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National Substance Abuse Strategies, Laws and Offences in European countries



Executive Summary
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Introduction

Overall aim of the project

Substance misuse has a negative impact on work dynamics for teachers and students. COVID-19 pandemic has made it even worse. According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), about 96 million people in the EU or 29% of the adult population (age range 15-64) are trying illegal drugs at some point in their lives. Moreover, European youth consume more alcohol and tobacco products.

The EDU MAP project aims to prepare and train school teachers in recognizing addiction and guide them through the next steps that can help students who experience substance misuse problems by assessing the need for intervention and offering them innovative solutions along with providing and evaluating substance misuse problems.

The concrete objectives of the project are to:

- increase awareness/knowledge of teachers to understand substance abuse of youth, and to increase knowledge of differences between dependence, abuse and addiction, recognize signs of them by providing methodology, guidelines and tools;
- provide teachers and other school staff with materials, methodology, guidelines and tools;
- increase the knowledge of the strategy of prevention of substance abuse and dependence;
- increase the knowledge of consequences of substance abuse/dependence at personal, peer, family and societal levels by creating a guidebook that defines social symptoms of substance abuse for school communities;
- create an international network of professionals working in the field of substance misuse.

Priorities

Today, substance misuse causes great destruction both on individuals and in society, spreading rapidly despite religion, language, race differences. As a result of their duty, teachers train their students both academically and socially. Therefore, teachers need to be



equipped on the issue of providing young people with different substance misuse interventions. This project will support teachers, school leaders and other teaching professions in tackling these issues

Positive group atmospheres, which include having a good relationship with social and youth workers can protect students against the high risk of drinking alcohol, using cannabis, using other drugs or having virtual addiction. To reach this goal, both teachers and students will engage in all the activities thus promoting common values, civic engagement and participation. This will increase problem-solving skills in the area of communication.

There are many reasons to drop out of education and training prematurely but one of the most important reasons is addiction. Students facing substance misuse problems often struggle with attendance and their learning progress. It is quite often that students become isolated and even develop depression. With this project we will aim to tackle learning disadvantage, early school leaving and low proficiency in basic skills



National research on substance misuse strategies and treatment demands for students in Europe

Lithuania

Treatment demands for students

A study conducted by researchers at the Vilnius University (VU) Centre for Psychotraumatology in October 2020 found that the pandemic, quarantine and quarantine-induced social isolation had a significant impact on students' well-being, emotional health and social maturity. Compared to spring 2019, the percentage of 13-18 year olds experiencing psychosocial difficulties has increased from 13% to 18%. In 2020, as many as 4 out of 5 respondents had learning difficulties as a result of the pandemic, and more than half said they had difficulty interacting with their peers.

The problem of psychoactive substance use is growing in all countries of the world, including Lithuania. Of particular concern is the addiction of children and young people to substances that pose a high risk to mental health.

Services for children addicted to psychoactive substances are provided by budgetary and public personal health care institutions in Lithuania.

Emergency care for people (including children) poisoned by psychoactive substances is provided in intensive care units and/or toxicology units in personal health care facilities.

Outpatient services for people (including children) with mental and behavioural disorders related to the use of psychoactive substances are provided at mental health centres and branches of the Republican Centre for Addiction Diseases. Specialist teams working there organise mental health care and social services.

The services provided to minors at the Republican Centre for Addiction Diseases are free of charge and without disclosure of identity. Adolescents aged 16 and over can register themselves for a child and adolescent psychiatric consultation.



Social and psychological support for children using psychoactive substances is provided by specialists working in municipal educational psychological services, social pedagogues, psychologists and public health specialists working in education and care institutions.

The Early Intervention Programme in Lithuania is the result of the international project "FreD goes net", in which 17 European Union countries participated. The Early Intervention Programme is one of the support measures for young people aged 14-21 who are experimenting with or irregularly using alcohol and/or drugs (excluding tobacco), with the aim of motivating young people to stop using these substances before addiction develops.

The country's educational institutions have programmes to prevent the use of psychoactive substances and to complement general education: the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Psychoactive Substances (ATS) Prevention Programme and the Health and Sexuality Education and Family Preparation Programme.

Substance abuse (alcohol, illicit drugs, other substances) related law offences

Article 178 of the ATPK provides for administrative liability for alcoholic beverages and other intoxicating liquors made with spirit, drinking in public places - streets, stadiums, squares, parks, all types of public, transport and other places.

Republic of Lithuania - Control of tobacco, tobacco products and related products

Article 19(1) of the Law on Tobacco Products and Related Products¹³ stipulates that in the Republic of Lithuania smoking (use of tobacco products and

electronic cigarillos) shall be prohibited:

- in all education and healthcare establishments and on the grounds of these establishments;
- in all types of public transport;
- in the restaurants, cafés, bars, other catering establishments, clubs.

LR SCC 1854 Article 1854 provides for administrative liability - a fine of - seventy two to one hundred and forty-four euros - for the purchase or other sale of tobacco products

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transfer to a minor. Provides for criminal liability for distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to minors (Art. 261, maximum penalty - imprisonment for up to 12 years), the manufacture of devices for the production of these substances or the production of technology or instructions for the production of these substances (Art. 262, maximum penalty of imprisonment up to 4 years).

Strong and adverse points, aspects, that could be improved

Amendments to the relevant provisions of the Law on Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of the Republic of Lithuania in 2010 established that not only individual narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, but also derivatives of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are controlled.

Monitoring, data collection, analysis and dissemination of information to the public, as well as research on tobacco and alcohol, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and their precursors, and on the use and consequences of the use of these substances, are developed in Lithuania.

Principles for improving the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, tobacco and alcohol are proposed:

- implementing effective measures to control narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, tobacco and alcohol to ensure public health and safety;
- prevention of tobacco, alcohol and illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the family, especially among children and young people, - teaching children and young people mature values and healthy life skills, thereby stabilising and reducing the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, tobacco and alcohol;
- raising public awareness and education, in close cooperation with NGOs, communities and the media, to develop negative public attitudes towards the use of narcotic and psychotropic substances, tobacco and alcohol.



Most prevention measures have positive impact effects immediately after their completion, and only a few have an effect after a longer period of time, for example after one year. Of course, it is important that the impact on the target to the target group is long-lasting, so when planning prevention Priority should be given to those that have shown a lasting impact. Prevention measures with short-term effects can be considered successful if they delay the age at which use is attempted psychoactive substances.

There is a lack of effective coordination of the control activities of the control bodies for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic precursors of narcotic drugs and psychotropic precursors of narcotic substances, tobacco and alcohol.

Administrative law of the Republic of Lithuania Code of Administrative Offences and the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania provide for liability for the production, processing and acquisition of narcotic drugs and other substances, possession, transport, shipment, sale and other distribution.

Administrative liability for offences relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the administration of drugs and narcotic drugs, starts at the age of 16. In the case of offences committed by minors, between 14 and 16 years of age, their parents or guardians (custodians) shall be subject to administrative sanctions. The administrative proceedings are mainly were punished under Article 44 of the ATPK.

Austria

National substance abuse strategy

In Austria, most preventive measures are implemented at a local or regional level, with the Addiction Prevention Units playing a crucial role.

The Austrian Addiction Prevention Strategy lays down the main principles of Austria's drug policy, i.e., working towards a society that is as addiction-free as possible.



Austria applies the principle of therapy instead of punishment which is described by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) as the "most noticeable element" of Austria's drug policy. It emphasises that counselling, medical, psychological, and social assistance have priority over criminal prosecution.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care, and Customer Protection offers specific funds for activities of specialised centres for addiction prevention, innovative projects in the areas of early prevention, self-help groups, and health-relevant research in the field of drug use and addiction, among others.

All nine Bundesländer put in place addiction/drug strategies in which the policy objectives and areas of action are defined.

Apart from the comprehensive Austrian Addiction Prevention Strategy, there are currently no other specific strategies at the national level.

Implementation of the strategy on various levels

Prevention is central in the strategies adopted by the Austrian central government, especially focusing on the specific needs of its federal states.

It is worth mentioning the training "movin" carried out by VIVID, a specialised agency for the prevention of addictive behaviour commissioned by the Health Department of the Province of Styria and the Health Fund of Styria.

An Austria-wide tobacco and nicotine strategy is currently being developed aiming at the sustainable reduction of nicotine and tobacco consumption among the general population.

Treatment demands for students

Treatment and prevention programmes are implemented throughout Austria thanks to the support of specialised agencies, organisations, NGOs and other relevant representatives of the private and public sectors. They are usually supported and funded by the Austrian government or their representatives.



The teaching programme “Gemeinsam stark werden (Becoming Strong Together)” contributes to the prevention of addiction, violence, and suicide, by strengthening those life skills that are prerequisites for a healthy, self-determined and fulfilled life.

The life skills programme “plus” (10 to 14-year-olds) is built on the current findings of research on addiction, addiction prevention and the effectiveness of the latter in schools.

“checkit!” is an information and counselling centre on the topic of recreational drugs, their effects, side effects and risks. Everything is anonymous, free of charge and confidential. They offer free online counselling services.

Substance abuse (alcohol, illicit drugs, other substances) related law offences

The Narcotic Substances Act (Suchtmittelgesetz) came into force in 1998. It continued the Austrian drug policy approach of making a clear distinction between criminals trafficking drugs and people with drug-related health problems.

The use of drugs is not mentioned as an offence. The sentence for the possession of drugs for personal use is up to six months in prison or a fine provided the number of drugs is not over the defined threshold. Responding to the continuing increase in the availability of various new psychoactive substances, the Act on New Psychoactive Substances (ANPS) (Neues-Psychoaktive Substanzen-Gesetz) was issued in 2011 and entered into force on 1 January 2012 (Reitox National Focal Point, 2011).

The ANPS aims to minimise the circulation of new psychoactive substances and the health hazards resulting from the use of these substances by adopting supply control measures.

The Austrian Tobacco Act (Tabakgesetz) was issued in 1995. A 2004 amendment brought Austrian tobacco law in line with the European Strategy for Tobacco Control and the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. It banned smoking in public places and in schools and other institutions for young people.

The ban was extended to hospitality venues in 2008, although there are still rules for exceptions, notably for bars and restaurants.



The federal-level provides the legal framework for alcohol policy. Corresponding decrees regulate most alcoholic beverages for production, importation and taxation. Additional alcohol-related legislation can be found in youth protection and road traffic acts.

Strong and adverse points, aspects, that could be improved

The Austrian approach to substance abuse-related law may be seen as a historical compromise between health and law enforcement objectives.

The use of drugs is not mentioned as an offence. The penalty for the possession of drugs for personal use consists of a fine or a prison sentence that does not exceed 6 months, provided the quantity of drugs is not above the defined threshold (the 'limit' quantity).

While drug users are identified primarily as in need of help, if they do not accept the medical assessment and, if needed, treatment, or undergo other measures, they remain under the threat of criminal prosecution and punishment.

Two reasons make it easy for production and trade to circumvent international and national narcotics regulations: on the one hand, the extremely large number of such chemicals, and on the other hand, the possibility of constantly creating new chemical compounds by changing the molecular structure.

This background makes it difficult for legislators to take effective action against these worrying developments. In Austria, as a reaction to this complex situation, the New Psychoactive Substances Act (NPSG) have been in force since 2012.

