

(KEY STAKEHOLDER) OVERDOSE PREVENTION and MANAGEMENT TRAINING CONSIDERING POLICY and PRACTICE

INTRODUCTION

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN), as an implementing partner of the Fachhochschule Frankfurt am Main Project “CARE – Quality and Continuity of Care for Drug Users in Prisons”, is organising a training on overdose prevention in prisons and upon release on 7 - 8 July, 2014, in Vilnius, Lithuania. This training is as a result of two European Commission (EC) Reports which concentrate on the mapping of existing overdose (OD) prevention and management programmes for released prisoners in *Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary and Romania*, as well as, the provision of a Fact Sheet which considers best practice models.

Prisoners have been recognised as a vulnerable population and responding to the drug-related healthcare needs of prisoners has been identified as a public health priority by the European Union (EU) and Member States. The “EU Drugs Action Plan 2009 – 2012”, sets the objective of providing drug users in prison with improved access to healthcare, in order to prevent and reduce health-related harms associated with drug dependence (EC 2008).

For prisoners with a history of opioid use, the risk of dying from drug overdose greatly increases in the period following release from prison, due to high rates of relapse and lower opioid tolerance (Farrell and Marsden 2008) This is a critical time for action, when ensuring continuity of care and targeted interventions can both support treatment engagement and save lives. A review of drug-related deaths, occurring within 12 weeks, post-release (in Europe, Australia and the US) indicated that 6 in 10 deaths were drug-related (Merrall, Kariminia et al. 2010) and the authors concluded that there is an increased risk of drug-related death during the first 2 weeks post-release; and that risk remains elevated until, at least, the fourth week.

This training primarily aims to enable capacity building and good practice (in the focus countries) for effective overdose prevention programming upon release from prison.

DETAILS

DATES: Monday, 07/07/2014 – Tuesday, 08/07/2014

LOCATION: Vilnius, Lithuania

AIMS and LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1. To enable building of capacity: overdose prevention programming upon release from prison.**
- 2. To provide a brief historical perspective on overdose prevention programmes. To ensure overdose prevention and management knowledge.**
- 3. To enable an understanding of the types of OD prevention programmes available.**
- 4. To provide an overview of prevalence, evidence and lessons learned.**
- 5. To provide a review of the situation in each of the focus countries.**
- 6. To enable current gaps and opportunities to be identified.**
- 7. To enable positive advocacy for overdose prevention programming.**
- 8. To understand and compare good practice models.**

9. To offer an insight into effective throughcare interventions in order to encourage partnership working.
10. To support the potential for in-country planning and action.
11. To ensure an understanding of the next steps for development – Support, supervision & mentoring.

PARTICIPANTS

The targeted group is harm reduction service providers and those in charge of healthcare in prison/upon release, professionals from the criminal justice/health/social services both in prison and in the community. EHRN will cover the expenses (travel, accommodation, catering) for 10 representatives from Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania.

PARTICIPANT CRITERIA

1. Applications from the following countries are invited: Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. EHRN is not able to accept applications/participants from other countries.
2. Excellent English Language communication skills - Verbally understood; spoken and written English skills – *(There will be no translation facilities and therefore a very good, comprehensive understanding of the English language is most definitely required for this training course).*
3. You should have the opportunity to influence key stakeholders – preferably at a national level although the potential to impact upon local practice will also be considered.
4. The capacity to cascade information in a meaningful way - (at all levels within the country) - and by the means identified in the action planning process.
5. An active interest in PUD – (people who use drugs) and the prevention of overdose (OD) related deaths.
6. A willingness to actively learn; participate; advocate, and guide - in a non-judgemental, open and positive way.

APPLICATIONS

To take part in the training, please send your application to hub@harm-reduction.org by 18th May, 2014. The participants will be selected according to the application forms by 31st May, 2014.

CONTACTS

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NGO with the Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

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