in the drafting of the EU Drug Action Plan under the Portuguese Presidency in early 2021. The CSFD has expressed its readiness to provide input on multiple occasions, which was welcomed by both the current German and the next, Portuguese Presidency. We hope the CSFD can further advocate for solutions supported by the European civil society on the level of operational goals of the EU drug policy. Regarding the content, the CSFD has primarily highlighted the need for adequate indicators in the EU Action Plan on Drugs.

### 4. Is CSFD the right instrument to make the voice of the civil society and community heard?

The CSFD is without a doubt a great instrument for the amplification of the voices of civil society in the European drug policy arena. Being close to the EU-level policymakers has proved to be effective in transferring the knowledge gained on the ground to the level of policymaking. In the future, with the CSFD gradually becoming more inclusive and communicative with civil society actors from outside the Forum, I hope it will be of even more use for non-governmental organisations and other third sector actors in advocating for effective, cost-efficient and adequate solutions to the challenges of the ever-changing drug markets.

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

## Chair WG 2 – Relations with International Institutions, Marie Nougier

### 1. What are the developments in International Drug Policy developments in the past three years?

Following the 2016 UNGASS, the next big moment in international drug policy was the 10 year review of the 2009 Political Declaration, held in March 2019. Significant advocacy went into influencing both the event's format and the outcome of the ministerial segment – a declaration which, for the first time in a negotiated document, listed the many challenges the international community is facing in global drug policy. In parallel, the UN Chief Executives Board – which includes the heads of all 31 UN agencies – adopted a landmark Common Position on drug-related matters, which positively promotes drug policies grounded in human rights, health and development. Finally, the CND is about to vote for the first time ever on WHO's recommendations on cannabis rescheduling. Although we may not agree with all the proposed recommendations, it is the first time in the history of the UN that cannabis was scientifically reviewed by the WHO, which is itself a positive step forward. And it is expected that – at the very least – the medicinal value of the plant will finally be recognised at global level.

### 2. What are your expectations and hopes for the CND 2021?

It is difficult to anticipate what the 2021 CND will look like in the context of lockdown measures related to COVID. We hope that any virtual format for the meeting will ensure adequate participation for civil society. On the debates themselves, we can expect a continuation of the polarised debates that have increasingly characterised the CND over the past decade, and the COVID pandemic will probably feature prominently in the CND debates. Interestingly, the 64th session of the CND will coincide with the 5-year anniversary of the UNGASS on drugs, so we hope that the debates will prioritise issues associated with health, human rights and development.

### 3. What are the planned activities of the CSFD during CND 2021?

The CSFD will engage in advocacy activities ahead of the CND, by meeting with the HDG before the session to provide inputs on the agenda and draft resolutions, and we will also meet with the EU delegation at the CND itself. If they take place again next year, the CSFD will also attend the informal dialogues with the heads of the CND, INCB and UNODC and submit questions ahead of these discussions. In addition, we were planning to organise a side event, although whether we go ahead with this or not will depend on the format of the CND session. So stay tuned for more information on this!

### 4 How would you rate the co-operation between CSFD and CND?

The CSFD is only one of hundreds of NGOs attending the CND each year, but we have become more visible over the past couple of years thanks to engagement in side events, informal dialogues and – for the first time in October – delivering an oral statement in the CND plenary session.

### 5. What are your expectations for the future of the International Drug Policy?

There is a lot of uncertainty on future of international drug policy. However, it seems that extremes in drug policy will continue to be showcased at the CND, with some countries promoting legal regulation on the one hand, while others continue to highlight the death penalty as an effective policy option on the other – with many, many variations in between. What seems clear is that international drug control bodies run the risk of becoming irrelevant if they fail to reflect new realities on the ground – including moves for decriminalisation and legal regulation – and refuse to align with the broader UN's imperatives to promote human rights, health and development. The UN Common Position on drug-related matters is one opportunity to do so, let's see if member states seize the opportunity going forward!