With the measures created by the New Psychoactive Substances Act (NPSG), important instruments are available to take action against people from production and trade and to be able to withdraw the substances and products from the market.

The UNODC report views this rising cannabis use with concern. The addictive substance THC is associated with addictions and mental illnesses. The number of health problems that can be traced back to cannabis is also increasing. For years, cannabis products have



had an ever-increasing concentration of active ingredients. Due to the increasing THC content, they are even more harmful to health.

In view of these developments, physicians and addiction experts call for a more comprehensive prevention strategy that combines public education with that of schools and parents and points out the effects and risks of cannabis.

Children and youth from socially disadvantaged families consume even more alcohol once they reach the legal minimum age. Before the 16th birthday, the probability of alcohol intoxication is similar among the social class. But after turning 16 a clear gap arises in terms of alcohol use and harm among vulnerable children and youth. From the 16th to the 21st birthday, hospital admissions for alcohol intoxication among young people from socially disadvantaged families rise higher than others.

The researchers note that the data confirm the prevailing motto: “If the legislator allows it, then it cannot be so bad”. After turning 16, Austrian children stop considering binge and heavy alcohol use as harmful.

Increasing the legal minimum age has been found to have very positive effects on the health and development of children and youth. When the United States (U.S.) increased their legal minimum age from 18 to 21, society saw a range of positive effects:

- 16% median decline in motor vehicle crashes,
- Reduction in alcohol use in the past month among 18 to 21-year-olds from 59% in 1985 to 40% in 1991, and
- Alcohol use among people aged 21 to 25 declined significantly from 70% in 1985 to 56% in 1991.

Greece

National substance abuse strategy

Methods used for drug control are prevention and law enforcement. Law enforcement in the form of repressive measures is usually associated with supply reduction, while prevention with demand and harm reduction, and with the legalisation/regulation of certain narcotic



substances as well. However, the borders between them are very thin. As in the other EU Member States, Greece also has after treatment programmes and services for the social reintegration of drug users. The Organisation for the Reconstruction of the Labour Force (OAED) in cooperation with OKANA, KETHEA and the Psychiatric Hospital of Attica subsidises full or part-time employment of rehabilitated persons, and supports their self-employment. Law 2207/1994 foresees that persons who successfully finish a treatment programme can work in the public and local services as assistants or unqualified personnel, for either a specific or indeterminate time, or per hour, in order to help their reintegration into society. Therapeutic programmes offer literacy education and professional training, recreational activities and qualification in workshops, handicraft or agrarian units. This is also the concept for the rehabilitation Centre for Prisoners in Thiva, which started operating in autumn 2002. In all Member States, programmes are operating to motivate prisoners to stop use; in Greece, they have been working since 1985. These programmes of KETHEA, constitute the first step of treatment, since they give the prisoner, if he/she wishes, the possibility to continue the programme outside the correctional institutions. The programmes offered their services during 1999 and 2000 to 1,103 prisoners and with other organisations (Doctors Without Borders) enrolled in information seminars on hygiene issues.⁵¹ As mentioned above, the first rehabilitation Centre for Prisoners in Greece was expected to start in 2001 in Thiva, and two other centres are under construction. The needs however are very big, so the interventions have to be more flexible, to focus on harm-reduction measures in correctional institutions and to intensify the efforts in motivating prisoners for detoxification and abstinence.

Implementation of the strategy on various levels

In this context, the relevant competences in the field of anti-crime policy are also structured. The Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection is responsible for the prosecution of drug trafficking, trafficking, cultivation, etc., with individual services and bodies, such as the Directorate for Drug Control and the Coordinating Body for Drug Control. With regard to the administration of justice and the Penitentiary System, the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights is responsible, which has established a special prosecutor's office with the responsibility for the prevention of money laundering from illegal activities at the level of the Penitentiary System, while the treatment of addicts is subject to the needs of

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rehabilitation through the development of programmes and actions in cooperation with bodies such as the Centre for the Prevention of Money Laundering. Th.Th.E.A. and O.KA.NA. etc.

The issues of drug-related crime and security involve the whole spectrum of the criminal phenomenon, as they concern both low social and criminal behaviour resulting from the use of illicit drugs and high criminal behaviour resulting from the action of more or less organised criminal groups (see also the following section). In this context, with regard to large-scale drug trafficking, a number of institutional initiatives have been taken to address the problem as part of organised crime, corruption and money laundering, while in the police sector special directorates and services are dedicated to dealing with drugs.

As far as addicts are concerned, the police are responsible for them mainly in the area of public order as this police function is involved with general policing. However, the recognition by the law itself of drug addiction as a particular problem requires at least lenient but mainly special treatment of addicts by police officers and this is where the issue of soft policing comes in. However, the fundamental reason why the police deal specifically with addicts is that they are legally responsible for the prohibitionist policy that has been in force in our country since the middle of the 20th century.

In particular, the history of the regulation and prohibition of the use of psychoactive substances [ANNEX 3] in Greece is quite old and is also linked to the social history of the country in the 20th century. The basic legislation that established the criminal response to drugs for the first time in the post-war period was passed in Greece at the end of the 1980s (Law 1729/1987). This law introduced for the first time in Greece a systematic regulation of the drug phenomenon. Since then, drugs have 'invaded' Greece as a side effect of the spread of a trend of a break with the establishment, mainly among young people, and then of the spread of recreational use of psychoactive substances and the prevalence of the consumer economy. The influence of these two factors, especially on young people, has also created social patterns of behaviour which are also related to the use of leisure time (mass entertainment, excess, tension seeking, etc.).



A series of laws have been passed since then to amend Law 1729. Relatively recently, Law 3459/2006 codified the existing legislation and regulated independently, as a special criminal law, the issues of drug-related offences. The last law passed, which partially amended 3459, is Law 4139/2013.

According to the current legislation (Law 3459/2006 - see ANNEX 3A and Law 4139/2013 - see ANNEX 3A and Law 4139/2013 - see ANNEX 3A), the last amended law that was adopted and amended is the Law 4139/2013. ANNEX 3B), the general outlines of the criminal policy on drugs are: (a) the systematic regulation of the manufacture, importation, marketing and distribution of narcotic drugs intended for medical purposes; (b) the detailed registration of the lawful conduct falling within the scope of this legislation, (c) the differentiated regulation of the criminal response to the phenomenon of trafficking, where repression is intensified, and to the phenomenon of dependence, where there is more lenient treatment, a push towards rehabilitation and controlled use; and (d) the homogeneous approach to drugs (i.e. they are not divided into hard and soft drugs), without prejudice to specific lenient arrangements for the dependent user. The basic philosophy of the law is to treat the addict gently. Hence the need for soft policing in principle.

Psychoactive substances, the manufacture, distribution and use of which are regulated by law, are not all the same and do not all have the same effect on the user (see above). Consequently, regardless of their criminal treatment, psychoactive substances do not constitute a qualitatively unified category. Although the most widely known psychoactive substances are hashish, heroin and cocaine, the list of psychoactive substances (licit and illicit) is extremely broad. At the same time, the ability to manufacture synthetic drugs in our time has created a multitude of new substances and has deregulated the old drug market. Nevertheless, the distinctions between substances in general categories are still valid and this is a useful tool for understanding their impact. Therefore, before examining key points in the legislation, it is useful to bear in mind the main distinctions of psychoactive substances:

Psychoactive substances include a wide range of substances which have a variety of origins but also different effects. Depending on their origin, they are basically divided into plant, semi-synthetic and synthetic (chemical) substances. Plant psychoactive substances



are derived mainly from three types of plants: cannabis, from which hashish is made, mycenae, from which opium is made, followed by heroin and coca (from which cocaine is made). Semi-synthetic psychoactive substances are based on a plant substance and, finally, synthetic psychoactive substances are obtained through a chemical process of other chemical - non-plant substances (see in detail ANNEX 4). Depending on their effect on the user, they can be divided into suppressive (e.g. heroin) and stimulant (e.g. cocaine).

Treatment demand for students

Throughout Greece, KETHEA offers free of charge, with respect to confidentiality, comprehensive services for the treatment of addiction both to those directly concerned, up to 13 years old, and to people in their family environment.

Substance abuse (alcohol, illicit drugs, other substances) related law offences

Greek Drug Law Reform

The most important developments in the drugs legislation were introduced in 2011.

New bill of law on drugs;

- Amending the drug code of laws 3459/2006. The bill has two axes, one being the non-criminal treatment of users, and two foreseeing a new coordinating scheme.
- The law expressly provides that the offender's diagnosed drug dependence is grounds for lifting or reducing criminal liability and shall result in acquittal or reduced sanctions.

With regard to the users' criminal treatment, it provides as follows:

- Full decriminalisation of possession and supply of drugs for personal use. Cannabis cultivation for personal use is defined as a minor offence.
- More lenient criminal treatment of the supply of small quantities (misdemeanour), and the supply of drugs to close friends/relatives.



- Increased penalties for offences committed by professionals (medical practitioners, pharmacists, civil servants) in certain settings (schools, army, prisons) or involving minors.
- Express prohibition of more lenient sentencing for dependent suppliers of large quantities of drugs, for whom the strictest penalty is envisaged (life sentence) or a prison.

Law 4139/2013;

Anyone who illegally distributes drugs, shall be punished with imprisonment of at least eight (8) years and a fine of up to three hundred thousand (300,000) euros.

The crime of drug trafficking shall be understood as any act by which the circulation of drugs or precursors, and in particular the import, export, transit, sale, purchase, takes place, the offer, distribution, supply, disposal, dispatch, delivery, storage, deposit, manufacture, possession, transport, adulteration, sale of adulterated drug monopoly items, cultivation or harvesting of any plant of the genus cannabis, the plant of the genus dormouse, any kind of plant of the genus redwood, as well as any other plant from which drugs are produced, the production and extraction of drugs, the administration of substances to substitute for addiction in violation of the relevant provisions, the management of a shop in which drugs are systematically distributed with the knowledge of the offender, financing, organising or directing drug trafficking activities, adulteration or the preparation or use of a false prescription for the administration of drugs with a view to their trafficking, as well as being an accomplice in any of these acts.

If several trafficking acts involve the same quantity of drugs, only one trafficking offence is committed. In calculating the sentence, the total number of individual trafficking acts, the type, total quantity and purity of the drug, as well as the gravity of the health effects involved, shall be taken into account.

Strong and adverse points, aspects, that could be improved

In a statement after the passing of Greece's medical marijuana law, the Health Ministry stated that cannabis medicines are useful for cases in which there are proven clinical



benefits, such as chronic pain, neuropathic pain, nausea, and vomiting due to chemotherapy or cachexia. Other conditions in which Greek patients can seek approval for medical cannabis include HIV/AIDS and epilepsy. But the program has been held up due to bureaucratic gridlock and patients are still unable to access cannabis through a centralized distribution system in the country.

Law No 4139/2013, introduced in 2013, stipulates that individuals using drugs or obtaining or otherwise processing drugs for personal use only, in quantities to satisfy their own needs, or cultivating cannabis plants in numbers and areas justified for personal use only, can be sentenced to no more than 5 months in prison. The offence is not recorded on the offender's criminal record on the condition that he or she does not commit another relevant offence within a 5- year period. Upon the order of the investigating judge, offenders may be admitted to a special treatment unit operating in a prison setting or a community drug treatment programme operated by a lawfully recognised agency (the law specifies the recognised drug agencies). Penalties can be suspended in the case of offenders who are undergoing treatment. The 2013 amendment removed the definitions of all quantities of substances for personal use from the previous law; this decision is now left to judges, based on the substance, its quantity and purity, and the needs of the offender.

Drug law offence (DLO) data are the foundation for monitoring drug-related crime and they are also a measure of law enforcement activity and drug market dynamics; they may be used to inform policies on the implementation of drug laws and to improve strategies. In Greece, the Hellenic Police and other prosecution authorities reported an increase in the number of DLOs and drug law offenders in 2015, compared with 2013 and 2014. The majority of the DLOs in 2015 were linked to the use or possession of illicit substances (Figure 3). Approximately half of the offences were related to cannabis, followed by opioid-related offences



Finland

National substance abuse strategy

Finland substance abuse prevention strategy falls mainly under the Finnish drug policy which focuses mainly on illicit drugs and aims at minimize the long-term health, socioeconomic, and individual damages of substance abuse (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2019).

In practice, the goals of the Finnish drug policy can be summarized into: preventing drug abuse, halting the supply of illicit drugs, minimizing individual damage related to substance abuse, promptly treating people with substance abuse, and prosecuting illegal drug activities (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, 2022a, 2022b).

In addition, the Finnish drug policy takes inspiration from the European Union Drugs Strategy 2013–2020 and consequently, as a strategy, the Finnish drug policy values (Kotovirta et al., 2021):

- coordination between different national stakeholders
- international cooperation in term of:

* tracking illegal substance streams

* sharing information and expertise in dealing with substance abuse

* and optimizing policy

- research on substance abuse, including monitoring and evaluation (EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020, 2017)

At individual level, Finnish citizens and most other residents of Finland benefit of a strong welfare system with a wide range of health and social security services. In addition to the general unemployment and health benefits, in cases of substance abuse, welfare services would cover rehabilitation support, including individual and family rehabilitation (Finnish Social Insurance Institution, 2022).



Implementation of the strategy on various levels

Drug policy in Finland was set as part of the 1997 National Drugs Strategy, with an updated Government Resolution on the Action Plan to Reduce Drug Use and Related Harm every 4 years in agreement with the United Nations' conventions and the European Union Drugs Strategy 2013–2020 and Action Plan 2017–2020. Government Resolutions are evaluated by the National Drug Policy Coordination Group (NDPCG) who review the implementation of the plan, assess the status quo, and provide recommendations for the action plan of the upcoming period (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2019). NDPCG is part of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and its responsibility is mainly to coordinate Drug Policy between the ministries. For instance, the implementation of drug policy is sensitively planned in cooperation with the pharmaceutical policy as to prevent the abuse of certain pharmaceutical drugs (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, 2022).

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), a research and development organization also attached to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, guides drug policy and support the NDPCG by providing assistance in national coordination, expertise, producing research, assessing drug use, and evaluating interventions against substance abuse. The drug policy is implemented on municipality level under provincial government supervision guided by THL.

Similarly, health and welfare services are provided by the municipality and supervised by authorities at county level in partnership with the Finnish Social Insurance Institution (Kela), with a multi-channel financing model based mainly on taxes (Antila, 2021; Kela, 2021). Rehabilitation services for substance abuse are provided under the support of Kela, by municipalities and joint municipal authorities, and in some cases, by occupational health providers.

However, social welfare and health care services are being reformed towards more centralization at provincial level, shifting the responsibility from the 311 municipalities to the 18 regions of Finland (Finlex, 2017).



Third party organizations including universities and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) contribute to the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Treatment demand for students

In a paper by Hirschovits-Gerz et al. on the needs of services for problems attributed to substance abuse in Finland, the reported (data from THL Sotkanet) indicators varied widely between municipalities. For instance, the number of clients in specialized clinics for substance abusers ranged from 7.2 clients per 1000 inhabitants in a municipality to 23.6 clients per 1000 inhabitants in another municipality, while the corresponding proportion for the whole country was 9.1. The assessed municipalities had different characteristics: the municipality with the low rate of clients in specialized clinics for substance abusers had the largest population, but also the youngest and the wealthiest, while the municipality with the highest rate of clients in specialized clinics for substance abusers was the smallest and had the highest unemployment rate (Hirschovits-Gerz et al., 2019).

The breakdown of substance abuse in Finland by age, however, shows that use of illicit drugs was more prevalent in young adults aged 15 to 34 years with the highest prevalence among those aged 15 to 24 when it comes to use of cannabis, MDMA, and amphetamines (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2019). This reiterates the importance of prioritizing students in drug policy. As treatment is available to all the population in Finland, students are mainly prioritized as targets of prevention programs. Some of these programs involve universities, student unions, and the Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS) (Aalto University, 2019; University of Eastern Finland, 2019).

Substance abuse (alcohol, illicit drugs, other substances) related law offences

Based on international drug treaties (including conventions from the United Nations and from the European Union) (European Council, 2021), national legislation, and other drug policy documents (such as the national drugs strategy), the main attitude of the Finnish legislation on drugs is prohibition. The aim is to prevent illicit import to and export from Finland of narcotic drugs, and their illicit manufacture, distribution, and use. Drug manufacturing, trade, and trafficking are considered serious offences while use and



possession are illegal and punishable but considered as a less serious offence. These offenses are regulated mainly by the Narcotics Act (373/2008) (Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ministeriö, 2008).

A fine or prison of up to 6 months is usually the punishment for use or possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use. Drug offenses beyond personal use, such as possession of large quantities or supply can be punishable under Finnish legislation by up to 10 years of prison sentence (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2019; Alexander III, 1889).

Additional details are provided in other decrees, such as: the government decree on substances, preparations and plants considered as narcotics (543/2008), the Government decree on psychoactive substances banned from the consumer market (1130/2014), and the act on regulating alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and gambling prevention (523/2015) (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, 2022).

The Finnish drug policy also focuses on prevention and harm reduction, in concordance with the big lines of the national health strategy.

Strong and adverse points, aspects, that could be improved

The action plan underlines the importance of co-operation as a key to success and focuses on providing support in the form of educational material, seminars, and workshops, all of which should be based on scientific evidence.

Another strong point of the implementation of the Finnish laws against substance abuse is their local fine tuning. For instance, municipalities are prioritized in the action plan previously mentioned (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, 2019).

Although an overall assessment of the effectiveness of the Finnish National Drug Policy has not yet been made, the drug situation and the measures taken are annually assessed focusing on individual preventive measures and promotional actions. An important component of the harm reduction aspect previously mentioned would cover offering free syringes to drug users, making available anonymous testing stations for human



immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and provision of vaccination and informative material on drug-related diseases. In this sense, programs aiming to maximize the reach of these approaches have been implemented. For example, a program offering free hepatitis A and B vaccination to drug users. Another example is a program that aimed at making the treatment of hepatitis C easily accessible (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2019).

While we could not find information on possible adverse impact of the Finnish National Drug Policy on students, the classic debate between the prohibition argument and the legalization argument (Leuw & Marshall, 1994) is often discussed when it comes to drug policy in Finland, especially in relation to soft drugs. Recreational cannabis is prohibited in Finland, for instance (Fagerström, 2020).

Cyprus

National substance abuse strategy

In order to establish a sustainable and equitable financing health system that provides universal social health protection, The Ministry of Health is to ensure universal access to high-quality public and private healthcare services, including hospital care, specialized ambulatory care, and people-centered primary care, with special emphasis on the use of cutting-edge information technology in health care and the renovation of healthcare delivery management.

The overarching political framework and priorities for the period 2013-20 are provided by the new National Strategy on Illegal Drugs and Harmful Alcohol Use. This Strategy's framework, goals, and objectives also serve as the foundation for two consecutive four-year Action Plans.

The Strategy is founded on the fundamental principles of EU policies and national laws, and it upholds the Union's founding values in every way: respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law, and human rights. It aims to protect and improve society's and individuals' well-being, to protect public health, to provide a high level



of security to the general public, and to take a balanced, integrated, and evidence-based approach to the drug phenomenon.

The Strategy aims to contribute to a decrease in drug demand and supply in Cyprus, as well as a decrease in the health and social risks and harms caused by drugs.

Cyprus recognizes the importance of implementing the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) in response to the exponential increase in international travel and trade, as well as in controlling the spread of emerging and re-emerging international diseases and other public health threats, and serves as a good example of successful collaboration with WHO. Cyprus has established appropriate mechanisms and measures to be taken at points of entry to prevent the transmission of a dangerous pathogen through the IHR (2005). Furthermore, Cyprus's active participation in the regional EuroFlu-network (WHO/Europe–EU) represents another fruitful collaborative platform established between WHO and Cyprus.

Implementation of the strategy on various levels

According to the most recent statistics, Cyprus has the lowest percentage of substance use (EMCDDA, 2018), while also ranking first in the use of social networks (e.g., Facebook)(<https://www.internetworldstats.com/europa.htm#cy>). Nonetheless, few studies look at the entire addictive spectrum, behaviors, particularly for small countries like Cyprus, for which not Local surveys provide a wealth of information. It is also possible that cultural differences between countries in Europe will result in different rates in Greek-speaking countries, various addictive behaviors exist. This study employs the methodology of Deleuze et al., (2015)'s research on the French-speaking populations of Switzerland and Belgium. We attempted to investigate the prevalence and characteristics of a diverse range of addictive behaviors in a Greek-speaking population sample from Cyprus and Greece.

A total of 175 people completed an online survey. Inclusion criteria included being over the age of 18 and being a fluent Greek speaker. Participants were recruited through announcements posted on the Neapolis University Pafos intranets and social media platforms. The Google Forms application was used to deliver the survey. The participants'



anonymity was guaranteed (no personal data were collected, including IP addresses). The participant's informed consent was required.

Several initiatives aimed at prevention, treatment, and social inclusion made progress in 2013. These actions in treatment concern the geographical coverage of substitution services throughout Cyprus, in an attempt to make them more accessible and affordable to drug users (see also chapter 5, EMCDDA, 2018.); the development of a treatment program exclusively designed for female drug users; and the improvement of the scheme for financial assistance provided to users during the reintegration stage, the administration of which came under the Cyprus Addiction Centre (CAC) for the first time, a development that made simple the entire process.

A number of new prevention actions were implemented as part of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CAC and the Ministry of Defence. Specifically, research was conducted with the goal of estimating licit and illicit drug use among military conscripts, among other things. However, as stated by the CAC, the results will be used for the drafting of relevant measures and/or policies to be implemented in the National Guard but will not be publicized due to the nature of the National Guard and the need to respect its own rules (see also NR 2013, subchapter 2.4, EMCDDA, 2018.).

The CAC (EMCDDA, 2018). licensed a new low-threshold program, which includes syringe exchange and safe use services, to encourage the implementation of harm reduction measures.

Treatment demand for students

Addictive behaviors must be further discussed and carefully interpreted because they are essentially extreme manifestations of everyday behavior, and there are numerous factors to consider.