Marie Nougier,  
On behalf of the Working Group 2

## Chair WG 3 – Civil Society Involvement with National Drug Policy, Peter Sarosi

### 1. What can be our learnings from the Assessment Phase?

The CSFD Working Group 3, with the leadership of Rights Reporter Foundation and AFEW International, conducted a literature review. We reviewed reports and research papers on civil society involvement (CSI) published by relevant international and national organizations and institutions. Our report identified some key quality criteria that can make CSI more meaningful and effective. We highlighted some good practices of CSI, such as the cooperation of the Dutch government with CSOs, or bad examples, such as the political attacks against some foreign funded CSOs.

### 2. What are the developments in the CSI in Europe in the past three years?

In most countries there are some kind of local and national mechanisms to involve civil society organisations into decision making in the field of drug policies. But there is a difference in how these mechanisms are formalised and how satisfied civil society organisations are with the whole process. One key issue is funding. If CSOs have no access to sustainable funding even to keep their services open, they will not be able to invest much time and energy into advocacy and consultation. Beside austerity measures and budget cuts, there is a negative trend we call the shrinking space for civil society. This means that in many countries CSOs are increasingly scapegoated and ostracised in the name of national sovereignty. This is very worrying.

### 3. Why should there be CSI Principles and Standards?

Significant progress has been made in many countries towards a new paradigm of cooperation between civil society and governments, serving as a basis of a more participatory approach. This is a positive development. But we do not know if these CSI mechanisms are meaningful and effective. Many NGOs complain that they are more like a box-ticking exercise in their countries. We would like to give a practical handbook to decision makers and civil society to use as a guideline on how to design and implement CSI. We use the EQUUS Quality Standards on Drug Prevention Interventions as a model. Our quality standards will provide a checklist to assure that both sides meet certain quality criteria when working together. For example, both civil society and government can require the other to be transparent, trustful or approachable. We will tell them what transparency, trust or approachability means in the context of CSI.

### 4. What are our perspectives in Europe regarding CSI, in your opinion?

A vibrant civil society is the cornerstone of strong democracy, it needs to be protected and cultivated, like a garden. A garden of creative ideas and active communities that contribute to effective policy making. Policy makers often identify CSOs as risk factors or pain in the neck. But they have to realise that they are among the main beneficiaries of a vibrant civil society if they learn how to cooperate with us in a meaningful way.

### 5. Is CSFD a good example of CSI?

We should acknowledge the commitment of the European Commission to involve civil society, as well as supporting and funding our work. In the past couple of years we could demonstrate to decision makers that CSI is a very useful exercise. Our contribution to the work of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) was praised by several EU presidencies and member states as well. Of course there is still much to learn. For example, there is a need for more transparency and trust. When the system was designed CSI was no part of it. But I am confident that we are on a good track.

Peter Sarosi,  
On behalf of the Working Group 3

## Chair WG 4 – Minimum Quality Standards, Matej Košir

### 1. What is the state of the art regarding minimum quality standards (MQS)?

According to the evaluation of the EU Drug Strategy 2013-2020 and EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020, especially in terms of specific objective on embedding coordinated, best practice and quality approaches in drug demand reduction, more than half of EU Member States reported the use of the minimum quality standards. However, most service providers have been civil society organisations (CSOs), some of which have seen decreasing financial resources and have limited capacities and skills, which in turn could hinder the implementation of the minimum quality standards. Based on the Guidelines and Recommendations for the implementation of Minimum Quality Standards in drug demand reduction in the European Union by CSOs[1], there are a number of conclusions which should be highlighted for the future actions and drug policy priorities. These are: (1) disinvestment from ineffective and harmful interventions; (2) investment in education, training and continuing professional development of drug demand reduction workforce; (3) promotion of monitoring and evaluation culture; and (4) sustainable funding related to the implementation of standards.