The only treatment options were abstinence-based therapeutic communities. The first OST unit (named 'Gefyra,' which means 'The Bridge') opened in Nicosia, Cyprus's capital city, in August 2007. The unit began with 13 patients in 2017, grew to 32 in 2011, and to 84 in 2017. In recent years, especially after 2011, a low-threshold approach was implemented in



this harm-reduction intervention because an increasing body of evidence suggested that low treatment-threshold designs had generally better treatment outcomes than high treatment-threshold designs (Kourounis et al, 2016).

The OST program aimed to improve treatment accessibility by providing personalized treatment options for medication selection and dose titration, as well as treatment duration flexibility. Maintenance, harm reduction, and retention of low adherence patients are prioritized.

In recent years, the number of OST units in the public sector has grown from one to five (one in each of Cyprus's major cities). Furthermore, an OST service is now available in prison. The main medication used in all OST programs is a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone for both short-term and long-term/maintenance treatment, according to established guidelines (Taylor et al, 2015).

Substance abuse (alcohol, illicit drugs, other substances) related law offences

Drug-related issues are addressed by the legislative Bodies on Ministry of health and legal Affairs, along with some issues also addressed by the Committee on Correspondence and Works.

As previously reported (see NR 2013), an ad hoc Committee operating under the CAC with the goal of continuous updates and modification of this law, with the participation of experts from various public services, is in place. The committee's work primarily focuses on ensuring the necessary legal amendments, so that new psychoactive substances with the same molecular structure can be controlled through the activation of the generic system (CAC, 2014).

Several meetings of the ad hoc committee studying the L.29/77 were held in 2013, with the goal of reviewing some new synthetic drugs reported by the EWS and adding them to the monitoring substances list based on their molecular structure. Furthermore, the same ad hoc committee investigated issues concerning the availability and accessibility of opioid prescription drugs, as well as cannabis use for industrial and medical purposes, in 2013.



Last but not least, the committee worked to issue a decree that will bring industrial cannabis cultivation and use in line with EU legislation (CAC, 2014).

The strategy of National Action Plan is founded on the core principles of EU policies and national laws, and it upholds the Union's founding values in every way: respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law, and human rights. Its goals are to protect and improve society's and individuals' well-being, to protect public health, to provide a high level of security for the general public, and to take a balanced, integrated, and evidence-based approach to the drug phenomenon.

The Strategy aims to contribute to a decrease in drug demand and supply in Cyprus, as well as a decline in the health and social risks and harms caused by drugs.

Strong and adverse points, aspects, that could be improved

Cyprus's National Strategy on Illicit Substance Dependence and the Harmful Use of Alcohol provides the overarching political framework and priorities for 2013-20. It aims to reduce the demand for and supply of drugs, as well as the health and social risks and harms caused by drugs and alcohol. The strategy is based on five pillars: prevention, treatment and social reintegration, harm reduction, supply control and regulation, and international cooperation. The strategy's framework, goals, and objectives also form two consecutive four-year action plans covering 2013-16 and 2017-20. To improve the use of program evaluation, a new pillar covering research, education, and evaluation was added to the 2017-20 action plan.

Cyprus evaluates its drug policy and strategy in the same way that other European countries do, through ongoing indicator monitoring and specific research projects. A final external evaluation of the National Drug Strategy 2009-12 was completed in 2012. In 2016, an internal mid-term multi-criterion evaluation of the 2013-20 national strategy was conducted, and a new action plan was adopted based on the evaluation of the Action Plan 2013-16.

Drugs in Cyprus are classified as Class A, B, or C based on their level of harm, with Class A drugs causing the most harm. In Cyprus, penalties for drug use range from life imprisonment to death, but no such sentence has ever been imposed. Possession for



personal use is a serious crime punishable by up to 12 years in prison for Class A drugs, 8 years for Class B drugs, and 4 years for Class C drugs. However, first-time offenders under the age of 25 are not sentenced to more than one year in prison.

In recent years, there has been a trend toward the use of alternative punishment measures. There is an alternative to prosecution for young drug offenders arrested for the first time during the pre-trial phase, as well as a protocol for referring young offenders to mental health services. A new law was passed in 2016 that allows those accused of drug-related offenses other than supply and serious felony to apply for treatment.

According to Desktop and laptop action datas (DLOs), the majority of offenses in Cyprus in 2017 were related to drug use or possession, with cannabis being the most commonly involved drug. Since 2014, there has been a slight decrease in the number of DLOs and people involved in DLOs.

Prevention interventions must include a variety of complementary approaches. Environmental and universal prevention strategies target entire populations, whereas selective prevention focuses on vulnerable groups who may be more likely to develop substance use problems, and indicated prevention focuses on at-risk individuals.

Significant emphasis is placed in Cyprus on social actions to prevent and/or delay addictions in the family, army, and school settings. Some examples are: a national science-based parenting skills program; the incorporation of European Drug Prevention Quality Standards in preventive programs; science-based prevention interventions or programs in early childhood; legislation for a total ban on smoking in schools; and web-based prevention programs are examples of related actions

The most common mode of prevention must be implemented in communities, families, and school settings, primarily targeting secondary school students, is universal prevention. As part of the health promotion education program, prevention activities are implemented in schools. These programs aim to raise awareness and provide information about drugs, while others focus on the development of personal and social skills. In 2017, 11 universal prevention programs were accredited, with the majority of these being implemented on a



national scale. The main axes of the programs were information dissemination on illegal and legal substances (such as alcohol and tobacco), self-development skills, self-esteem, resilience factors, attitude change, communication improvement, and teacher and parent training.

The Protocol of Cooperation for the Referral of Young Offenders to Treatment Centres, established by the Cyprus Police through the Drug Law Enforcement Unit, the Sovereign Base Areas Police, and the Ministry of Health, must inform urgently the recommended prevention. The protocol encourages policies that facilitate alternatives to prosecution/incarceration for young drug offenders (arrested for the first time), giving them the option of early intervention or a more intensive treatment program, depending on their needs.

Turkey

National substance abuse strategy

Turkey is seen as the country with the highest number of deaths related to synthetic drugs. There are two main areas of work in the fight against drugs in Turkey. The first is the prevention of drug trafficking and the second is the fight against addiction.

In 2000, with the support of the UNODC, the US and some EU countries, Turkey has established the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC). The Academy functions as a regional resource center and advice center on drug and organized crime-related issues.

Turkey's "Policy and National Strategy Document Counteracting Addictive Substances and Substance Addiction" for 2006-2012 entered into force on 20 November 2006. 9 working groups have been created with the participation of relevant authorities.

Turkey publishes action plans at 6-year intervals for an effective fight against drugs. "National Drug Policy and Strategy Document" covering the period 2013-2018 and the "Third National Drug Action Plan" covering the period 2013-2015 have both been prepared by the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (TUBİM). The above Action



Plan seeks a balanced, effective and coordinated approach at the national level with regard to tackling the demand and supply of drugs. “Fight Against Drugs National Strategy Document and Action Plan” (2018-2023) indicates its goal as “Keeping the society away from all kinds of stimulants and drug use”. The action plan aims to reduce drug use by youth over the age of 15 by 20% and for young people aged 19-25, it aims to reduce it by 16%.

Implementation of the strategy on various levels

Turkish government formed the High Council for Combating Addiction in 2019. Ministry of health is in charge with this council and the member of this council are the representatives of;

- Ministry of Labor, Social Services and Family,
- Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Social Security,
- Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Interior,
- Ministry of National Education,
- Ministry of Trade and
- Ministry of Health

The Working Procedures and Principles of the Combating Addiction Boards were approved and entered into force in the High Council for Combating Addiction held on 03.07.2019.

This High Council is responsible for the implementation of the anti-drug strategy of Turkey. The studies carried out within the scope of the fight against drugs are diverse.

- Prevention of the Drug Supply
- Preventing Demand for Drugs
- Protective and Preventive Services
- Counseling, Purification, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services
- Social Compliance Services
- Communication in the Fight Against Drugs
- Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Drug Enforcement Process



Each ministries below has different roles in fighting against addiction. However, AMATEM (Alcohol And Substance Addiction Treatment Centers) are the main institutions in this regard. AMATEM centers are located in hospitals affiliated to the Ministry of Health.

There are non-governmental organizations that play an important role in the fight against drugs. The most important of these is the Green Crescent.

Treatment demand for students

AMATEM centers considered as the main institutions for treatment in Turkey. AMATEM clinic is a clinic where alcohol and substance use disorders are treated. In addition to drug treatments, individual psychotherapies, group psychotherapies, educational studies on alcohol and drugs, rehabilitation and preparation activities for the outside, and family awareness programs are carried out.

If the person who declares to use drugs requests, an appointment is made from the most suitable treatment center for him. In addition, if the person receiving the treatment accepts; At the end of 1 week, 15 days, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and 1 year, at least 6 times a year, the treatment process is followed and it is ensured that he stays in contact with the treatment units. In 2020, ALO 191 Anti-Drug Counseling and Support Line received 26945 treatment requests and 6917 Support requests. Also, it received 1233 requests for information on the subject and treatment requests for under 18s (2021 Turkey Drug Report)

For under 18s, Child/Adolescent Substance Addiction Treatment Centers (CEMATEM) provide services. They are located under AMATEM clinics. There are currently 7 CEMATEM centers in Turkey. (Turkish Ministry of Health)

Substance abuse (alcohol, illicit drugs, other substances) related law offences

Offenses of producing, exporting or importing narcotic or stimulant substances without a license or against the license are punished in accordance with Article 188 of the T.C.K. No.

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5237. The person who commits these crimes is punished with imprisonment from 20 to 30 years and a judicial fine up to twenty thousand days.

However, if the person who is given or sold drugs or stimulants is a child, the prison sentence to be given to the person who gives or sells is aggravated.

If the subject of drug trafficking is drugs such as heroin, cocaine, morphine, basemorphine or bonsai, the qualified version of the crime in TCK article 188/4, which requires a heavier penalty, is committed. The trafficking of all other drugs (marijuana, ecstasy, etc.) is punished with the basic form of the crime in TPC article 188/3.

The law regulating alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco products is the law numbered 4733. The production, supply and sale of all kinds of tobacco and alcohol products are supervised by "Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Authority and Board" (TAPDK). TAPDK is affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

A person who brings alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco products into the country without subjecting them to customs procedures is sentenced to imprisonment from 3 years to 10 years and a judicial fine of up to 20 thousand days.

Strong and adverse points, aspects, that could be improved

Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime, Turkey International Academy of Combating Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) was established in Ankara in 2000 in collaboration between UNODC and the Turkish National Police. Since the establishment, TADOC has organized 565 international training programmes with participation of 10,811 law enforcement officers from 92 countries.

TADOC organizes national and International Training Programs and carries out Cooperation Activities with International Institutions and Organizations.

Within the scope of the fight against drugs, the mobile application called "UYUMA" has started to be used, where citizens can easily report their location regarding drug crimes that



are being committed. The “UYUMA” mobile application can be downloaded to IOS and Android phones.