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## 2. Advocacy Plan: What will be the main advocacy activities of the CSFD?

The aim of the advocacy plan which has been developed as a part of the CSFD project in past few months is to support the promotion and implementation of the minimum quality standards in EU Member States and candidate countries and more specifically the Guidelines and Recommendations. This aim will be achieved by stipulating all relevant advocacy actions and addressing several key stakeholders and target groups, including policy and decision makers, service providers and civil society organisations (CSOs) at the European, national, regional or local level.

The CSFD as a whole and selected CSOs will establish the European and in addition also national, regional or local advocacy coalitions or alliances, which will include the most relevant stakeholders for an action to promote the implementation of the minimum quality standards

in policy and practice (e.g. representatives of CSOs, academic and/or research institutions, media, policy and decision makers, opinion leaders etc.). The main activities which are planned to be conducted as a part of advocacy action plans include the policy briefings with policy and decision makers, media activities and promotion of the Guidelines and Recommendations (e.g. presentations at international or national conferences, in-person or virtually depending on COVID-19 situation).

## 3. Challenges and bottlenecks for implementing these activities? (e.g. impact of COVID-19?)

Due to COVID-19 situation and limitations to organise meetings and conferences in person, CSFD Members involved in the implementation of advocacy plan are advised to organise virtual meetings (e.g. coalition kick-off and other meetings) and conferences (e.g. with

key stakeholders in the field) when and where this is necessary (by using virtual platforms). The activities of the advocacy plan regarding the promotion of the implementation of minimum quality standards could also be conducted online or virtually, by submitting abstracts and presenting the results at the international or national conferences which will be organised on virtual platforms.

Matej Košir,  
On behalf of the Working Group 4

[1] [HTTPS://INFO.HARMREDUCTION.  
EU/FILES/88/CEHRN/27/  
CSFD2020GUIDELINESRECOMMENDATIONSENFINAL.PDF](https://info.harmreduction.eu/files/88/CEHRN/27/CSFD2020GUIDELINESRECOMMENDATIONSENFINAL.PDF)

## NEWS



### 5th European Harm Reduction Conference

Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN) organised a series of Harm Reduction Sessions on 5 November, replacing the Conference which is now postponed to 2021.

Below are the links to all the session recordings for your future reference.

[READ MORE](#)



### AFEW International celebrates 20 years of activity

Civil Society Forum On Drugs would like to congratulate our member AFEW International for 20 years of activity in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. We wish prosperous continuation of their work.

[READ MORE](#)

### CSFD addresses HDG members

On 10th November, the CSFD held a joint meeting with the HDG. The meeting included two key agenda items: updates and recommendations on the draft EU Drug Strategy 2021-2025, and the upcoming 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. For both items, CSFD members provided detailed inputs while seeking clarifications and updates from the German presidency and upcoming Portuguese presidency.



### We are reinforcing peers' involvement in outreach work

The Peer2Peer European project (funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union and coordinated by APDES) promoted three training sessions on cooperation practices between different stakeholders, such as peers and professionals, outreach workers, small-scale drug dealers and law enforcement. The training program was created by the European Harm Reduction Network, Free Clinic and ASUD and it was implemented in Lithuania, Greece and Poland, being EHRA, Praksis and Prekursor the focal points for its delivery. The training focused on a conceptual framework about peers involvement and outreach work, planning and stakeholders, communication values, norms and boundaries and advocacy. We believe the training dimension is a vital starting point for the integration of peer educators in outreach work and it should take into account the specificities of the role, position and tasks each peer educator carries out in the outreach team. The next step is the implementation of a tailor-made pilot intervention in Lithuania, Greece and Poland contributing to the improvement of services provided to PUPS, so they become more accessible and tailored to PUPS needs.