Turkey seeks ways to combat the drug problem by focusing on prevention-based, prohibitive regulations and enforcement of laws. This situation causes the perception that Turkey considers the drug problem only as a public order and health problem. In particular, the studies carried out to prevent drug use are carried out in a way that is far from a certain systematic. The activities carried out in this field are mostly information and training activities, public service announcements, seminars, etc. It consists of practices aimed at raising public awareness, such as carrying out activities. In addition to these studies, there is not an effective early intervention system at the desired level for early diagnosis especially in terms of disadvantaged and risky groups in drug use and preventing substance use in these groups without becoming addicted to drugs

Slovenia

National substance abuse strategy

Slovenia is a successor signatory to three UN conventions, which define the entire field of illicit drugs and all measures and activities carried out by individual countries. The Slovenian legislation, which is based on the provisions of these conventions, is also harmonized with the EU legal order regarding the precursors for the production of illegal drugs and the basic guidelines of the Council of Europe regarding human rights.

The national legislation in the field of illegal drugs includes the Criminal Code, the Law on the Production and Trafficking in Illegal Drugs and the Law on Preventing the Use of Illegal Drugs and Treating Illegal Drug Users.

At the Ministry of Health, we have prepared a Resolution on the national program in the field of illegal drugs 2014 - 2020, which we are implementing within the framework of two-year action plans.

National reports are collected and published by the National Institute of Public Health.



- Criminal Code (KZ-1)
- Law on Production and Trafficking in Illegal Drugs (ZPPPD)
- Law on the prevention of the use of illegal drugs and on the treatment of users of illegal drugs (ZPUPD)
- Regulation on the classification of prohibited drugs
- Resolution on the National Program in the field of illicit drugs 2014–2020 (ReNPPD14–20)
- Resolution on the national crime prevention and suppression program for the period 2012–2016 (ReNPPZK12-16)

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopts an action plan in the field of illicit drugs for a two-year period.

In the Action Plan in the field of illicit drugs for the period 2019–2020, individual goals are defined in more detail, which are written down in the Resolution on the National Program in the field of drugs for the period 2014-2020, the ways of their implementation and specific orders of individual holders for the implementation of this document. The action plan is meaningfully linked to the adopted strategies in the field of crime prevention and suppression and strategies in the field of social welfare.

Measures and activities, which are included in the action plan, were selected on the basis of the ascertained added value of the measures and the recorded, measurable, predicted and probable results.

The overarching goal of the resolution is to reduce and limit the harm that the use of illegal drugs represents for individuals, groups and society. With it and the implementation action plan, a comprehensive and balanced approach in the field of drugs in Slovenia continues, which includes programs to reduce the demand for drugs and programs to reduce the supply of illicit drugs.



The resolution on the national program of Slovenia in the field of drugs for the period 2014-2020 is the state's strategy in the field of illicit drugs. Its main focus is on the comprehensive and balanced development of all measures, programs and activities that contribute to solving the problem of illegal drugs in Slovenia. The overarching goal of the program is to reduce and limit the harm that the use of illegal drugs represents for individuals, groups and society.

With the national program and executive action plans, we enable a coordinated approach and further development in the field of drugs, we ensure a meaningful connection to other adopted strategies, for example in the field of crime prevention and suppression and the field of social welfare.

Measures and policies in the field of illicit drugs are carried out in Slovenia within nine departments, which ensure the collection, processing, analysis and mediation of data, each in its own area.

With the national program, we also want to contribute to the prevention of the use and supply of drugs in SE Europe and in the wider European area, and to the fulfillment of the commitments that Slovenia has towards the international community or international organizations. At the same time, the national program represents a strategic starting point for a unified, comprehensive and balanced approach of the state in the field of drugs, the implementation of which is ensured at the operational level with two-year action plans. It is an instrument in which priority orders, their contractors and designated financial resources are determined, and at the same time it ensures accurate monitoring of implementation and simultaneous adaptation of activities to current problems and needs in the field of illegal drugs.

Implementation of the strategy on various levels

Prohibited drugs - interdepartmental action

Measures to control illegal drugs are provided by individual state institutions in their field of work, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Community and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance,



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Health.

Coordination of these policies is ensured through the RS Government Commission for Drugs, which is run by the Ministry of Health.

Republic of Slovenia Government Commission for Drugs

The chairman of the commission is a representative of the ministry responsible for health.

The Commission performs the following tasks:

- promotes and coordinates government policy, measures and programs for preventing the use of illegal drugs, reducing the demand for illegal drugs, reducing harm due to the use of illegal drugs, treatment and rehabilitation;
- proposes to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the government) a proposal for a national program for preventing and reducing the use of illegal drugs and measures for the implementation of the national program (hereinafter: the national program);
- proposes measures to the government to reduce the supply and use of illicit drugs;
- monitors and coordinates the implementation of the national program;
- monitors the implementation of the provisions of conventions of international bodies and international organizations in the field of illicit drugs and ensures international cooperation.

In order to prepare professional basis for decision-making, the commission may invite independent experts in the field of illegal drugs to participate.

Individual departments ensure the collection, processing, analysis and mediation of data from their field. In order to fully monitor the epidemiological situation and trends in the field



of drug use, data or aggregates of data from various departments are collected and analyzed at the competent.

National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ). The Institute forwards the processed and analysed data to other institutions in the country, international institutions and the general public, and at the same time it is the contact point of the European network of contact points for drugs (REITOX), which has its headquarters in Lisbon. Data collected in annual national reports (NIJZ).

JAZMP - Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices of the Republic of Slovenia

Illicit drugs are plants or substances of natural or artificial origin which have psychotropic effects and may affect physical or mental health or put people's social circumstances at risk. They are classified into three groups according to the severity of the human health risk that their use presents and according to their medical use.

Group I: plants and substances posing a severe risk to human health due to the serious consequences their abuse may cause and which are not used in medicine.

Group II: plants and substances posing a severe risk due to the serious consequences their abuse may cause and which can be used in medicine.

Group III: plants and substances posing a medium risk due to the consequences their abuse may cause and which can be used in medicine.

The production, traffic, and possession of illicit drugs from group I may only be performed for scientific research and educational purposes.

Illicit drugs from groups II and III may be produced, trafficked, and possessed for medical, veterinarian, educational, and scientific research purposes.

The tasks and responsibilities of JAZMP in the field of illicit drugs are:

- Issuing of licences for the traffic (export/import authorisations) of illicit drugs from groups II and III



- Preparation of statistical reports on the production, traffic and use of illicit drugs from groups II and III
- Official sealing of illicit drug record books
- Inspection of the implementation of the Production of and Trade in Illicit Drugs Act as regards illicit drugs from groups II and III.

Non-governmental organizations in the field of drugs play an important role in Slovenia, as they implement some basic assistance programs for drug users and their relatives. In the field of the state, they are connected in a federation, which, among other things, is the interlocutor of the ministry when formulating policies. Ministries cooperate well with the non-governmental sector and support and co-finance their programs.

At the local level, local action groups have a coordinating role, which were established in dozens of municipalities, in most cases as advisory bodies of prefects. The aforementioned groups coordinate measures and activities in the field of drugs at the level of individual municipalities.

Treatment demand for students

Addiction treatment

Treatment of addiction to illegal drugs takes place in health institutions in accordance with the law governing health care. Medical treatment of drug users is included in the regular health care program, which is financially supported by the funds of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (ZZZS).

Treatment is carried out in public health institutes and at private health care providers, both outpatient and inpatient. Users are treated at the primary level of health care in specialized centers for the prevention and treatment of drug addiction (CPZOPD).

Inpatient treatment takes place in the Drug Addiction Treatment Center of the Ljubljana Psychiatric Clinic and includes detoxification, treatment of crisis situations, treatment of addiction in patients with an associated mental disorder, specialist outpatient treatment, treatment in a day hospital and extended hospital treatment with rehabilitation.



Assistance programs

Co-financed multi-year programs

Programs that include prevention of risks and problems related to drug use and other addictions, reduction of social damage caused by drug use and reduction of the number of addicts with programs that take place in day care centers, therapeutic communities, communes and counseling and information offices.

The entire list of co-financed multi-year programs of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is published on the website of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The list of co-financed multi-year programs of the Ministry of Health for the period 2017-2019 has been published on the Infodroga portal.

Network of centers for the prevention and treatment of drug addiction

The centers strive to apply the latest knowledge in the field of drug addiction treatment. In Slovenia, there is a network of 18 centers that implement a range of programs, which include a counseling center for drug users and their relatives, offering individual, group and family therapy, preparation for hospital treatment, help with rehabilitation and further integration into society. At the same time, they take care of consultations for health and social services, outpatient services and connection with therapeutic groups and self-help groups, outpatient detoxification and treatment programs with opioid drugs. The content and activities of the network of centers are published on the Infodroga portal.

Development and upgrading of the network of mobile units for the implementation of preventive and harm reduction programs in the field of illicit drugs

The program, which is implemented by the project group of the Ministry of Health, consists of measures for the development and upgrading of existing programs, which will contribute to the empowerment of target groups to bring them closer to the labor market. We are establishing professional multidisciplinary teams that will implement programs to prevent the use of illegal drugs (PD) and new psychoactive drugs (NPS) and programs for the



purpose of reducing the harm caused by PD and NPS in the field, namely in the period from 2017 to 2022.

The performance will provide answers to some shortcomings in the existing implementation of programs and encourage the development of new programs.

Activities of non-governmental and other organizations in the field of public health are co-financed by the Ministry of Health with multi-year public tenders in the field of public health.

In the public tender for the co-financing of the protection and health promotion programs for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, we also allocated funds for the implementation of programs in support of the implementation of activities that contribute to the achievement of the goals of the National Program in the field of illegal drugs 2014-2020.

Substance abuse (alcohol, illicit drugs, other substances) related law offences

While in the past period in Slovenia the use of opiates and its consequences was at the fore, and various forms of assistance approaches and measures have been modeled on the topic, in recent years, with the appearance of an increasing number of new drugs, there is also an increasing proportion of users of these drugs among younger people. drug users. In recent years, the use of hemp, cocaine and synthetic drugs, as well as drugs that are currently not on the list of prohibited drugs and for which many countries are still looking for effective approaches to control their use, have come to the fore. Among young people, the use of inhalants (glues, thinners, cooking gas, etc.) and the abuse of various psychoactive drugs, which are injected by individuals according to a special preliminary procedure, is also typical, which can lead to very serious health consequences.

Two surveys on the use of drugs in the general population have so far been conducted in Slovenia, one in the period 2011–2012, the other in 2018. The latter was the 2018 National Survey on the Use of Tobacco, Alcohol and other Drugs among the inhabitants of Slovenia aged 15 to 64 years. The data from this survey revealed that 284,600 (21%) of inhabitants aged 15 to 64 years have used one of the illicit drugs at least once in their lifetime. The



most common drug was cannabis, which was used at least once by 280,700 (20.7%) inhabitants, followed by ecstasy which was used at least once by 39,500 (2.9%) inhabitants, and cocaine, used at least once by 35,800 (2.6%) of inhabitants, while amphetamine was used at least once by 31,200 (2.3%) inhabitants, and LSD by 29,200 (2.2%) inhabitants. The lifetime prevalence of illicit drug use is higher among men compared to women. The lifetime prevalence of illicit drug use among young adults aged 15 to 34 years is 33.5%.

In the period between 2012 and 2018, the percentage of those who used illicit drugs in their lifetime increase, mostly due to cannabis. In this period, the 15–64 age group saw an increase in the use of illicit drugs in total and by gender, while in the 15–34 age group the use of illicit drugs increased for women and in total (Figure 1).

A comparison between 2012 and 2018 reveals that the percentage of inhabitants in the age group 15–64 who have used cannabis at some point in their lifetime increase, both for men and women, and in total, while the 15–34 age group saw an increase of the use of cannabis for women and in total.

Cannabis is widespread among school population, young adults, in nightlife settings, and among low-threshold programme users. In 2020, cannabis came in first for the number of poisonings treated at the emergency medical units of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana and second for the most frequent cause for users to seek treatment within the network of centres for the prevention and treatment of illicit drug addiction (CPZOPD). In the same year, the number of persons experiencing difficulties related to cannabis was the highest (321 persons or 30%) among those included in programmes implemented by the four non-governmental organisations offering counselling, psychotherapy, and treatment of illicit drug-related problems.

In the last years, data have shown an increased availability of cocaine in various population groups. In fact, the use of cocaine was recorded among secondary school students, while the significant presence of cocaine in nightlife settings has been confirmed by the data of smaller research studies and the data gathered with wastewater analysis. A high prevalence of cocaine use was also confirmed by the annual research study, conducted



among harm reduction programme users. In 2019, cocaine accounted for the highest number of deaths caused by illicit drugs. In addition, the number of cocaine poisonings remain high and cocaine came in second for the number of poisonings with illicit drugs treated by the emergency medical units of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana in 2020. Cocaine was the third most frequent cause for users to seek treatment within the network of centres for the prevention and treatment of illicit drug addiction. 116 persons (11% of all persons treated for illicit drug use) were included in counselling and psychotherapy programmes implemented by the four non-governmental organisations. In the last five years, drug checking of psychoactive substances as part of the Early Warning System on New Psychoactive Substances recorded a significant increase in the purity of cocaine with continual emergence of samples with 70 and 90% cocaine content (SI EWS, monthly reports for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020).

Drug use in schools

We acquire data on drug use in schools from two international surveys, carried out periodically every four years: the ESPAD and HBSC surveys. The data of the latest ESPAD survey is presented below. The data of the HBSC 2018 survey is presented in 2020 National report on drugs. According to the ESPAD 2019 research survey, 23.2% of schoolchildren aged between 15 and 16 have tried cannabis at least once, with the figures quite a bit higher for boys than for girls (26% vs 20.7%). This figure fell slightly between 2015 and 2019 among 15- and 16-year-olds in Slovenia, a fall that can be attributed to lower use among girls.

Drug use in other sub-populations

The data on illicit drug use in other sub-population groups are acquired from one-time surveys and questionnaires, from surveys which recur in longer periodical time frames and from the annual survey among harm reduction programme users. The National Institute of Public Health conducted a survey in 2020 that included questions on drug use among young adults who had dropped out of regular schooling and were included in the Project Learning for Young Adults (PLYA) programme (more about the PLYA can be found in the Prevention Workbook in the section on selective prevention).



The prevalence of heroin use is high predominately among low-threshold programme users and less in nightlife settings, while the prevalence of lifetime heroin use in the general population aged 15–64 and the school population is lower than 1%. On the other hand, heroin came in third for the number of poisonings with illicit drugs treated by the emergency medical units of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana in 2020. In general, heroin and opioids remain the most frequent cause for users to seek treatment within the network of centers for the prevention and treatment of illicit drug addiction. Opioids also accounted for the highest number of deaths caused by drugs. In 2017, Slovenia first saw a significant increase in the number of deaths due to synthetic opioids, while in 2018, the number of deaths attributable to this reason rose to 15, 13 of which were a consequence of the use of tramadol.

The use of Illicit Drugs With Alcohol, Tobacco and Prescription Drugs

Only a limited amount of information is available about the association between illicit drugs and alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs use in Slovenia. The national survey on the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs conducted in 2018 also included questions on the polydrug use and regarding the co-use of prescription drugs, alcohol and illicit drugs. A total of 8.9% of the Slovenian population between the ages of 15 and 64 reported polydrug use. The highest percentage reported using alcohol and cannabis (92%), followed by a combination of alcohol, cannabis and at least one stimulant drug (10%). A total of 2% of the Slovenian population between the ages of 15 and 64 reported abusing a prescription psychoactive drug during the last 12 months, while 16.6% reported co-use of prescription drugs and alcohol, 6.4% reported co-use of prescription drugs and illicit drugs, and 4.6% stated that they used alcohol and illicit drugs while taking prescription drugs (Drev et al. 2021). Data about the association between legal and illicit drug use among minors and youth from ESPAD and HBSC studies is presented in 2020 National Report on Drugs.

Strong and adverse points, aspects, that could be improved

School preventive program EU-Dap ("Izštekani")



The "Izštekanj" program is a school preventive curriculum in the field of addiction prevention. In the summer of 2004, the program began to be developed in seven European countries (Belgium, Spain, Austria, Italy, Germany, Greece and Sweden), and it is spreading very quickly throughout Europe and beyond (Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Arab part of Africa). The program is aimed especially at reducing the number of young people who start using drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), postponing the start of drug use to as late as possible and/or postponing the transition from experimentation to regular drug use.

The program was created on the basis of the model of general social influence and is interactive, combining life skills and normative interpretations (young people form their opinions, ideas and values, which are greatly influenced by the media, music, friends and films, the mentioned influences are often in conflict with values that young people learn at home but at school). The target group is young people between the ages of 12 and 14, because during that period some of them will start trying drugs (especially cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana). The program consists of 12 lessons and lasts 3 months. The content of the program includes information about alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs. Parents are also included in the program in the form of three meetings (parents generally lack basic knowledge about various substances and skills that would help them face this problem in the right way). The teachers who implement the program participate in the training, which usually lasts 2 and a half days. Teachers and students have at their disposal all the necessary aids (teacher's manual, workbook for students and study cards).

In Goriško, where, according to the speeches of renowned therapist Miha Kramlij, we are an example of good practice in connecting in the fight against various forms of addiction, many activities with a common denominator, prevention of various forms of addiction, will take place in the month of November. In the municipality of Nova Gorica, they take place under the coordination of the Youth Center Nova Gorica, in the program entitled Knowledge and connection are power, so different actors participate, namely: in addition to the Youth Center Nova Gorica, Zavod Pelikan, ŠENT, Karitas, Skupnost srečanje, Droštvo Project Man, Family center Trojka MDPM for Goriško, Team KCM 10ka in DC Žarek, Business operative group of the municipality of Novi Gorica »Nova Gorica a child-friendly UNICEF



place and Center for strengthening health. It is a set of lectures and interactive workshops, intended for education, self-help, exercise, etc. This month's program is primarily intended to draw attention to pressing issues in society and to say that help exists and that it is important to seek it out, that we need it. Otherwise, all involved actors in Goriško carry out preventive activities and forms of assistance to addicts throughout the summer. Due to the current health conditions in the country and the measures taken by the government to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the events will mostly be held online.

We celebrate the day against addiction: we warn of the increase in addiction during the epidemic

The National Institute of Public Health dedicates the month of November to raising awareness about addiction and its prevention, so today let's celebrate the World Day of Fighting Addiction. The Ministry of Health is warning of the extreme deterioration of mental health in society, which can be attributed to the epidemic. Namely, there is more insomnia, anxiety and even addiction.

There are also more behavioral and emotional problems, especially among children and young people, recently warned the Minister of Health Janez Poklucar.

Those who work in the field of families, particularly families, expose them as hidden victims of the epidemic, because they perceive severe mental distress in all generations and an increase in addiction.



Annexes

Lithuania

Laws

Law (n/year & name)	Law on Alcohol Control of the Republic of Lithuania 18 April 1995 No I-857
Aim/scope of the law	
Link on the government page	https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.17752/asr
Law (n/year & name)	Law on the Control of Tobacco, Tobacco Products and Related Products of the Republic of Lithuania 20 November 2003 No IX-1840. Latest version
Aim/scope of the law	
Link on the government page	https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.223448
Law (n/year & name)	Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania No XIII-1765 of 13 December 2018 "On the Approval of the State Programme for the Control and Prevention of Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Use for 2018-2028"
Aim/scope of the law	
Link on the government page	https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/a50bec00035b11e9a017f05dde6559c6
Law (n/year & name)	Order No A1-265/V-749/V-543/1V-284 of 12 April 2022 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, the Minister of



	Health of the Republic of Lithuania, the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, on the Adoption of the Strategic Plan of Activities of the Department of Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol Control for the years 2022-2024.
Aim/scope of the law	
Link on the government page	https://ntakd.lrv.lt/uploads/ntakd/documents/files/NTAKD%202022-2024%20SVP.pdf

Good Practice Examples

Name of the initiative	Early Intervention Programme
Short description	<p>The Early Intervention Programme is the result of the international project "FreD goes net", involving 17 European Union countries. The Early Intervention Programme is one of the support measures for young people aged 14-21 who are experimenting with or using alcohol and/or drugs (other than tobacco) on an irregular basis, with the aim of motivating them to quit using these substances before they develop an addiction.</p> <p>18 January 2018 Order No V-60/V-39 of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania and Order No V-60/V-39 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania and the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. This legal act regulates the joint activities of municipal public health bureaus, together with pedagogical psychological or educational support services, in organising and providing</p>



	assistance to young people who experiment, use alcohol or drugs irregularly.
Link	https://ntakd.lrv.lt/lt/prevencija/ankstyvoji-intervencija
Name of the initiative	A publication "Psychoactive substances: trends and developments 2021", prepared by the NCCD.
Short description	<p>In 2021, the Department of Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol Control collected, analysed and summarised monitoring data on the prevalence and consequences of psychoactive substance use, primary prevention and response measures in Lithuania, as well as on the health harms of alcohol and tobacco use, and produced the publication Psychoactive Substances: Trends and Developments 2021.</p> <p>The publication provides an overview of developments in supply and demand reduction for psychoactive substances, insights and recommendations, as well as an overview of the situation of drug use and changes in service provision in Lithuania during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time, the publication deals extensively with the harms and consequences of alcohol consumption.</p> <p>This publication will provide a broader overview of the situation of the number and causes of deaths due to poisoning and the most serious consequences of psychoactive substance use, as well as of the preventive measures used and their benefits, the dynamics of the incidence of addiction and infectious diseases among drug users, and the results of studies on the prevalence of psychoactive substances.</p>
Link	https://www.nsa.smm.lt/2021/11/12/isleistas-elektroninis-leidiny-psichoakt-yviosios-medziagos-tendencijos-ir-pokyciai-2021/



Name of the initiative	Preventing the use of psychoactive substances online
Short description	<p>In today's changing society, measures to prevent the use of psychoactive substances are also constantly evolving in order to respond to emerging needs and challenges. The constant emergence of new psychoactive substances and the changing context of use is prompting attention to the introduction of new, innovative and attractive information tools for children and young people in a space where much of their free time is spent: the internet.</p> <p>As part of its efforts to reduce the demand for psychoactive substances, the DTCAD develops and deploys attractive and easily accessible online tools for different target groups: young people (www.askritiskas.lt), parents (www.kaveikiavaikai.lt) and people quitting smoking (www.nerukysiu.lt). Information and encouragement for different target groups to seek help is also fostered during music festivals, raising awareness among festival-goers of the potential risks associated with psychoactive substance use and motivating them to seek help.</p>
Link	www.askritiskas.lt , www.kaveikiavaikai.lt , www.nerukysiu.lt

Austria

Laws

Law (n/year & name)	Federal Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Drug Precursors (Suchtmittelgesetz – SMG), version from 06.17.2022
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Aim/scope of the law	The SMG brought Austrian drug law into line with the prevailing standards in the European Union, which Austria joined in 1995.
Link on the government page	Bundesrecht konsolidiert: Gesamte Rechtsvorschrift für Suchtmittelgesetz, Fassung vom 14.06.2022
Law (n/year & name)	Federal Law on Protection from Health Hazards Associated with New Psychoactive Substances (Neue-Psychoaktive-Substanzen-Gesetz, NPSG), version from 17.06.2022
Aim/scope of the law	The NPSG supplements the SMG with a number of special provisions and is particularly important for the authorities taking action against the illegal market.
Link on the government page	Bundesrecht konsolidiert: Gesamte Rechtsvorschrift für Neue-Psychoaktive-Substanzen-Gesetz, Fassung vom 17.06.2022.
Law (n/year & name)	Consolidated federal law: entire legal framework for the Tobacco and Non-Smoker Protection Act, version of June 17, 2022
Aim/scope of the law	Serves to protect non-smokers from passive smoking.
Link on the government page	RIS - Tabak- und Nichtraucherinnen- bzw. Nichtraucherschutzgesetz - Bundesrecht konsolidiert, Fassung vom 10.06.2022

Good Practice Examples

Name of the initiative	Gemeinsam stark werden
Short description	A teaching programme aiming at the prevention of addiction amongst young people.