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### Emerging methamphetamine industry in Afghanistan 'worrying', says new EMCDDA study

There are signs that a methamphetamine industry is taking hold in Afghanistan, according to a new report published today by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA). The paper — Emerging evidence of Afghanistan's role as a producer and supplier of ephedrine and methamphetamine — explores whether the country, renowned for being the world's leading opium producer, has the potential to become a significant producer of methamphetamine. The report is the result of research conducted under the EU4Monitoring Drugs (EU4MD) project, funded by the European Commission.

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### Looking back on 25 years of monitoring prevention in Europe

When the EMCDDA began its operations in 1995, it was clear that the understanding and narrative on prevention had to change. What was needed was a cultural shift from a rather amorphous concept — often based on good intentions — to a prevention that was more scientifically sound, rooted in clear concepts and evidence of effectiveness, and that could improve real-life practice and decision making. This month, Gregor Burkhardt, Principal scientific analyst for prevention at the EMCDDA looks back on key milestones of the past 25 years of monitoring in this field.

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## Between Waves: Update on the COVID-19 and Harm Reduction Situation in Europe

By Drugreporter

After the introduction of lockdown measures in March, Drugreporter was at the forefront of monitoring and reporting the harm reduction situation in Europe. We interviewed service providers and activists from more than 30 European cities, created an updated info page, and launched Stories from the Frontlines, a series of live web-videos. In October we conducted an online survey with the objective of giving an overview of the current situation and finding out whether changes introduced during the lockdown still persist or not.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

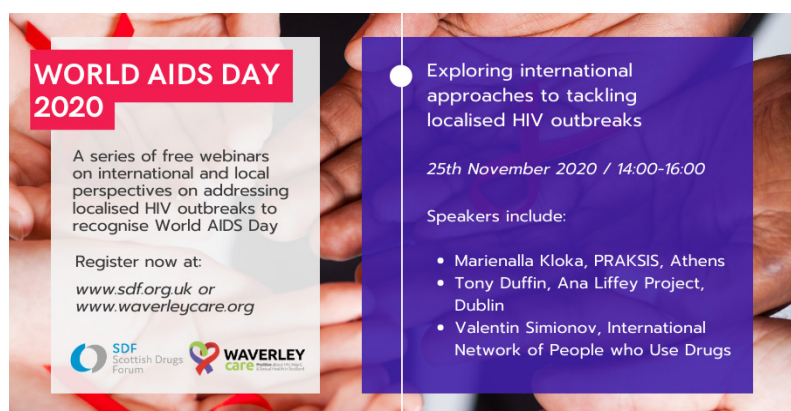
## Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Resources and information

By IDPC

The COVID-19 pandemic represents a global challenge whose ramifications are serious and difficult to accurately predict. Communities targeted by the “war on drugs”, living in situations of vulnerability, experiencing exclusion, stigmatisation and criminalisation, will bear a differentiated and disproportionate burden of the negative consequences associated with the pandemic. Below, you will find a thematic list of information and guidance resources that we will continue to update in the coming weeks as a means to promote resilience and solidarity.

[READ MORE](#)

## WEBINARS & EVENTS



## Scottish Drugs Forum & Waverley Care: World AIDS Day Webinars

To recognise World AIDS Day, we will be hosting a series of two free webinars on international and local perspectives on addressing localised HIV outbreaks. Wednesday 25 November, 14:00-16:00 (UK time) - Exploring international approaches to tackling localised HIV outbreaks Wednesday 2 December, 14:00-16:00 (UK time) - Exploring Glasgow’s approach to tackling the ongoing HIV outbreak.

*Registration is required to attend.*

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## SAVE THE DATE! 3 DECEMBER, 11.30 (CET)

Welcome to an online event from AFEW International “20 years of East-West collaboration: building bridges to the future”! On 3 December, AFEW International, the Amsterdam-based partner, invites you to join an online talk with experts about its work for marginalized groups in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – groups that lack access to health services because of persistent stigma and discrimination.