Link	Gemeinsam stark werden (gemeinsam-stark-werden.org)
Name of the initiative	Plus
Short description	A life skills programme addressed at 10 to 14-year-old youth to research the effectiveness of prevention programmes in schools.
Link	plus - Das österreichische Präventionsprogramm für die 10- bis 14-Jährigen (suchtvorbeugung.net)
Name of the initiative	checkit!
Short description	An information and counselling centre on the topic of recreational drugs, their effects, side effects and risks.
Link	https://checkit.wien/

Greece

Laws

Law (n/year & name)	Law 4139/2013
Aim/scope of the law	Law on addictive substances and other provisions.

Link on the government page	<u>Νόμος 4139/2013 - ΦΕΚ Α-74/20-3-2013 (Κωδικοποιημένος) - ΝΑΡΚΩΤΙΚΑ (e-nomothesia.gr)</u>
Law (n/year & name)	Law 4801/2021
Aim/scope of the law	Production, export and marketing of finished medicinal cannabis products of the species Cannabis Sativa L with a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of more than 0.2% and other provisions.
Link on the government page	<u>Νόμος 4801/2021 - ΦΕΚ 83/Α/24-5-2021 (Κωδικοποιημένος) - ΝΑΡΚΩΤΙΚΑ (e-nomothesia.gr)</u>
Law (n/year & name)	The Greek drug law of 1987 and its amendments were significantly modified in 1993, 2006, 2009 and 2013.
Aim/scope of the law	The law distinguishes between drug possession/ acquisition for personal use and for commercial use, and the punishment varies accordingly.

Good Practice Examples

Name of the initiative	Take care program
Short description	The Anti-Drug Agency participates since March 2010 in the European Programme "TAKE CARE - Strategies towards responsible alcohol consumption for adolescents in Europe" which has been approved by the European Union. It has a duration of 33 months and in total 10 countries (Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia) are involved. The coordinating organisation is the LWL (Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe) from Germany and the partner from



	<p>Greece is the Anti-Drug Agency, which is responsible for the implementation of the programme. For its implementation it cooperates with the Drug Prevention Centre of the South Dodecanese Municipality of Kos "IPOKRATES".</p> <p>The "TAKE CARE" programme includes multi-level actions in four target groups: young people aged 12 to 21 years, parents, key persons and retailers. It aims to prevent and promote responsible consumption of alcohol among adolescents and young people in Europe.</p>
Link	<p>gia_to_site_take_care.doc (live.com)</p>
Name of the initiative	<p>European Network for Practical Approaches in Addiction Prevention</p>
Short description	<p>The euro net: European Network for Practical Approaches in Addiction Prevention is a European Prevention Network established in 1996 and involving prevention agencies from 18 European countries and in particular: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Russia, Switzerland and Spain. Greece has been represented in this Network through the Anti-Drug Agency since 2002. The objectives of the Network include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the establishment and consolidation of a European network for the prevention of drug use based on a specific cooperation through prevention programmes- to promote understanding between professionals on key aspects of prevention of drug use in Europe



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the joint development and implementation of innovative prevention programmes and strategies- the promotion and further development of specialised prevention methods such as the peer to peer method- joint evaluation of programmes and their products- the harmonious development of the network, e.g. successful expansion to other regions of the European Union countries
Link	gia_to_site_take_care.doc (live.com)
Name of the initiative	EU Dap
Short description	<p>The guide "Prevention in Schools IS OUR BUSINESS" was produced by organisations from the countries involved in the second phase of the European Study on Drug Prevention and is funded by the European Commission. These countries are.</p> <p>Belgium, the Czech Republic, Spain, Greece, Italy, Austria, Poland, Sweden and Spain. However, this guide can be used or adopted by other countries, both within and outside the EU. European Union.</p>
Link	2005312_guide_greece_design.pdf (europa.eu)
Name of the initiative	The 2014-16 National Action Plan on Drugs



Short description	In 2014, the Greek Ministry of Health adopted an action plan to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic among PWID in Athens and the rest of Greece. One of the main aims of the action plan was to enhance the harm reduction response by all involved actors. The 2014-16 National Action Plan on Drugs also mentions harm reduction as one of its objectives. In recent years, treatment and harm reduction service provision in Greece has been scaled up, mainly with the help of European funds, although these came to an end in 2014. The state funding of these services remains limited. Low-threshold/harm reduction services are mainly provided by the drug treatment agencies OKANA and KETHEA, which ensure a broad range of harm reduction interventions, in particular regarding prevention and treatment of infectious diseases
Link	Greece - Country Drug Report 2017 (europa.eu)

Finland

Laws

Law (n/year & name)	Narcotics Act (373/2008)
Aim/scope of the law	To prevent illicit import to and export from Finland of narcotic drugs, and their illicit manufacture, distribution, and use. This Act is applied to the control of drugs. It is also applied to the control of drug precursors in addition to what is provided regarding it in the Regulation on intra-Community trade in drug precursors and the Regulation on extra-Community trade in drug precursors and their implementing Regulation.
Link on the government page	https://finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2008/20080373



Law (n/year & name)	Government decree on substances, preparations and plants considered as narcotics (543/2008)
Aim/scope of the law	This Act details what substances, plants, and preparations are considered as narcotic drugs.
Link on the government page	https://finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2008/20080543
Law (n/year & name)	Government decree on psychoactive substances banned from the consumer market (1130/2014)
Aim/scope of the law	This Act details what psychoactive substances are prohibited on the consumer market.
Link on the government page	https://finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2014/20141130
Law (n/year & name)	Act on regulating alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and gambling prevention (523/2015)
Aim/scope of the law	This Act organizes the responsibilities between different levels of public authorities and non-profit organizations with regards to the prevention of the abuse of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, and other substances used for intoxication, and gambling
Link on the government page	https://finlex.fi/fi/laki/ajantasa/2015/20150523

Good Practice Examples

Name of the initiative	Substance abuse programme for students – University of Eastern Finland
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Short description	An action plan for preventing students' substance abuse and for providing support in addressing problem situations among students of the University of Eastern Finland (Kuopio and Joensuu region)
Link	https://kamu.uef.fi/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Substance-Abuse-programme-UEF_2019_en_final.pdf
Name of the initiative	Programme of measures to prevent substance abuse and support intervention in problem situations
Short description	A program for substance abuse prevention and students' support via academic policies and regulations targeting the students of Aalto University (Uusimaa / Helsinki region)
Link	https://into.aalto.fi/display/ensaannot/Programme+of+measures+to+prevent+substance+abuse++and+support+intervention+in+problem+situations
Name of the initiative	Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention – Substance Abuse Prevention
Short description	The Substance abuse prevention program of the Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention (EHYT), an association that works throughout Finland to promote well-being and healthy lifestyles, promotes health, safety and well-being by preventing and reducing the harm caused by substance abuse, among other addictive behaviors.

Link	https://ehyt.fi/en/substances-gaming-and-gambling/what-is-substance-abuse-prevention/

Cyprus

Laws

Law (n/year & name)	Cyprus's National Strategy on Illicit Substances Dependence (2013-20)
Aim/scope of the law	It seeks to reduce drug demand and supply, as well as the health and social risks and harms caused by drugs and alcohol. The strategy is founded on five pillars: prevention, treatment and social reintegration, harm reduction, supply control and regulation, and international cooperation. The strategy's framework, goals, and objectives are also divided into two consecutive four-year action plans covering 2013-16 and 2017-20. To improve the use of program evaluation, the 2017-20 action plan added a new pillar covering research, education, and evaluation.
Link on the government page	https://www.naac.org.cy/uploads/ef5061a1Rs.pdf
Law (n/year & name)	The Law on the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (Amendment) 2020
Aim/scope of the law	Provides for the issuance of a license for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages and its conditions. The law also prohibits the sale, distribution or administration of alcoholic beverages for any purpose to minors
Link on the government page	http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/arith/2020_1_087.pdf [Available on in Greek]

Law (n/year & name)	Cyprus National Addictions Authority (NAAC) (previously the Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council) (1994)
Aim/scope of the law	Addressing the use of illegal drugs, other substances, and addictive behaviors The NAAC is composed of nine members appointed by the Council of Ministers and is presided over by a chairperson appointed by the President of the Republic who also serves as the National Drug Coordinator. The NAAC is in charge of the national strategies planning, implementation, supervision, and monitoring.
Link on the government page	https://www.naac.org.cy/
Law (n/year & name)	National drug laws (2016)
Aim/scope of the law	Drugs in Cyprus are classified as Class A, B, or C based on their level of harm, with Class A drugs causing the most harm. In Cyprus, penalties for drug use range from life imprisonment to death, but no such sentence has ever been imposed.
Link on the government page	https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/11340/cyprus-cdr-2019_0.pdf https://www.naac.org.cy/uploads/nomotheties/4f990db24b.pdf [Available on in Greek] https://www.naac.org.cy/el/mission-en

Good Practice Examples

Name of the initiative	Cyprus Addictions Authority
Short description	The Cyprus National Addictions Authority (NAAC) is the supreme coordinating body in the field of licit and illicit addictive substances and



	<p>pathological gambling in Cyprus, and, since November 2017, has been the successor of the Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council (2000).</p> <p>The NAAC is divided into two departments, the <i>Policy Department</i> and the <i>Monitoring Department / National Documentation and Monitoring Centre for Drugs</i>, and has the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Planning and monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy on Illicit Substances Dependence and the Harmful Use of Alcohol 2013-2020,● Coordinating and monitoring all relevant measures and interventions,● Promoting legislative measures,● Promoting timely and scientifically documented information and enlightenment,● Authorizing measures, programs and interventions for prevention, treatment, harm reduction and social reintegration, as well as sponsoring licensed programs of non-governmental organisations,● Monitoring for the detection of any direct or indirect promotion or advertising of addictive substances use,● Developing cooperation with corresponding international and national Bodies / Organisations,● Implementing interventions or programs,● Collecting, processing, studying and evaluating information and data,● Creating, organising and operating an electronic information network and● Cooperating with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).
Link	

	https://www.naac.org.cy/el/mission-en
Name of the initiative	VERESIES
Short description	<p>Ten years already they are established medical centre for people who suffer from psychiatric or neurological problems. They believe that every person is unique, for that all treatments are individually planned to meet specific needs.</p> <p>The responsibility of providing each and every patient the kind of care we would expect for ourselves or our loved ones, is something we take very seriously. It is why they hold ourselves to the highest standards of quality, accountability and excellent services, to ensure that we are delivering the most effective care available today.</p> <p>They are specialized in the fields of Dependencies (Alcohol and Drugs), Depression, Bipolar Disorder, General anxiety Disorder, Dementia (Alzheimer's Disease) etc.</p> <p>They provide treatments for external and internal patients, depending on the individual needs of our patients.</p> <p>Their professional staff (Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists and Clinical Dietician) are in position to offer their services and online.</p>
Link	https://veresiesclinic.com/en
Name of the initiative	Cyprus rTMS
Short description	At Cyprus rTMS we bring innovation and latest technology into medicine and to patients to help them with their difficulties on evidence based medicine.