[READ MORE](#)



## IS HIV WORK HUMAN RIGHTS WORK? EAST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2020

On the 14 December, a virtual Eastern Europe conference will be held on the topic “Is HIV Work Human Rights Work?”. Originally the event was planned to be in Berlin in March but due to the Corona Pandemic it was cancelled. This conference is based on the discussions and outcomes of the conference “HIV in Eastern Europe – the unnoticed epidemic?!” from 2017.

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# CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS IN THE EU

## PUBLICATIONS



### “THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA”

In August 2020 AFEW International conducted a questionnaire among Civil Society Organisations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to measure the impact of COVID-19 on CSOs in the region. The results of the survey are now published in the report “The impact of COVID-19 on civil society organisations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”.

[READ THE REPORT](#)

[READ THE SHORT OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT](#)

### Cannabis rescheduling: A global introduction

IDPC and TNI offer guidance on the WHO’s cannabis scheduling recommendations, to inform the scheduling vote that is going to take place at the CND Reconvened Session in December 2020.

[READ MORE](#)

### Principles for the responsible legal regulation of cannabis

As more jurisdictions are moving towards the legal regulation of cannabis, IDPC presents twenty principles to guide the responsible legal regulation of cannabis markets.

[READ MORE](#)

### CSFD submits contributions on health-related matters for CND thematic intersessional

At the occasion of the CND Thematic Intersessional on health-related matters, held in October, the CSFD submitted written contributions to EU officials on drug dependence treatment, harm reduction, availability of controlled medicines and new psychoactive substances. For the first time, the CSFD chair delivered an oral statement at the CND thematic session on treatment.

[READ MORE](#)

### The WHO recommendations on the rescheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances

This CSFD contribution includes key recommendations for EU policy makers as they are preparing to vote on the WHO scheduling recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances.

[READ MORE](#)

### PWUD and Covid19. Much more protagonists than victims by Susanna Ronconi – Forum Droghe

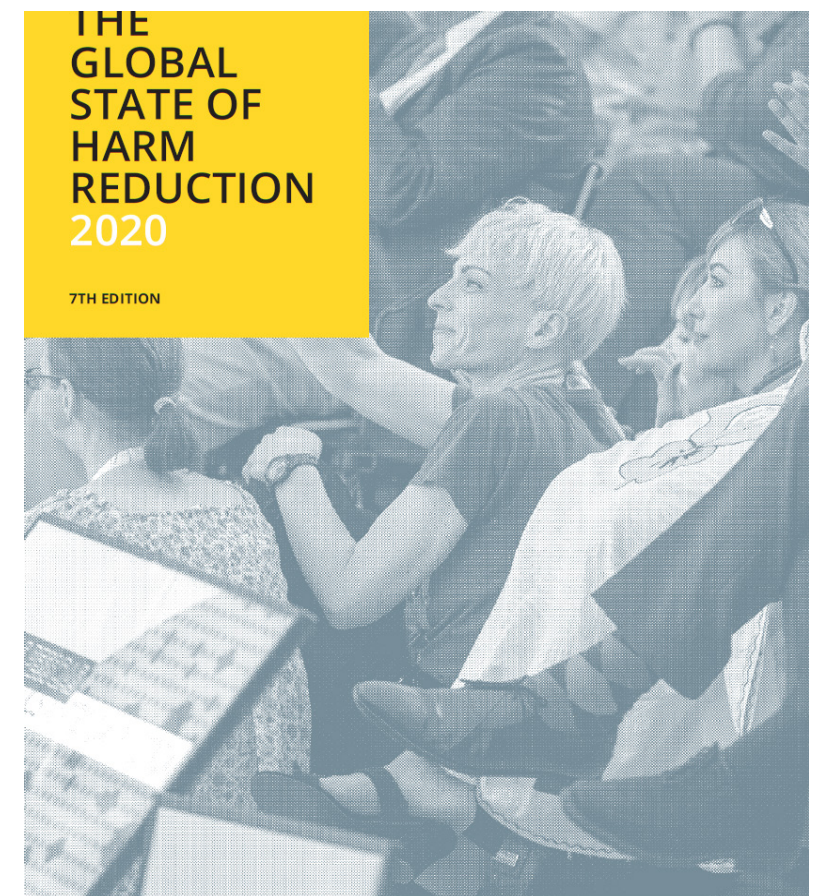
The most part of Italian PWUD have been able to cope with the pandemic and the first lockdown adopting effective strategies both regarding their drug use and the Covid19 prevention. The “surprising case” of Italian users is not so surprising if we adopt the right perspective. Following professor Zinberg’s lessons on controlled use and users’ self regulation strategies, the findings from four researches conducted by a network of CSOs during the lockdown have been analyzed in a drug-set-setting perspective, focusing on users’ competencies, resources and functional behaviour changes rather than on their supposed powerlessness. The result is the portrait of a drug user who is much more a protagonist than a victim. These Italian studies teach interesting lessons for the future. The first is that definitively we must look at PWUD as social actors who are able to learn from experience and to change their own behaviours in a way which is functional to their objectives. The concept of “functional use” of drugs is a “compass” to re-orient also the approach and goals of Harm Reduction interventions, toward a proactive approach: individual self-regulation and what Zinberg calls “social norms and rituals” can be the basis for a different, social government of the drug phenomenon in contemporary times. This regards also services and professional interventions which should aim at recognizing, supporting and enhancing what users know about themselves and are able to do for themselves.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