	<p>Dr Georgios Mikellides is a fully London (UK) trained Consultant Psychiatrist who is currently working in Cyprus:</p> <p>He has obtained the MRCPsych (Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists) and a CCT in General and Liaison Psychiatry.</p> <p>He has been an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer for Queen Mary Medical School (London) and he is also a Clinical Assistant Professor for St George's Medical School University of London/ University of Nicosia. Also he was an Honorary Research Associate at the Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, King's College Hospital, London. He has been also a Special Scientist at the University of Cyprus.</p> <p>He has been certified by the Harvard and Maastricht Universities as a Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation practitioner and he is also a PhD Researcher at Maastricht University.</p> <p>He also uses different Psychotherapeutic techniques, including Psychodynamic, Cognitive Behavioural, Cognitive Analytical and Mentalisation Based Therapies.</p>
Link	http://cyprusrtms.com/en/dr-georgios-mikellides/

Turkey

Laws



La w (n/ ye ar & na me)	09/01/2002 / Law No. 4733 on the Organization and Duties of the Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Authority
Ai m/ sc op e of the la w	The aim of the law is to regulate the procedures and principles regarding production, domestic and foreign purchases and sales of alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco products in Turkey.
Lin k on the go ver nm ent pa ge	https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuatmetin/1.5.4733.pdf
La w (n/	7/11/1996/ LAW Nr. 4207 ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DAMAGES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS



ye ar & na me)	
Ai m/ sc op e of the la w	The aim of the law is to protect individuals and future generations from the harms of tobacco products and to ensure that everyone breathes clean air.
Lin k on the go ver nm ent pa ge	https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuatmetin/1.5.4207.pdf
La w (n/ ye ar &	Law No. 5607 on Anti-Smuggling



na me)	
Ai m/ sc op e of the la w	The purpose of this Law is to determine the smuggling acts and sanctions, as well as the procedures and principles of smuggling prevention, monitoring and investigation.
Lin k on the go ver nm ent pa ge	https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=5607&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5#:~:text=(1)%20E%C5%9Fyay%C4%B1%2C%20g%C3%BCmr%C3%BCk%20i%C5%9Flemlerine,%C3%BC%C3%A7te%20birinden%20yar%C4%B1s%C4%B1na%20kadar%20art%C4%B1r%C4%B1l%C4%B1r.
La w (n/ ye ar & na me)	12/6/1933/ updated on 21/11/1982 / Law No. 2313 on Control of Narcotic Substances

Aim/ scope of the law	The purpose and scope of this Law is to control the import, export and domestic sales of narcotic substances and all their preparations.
Link on the government page	https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=2313&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTerip=3

Good Practice Examples

Name of the initiative	School Addiction Intervention Program - Green Crescent (Turkey)
Short description	The School Addiction Intervention Program (OBM) is a program developed for secondary prevention and brief intervention for the student population in the 13-18 age group who are at the stage of trying/using any of the cigarettes, alcohol and substances or have risky internet use.
Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.yesilay.org.tr/tr/kurumsal-projeler/okulda-bagimlilik-dahale-programi-obm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://obm.org.tr/
Name of the initiative	Turkey Anti-Addiction Training Program – Ministry of Education
Short description	It is a primary prevention program that aims to inform and raise awareness of the whole society, especially children and youth.
Link	https://tbn.org.tr/
Name of the initiative	Don't Be an Addict, Be an Athlete Project - Turkey Youth and Sports Federation
Short description	Youth and Sports Federation plans to organize panel and conversation activities in the regions determined in the project by appointing experts in the field as speakers in the project it has prepared. Within the scope of these activities specified in the project, encouraging activities are planned for the youth between the ages of 14-29 both in the fight against substance addiction and incorporating sports into their lives.
Link	https://genckonfed.org/bagimli-olma-sporcu-ol-projesi

Slovenia

Laws

Law (n/year & name)	Restriction on the Use of Tobacco Products and Related Products Act (ZOUTPI), 2017
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Aim/scope of the law	<p>This law, in accordance with Directive 2014/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, stipulates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. measures to limit the use of tobacco and related products and measures to prevent their harmful effects on health;2. the highest emission values of tobacco products;3. obligations to report on the highest values of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide emissions for cigarettes;4. labeling and packaging of tobacco and related products, including health warnings;5. traceability and security elements used for tobacco products;6. prohibition of placing tobacco for oral use on the market;7. obligations regarding the proposal of official notices on new tobacco products;8. putting electronic cigarettes on the market;9. placing on the market and labeling of herbal products for smoking;10. prohibition of advertising, promotion and sponsoring of tobacco, tobacco products and related products;11. manner and restrictions on the sale of tobacco and related products;12. prohibition of smoking or use of tobacco and related products in closed public and work spaces.
Link on the government page	<p>http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO6717</p>


Law (n/year & name)	Restrictions on the Use of Alcohol Act (ZOPA), 2003
Aim/scope of the law	<p>This law defines measures and ways of limiting alcohol consumption and measures to prevent the harmful consequences of alcohol use.</p> <p>According to this law, an alcoholic drink is any drink that contains more than 1.2 percent alcohol by volume, and a spirit drink is an alcoholic drink that contains more than 15 percent alcohol by volume.</p> <p>Foods that contain alcohol, including those foods that are offered to the consumer in prepackaged form and contain more than 0.5 percent of alcohol by weight of the food.</p> <p>The sale of alcoholic beverages according to this law includes any offer to purchase or any other form of direct offer of alcoholic beverages against payment.</p> <p>The offer of alcoholic beverages according to this law includes any offer for a trial or any other form of immediate offer of alcoholic beverages without payment.</p> <p>Obvious signs of alcohol intoxication are generally recognizable signs, which are expressed either in the general appearance, behavior, gait, way of speaking and balance disorders, which are recognized even by a non-expert.</p>
Link on the government page	http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO3130
Law (n/year & name)	Production of and Trade in Illicit Drugs Act (ZPPPD), 2000




<p>Aim/scope of the law</p>	<p>Prohibited drugs are plants or substances of natural or synthetic origin, which have psychotropic effects and can affect physical or mental health but threaten the normal social condition of people and are defined in the list from the third paragraph of this article.</p> <p>The classification of prohibited drugs is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, on the proposal of the minister responsible for health (hereinafter: the minister).</p> <p>The list from the previous paragraph must contain for all substances the international non-protected name in the Latin version or another recognized name and the chemical name, empirical formula and molecular weight.</p> <p>This law also applies mutatis mutandis to illegal drugs used in veterinary medicine, unless a special law provides otherwise.</p> <p>Prohibited drugs are classified into one of the following three groups according to the seriousness of the danger to human health, which may be a consequence of their abuse, and according to their use in medicine:</p> <p>Group I: plants in substance, which are very dangerous for human health because of the serious consequences that can be caused by their abuse and are not used in medicine;</p> <p>Group II: plants in substance, which are very dangerous because of the serious consequences that can be caused by their abuse and can be used in medicine;</p> <p>Group III: plants in substance, which are moderately dangerous due to the consequences that can be caused by their abuse and can be used in medicine.</p>
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Link on the government page	http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1388
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Good Practice Examples

Name of the initiative	On the way to tobacco-free Slovenia (publication)
Short description	In this publication, we present achievements and challenges in the field of tobacco control in Slovenia and propose further effective tobacco control measures to prevent and reduce the prevalence and consequences of the use of tobacco and related products. The publication is intended for everyone who, in various departments, both at the state level and at the local community level, (co)creates policy in the field of tobacco control and can easily help to minimize the harm caused by tobacco in Slovenia.
Link	 na_poti_do_slovenije_brez_tobaka_2040.pdf
Name of the initiative	Alcohol in Slovenia (publication)

Short description	<p>The book Alcohol in Slovenia include: trends in the way of drinking, health consequences of harmful drinking, opinions of stakeholders and proposals for measures for a more effective alcohol policy offers a comprehensive overview of the situation in the field of alcohol in Slovenia.: trends in the way of drinking, health consequences of harmful drinking, opinions of stakeholders and proposals for measures for a more effective alcohol policy offers a comprehensive overview of the situation in the field of alcohol in Slovenia.</p>
Link	 alkohoI_v_sloveniji_0.pdf
Name of the initiative	POM - PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
Short description	<p>POM - Program for children and young people</p> <p>The center is intended for children and young people who experiment with drugs (but use drugs regularly), have problems in school, problems growing up or problems with excessive use of modern technologies. The programs are also intended for parents, teachers and counselors.</p>
Link	https://www.projektclovek.si/oblake_pomoci/program_za_otroke_in_mladostnike/



Name of the initiative	TOM PHONE
Short description	<p>TOM is a phone for children and young people, which operates within the Association of Friends of the Youth of Slovenia (ZPMS). It was established in the summer of 1990 at the instigation of the Commission for Slave Rights at ZPMS. Five years later, a national network was established, connecting around 200 qualified consultants. The network consists of 9 advisory groups in Ljubljana, Maribor, Murska Sobota, Slovenske Konjice, Velenje, Krško, Idrija, Ajdovščina and Tolmin.</p> <p>First of all, TOM was created as an emotional support for children and young people who, in the process of growing up, are faced with various questions, dilemmas and pressures. On the toll-free phone number 116 111, they can confide their problems to a counselor, but ask them for advice and additional information. Anonymity and confidentiality of the conversation and of the caller are guaranteed. In this way, we want to encourage young people to develop self-confidence and communication skills, and prepare them to solve conflict situations independently.</p> <p>To ensure the complete personal and social development of children and young people, TOM is connected to other similar projects and programs that can offer them direct help (e.g. World Center for Children and Young People, counseling services at schools, centers for social work, crisis center, doctors – gynecologists, other lines for mental distress, other societies and organizations dealing with young people).</p> <p>Based on the calls, we order an analysis every summer, from which we get information about who our callers are and what their most common problems are. We inform the experts and the general public about the results of the analysis. As</p>



	the most important topics of counseling in the last hour, topics such as love, physical development and sexuality, peers, family and school are highlighted.
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