### Understanding pathways to stimulant use: a mixed-methods examination of the individual, social and cultural factors shaping illicit stimulant use across Europe (ATTUNE): overall results

Among illicit drugs, amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) such as amphetamines (‘speed’), MDMA (‘ecstasy’) and methamphetamine (‘crystal meth’) are the most commonly used substances after cannabis worldwide. At the same time, little is known about the motives of ATS use, what factors are associated with problematic or dependent use and what circumstances contribute to a change of use in terms of increase, reduction or cessation. In order to gain insights into the different pathways of ATS use careers and consequently to generate conclusions regarding possible interventions, the ATTUNE study was conducted in five European countries (Germany, the Netherlands, England, Poland and the Czech Republic).

[READ THE REPORT](#)



 THE GLOBAL STATE  
OF HARM REDUCTION

 HARM REDUCTION  
INTERNATIONAL

### The Global State of Harm Reduction 2020 is available online

The Global State of Harm Reduction report by Harm Reduction International maps harm reduction responses to drug use, HIV and hepatitis C worldwide. In addition to eight regional chapters, this edition of the report also includes thematic chapters on COVID-19, hepatitis C and tuberculosis. Harm Reduction International found that the COVID-19 pandemic and the related measures introduced disrupted health and harm reduction services worldwide. The report contains examples of legal and policy changes which impact harm reduction service provision and data on drug use and harm reduction service provision globally. Information on EU member states is included in the Western Europe and Eurasia chapters of the report. It covers developments in harm reduction implementation, barriers in accessing harm reduction services. The report highlights innovative harm reduction interventions that have emerged in Eurasia and the ways in which the population of people who use drugs in Western Europe is changing.

The report can be accessed on our website, with maps and infographics from the report also available for download.

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## Assessment Report & Literature Review - meaningful civil society involvement in the area of drug policy in Europe

This report is produced on behalf of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD), an expert group of the European Commission. Civil society is considered an essential part of sustainable and inclusive development, good governance and responsible citizenship. The importance of civil society involvement in policy making, including the development and implementation of drug policies, is widely recognised. Many efforts are put into strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to reach out to their constituencies, to collect evidence and to advocate for their causes. Similarly, mechanisms are established to facilitate dialogue between civil society organisations and policy makers at the local, national and international levels.

### READ THE REPORT

