



Newsletter 01/ 2021

Overview: Euro-TC and member organizations international projects

- In the last few months the international Europe-AID project in cooperation with Rebirth Charity Society “*Strengthening social support for homeless drug users in the Islamic Republic of Iran*” got on its way in cooperation with the Swedish Co-applicants WFAD (World Federation Against Drugs). One result of the previous work was a training workshop for staff and was held between 7th and 16th of December 2020. Additionally the working group „Evaluation“ (lead by Fernando Mendes/Euro-TC) as well as the working group „Elaborating, adapting and implementation of Quality Standards“ (lead by Thomas Legl & Iris Neuretter/Euro-TC and Regina Mattsson & Cressida de Witte/WFAD)
- „*Handle it! – Strategies for addiction treatment in New Psychoactive Substances in Europe*“ is an Erasmus+ project initiated by project leader Dr. Dirk Kratz, director of Ludwigmühle Germany. This important cooperation is aiming to find the right answers of rapidly involving availability of NPS on the market for addiction treatment and prevention. The experiences in the participated countries will be exchanged and evaluated and flexible models of intervention developed. There has been a successful Meeting in Budapest by project partner *Megallo* demonstrating the possibility if integration of creative therapeutic programs into a low threshold outpatient facility. Due to Covid further Meetings had to be delayed and eventually changed to a virtual gathering. Nevertheless the website is online and offers lots of data and information throughout videos of the action. In the meantime 3 steady working groups are constantly working and communicating virtually with promising results
- In the meantime the EU-project „*INTERLEAVE*“ has started with the Kick-off meeting on 20th November 2020. The applicant organisation is Comunità di Venezia, Italy. In this context, project leader Paolo Stocco and project manager Irene Simone introduced the structure, all partners got to know each other. Moreover the partners shared the common understanding of the project and launched first project tasks. Co-applicants are Fundación Salud y Comunidad (Spain), Therapieverbund Ludwigmuehle (Germany), Therapiesalon im Wald (Austria) Irefrea (Portugal), Eu-Open (Italy), ENSA and Zajednica Susret (Croatia)
- Furthermore Euro-TC became a partner in another EU-project called „*FENIQS-EU: Further Enhancing the Implementation of Quality Standards in drug demand reduction in the EU*“. The project has started in April 2021. This is a project to enhance further the implementation of Quality Standards (QS) in drug demand reduction across Europe. The action will facilitate the application of QS by identifying good practice examples and successful implementation strategies, key stakeholders (policymakers, service providers, and users), and do’s and don’ts for implementation. The project’s main output will be a field-tested implementation toolkit, providing step-by-step guidance on QS implementation.

Presenting the last started projects in more detail:

• Strengthening social support for homeless drug users in the Islamic Republic of Iran

In the long term, the project is expected to reduce homelessness and relapse rates among drug users in Iran. Therefore, the implementation of this project is likely to have a long-term impact in several areas as follows: Decriminalization, Drafting long-term programs (the existing programs are based on short-term treatment), Reduction of crimes, Reducing infectious diseases and Saving economic resources.

Rebirth Charity Society is an Iranian NGO and is in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. Rebirth is holder of the 2005 United Nations Vienna Civil Society Award. It was established in 2002 and has been working in the field of drug demand reduction. It has pioneered to initiate residential rehabilitation and recovery programs across Iran including mid-term residential treatment center, mother and child, therapeutic community etc. for women and men. In addition, the organization has also been involved in developing harm reduction centers such as mobile van, outreach team, shelter and drop-in-center. At international level, Rebirth has closely collaborated with European Commission, UNHCR Iran, UNODC Iran, UNODC Regional Program for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, VNGOC, Euro-TC, World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD) etc.

Abbas Deilamizade as the managing director of Rebirth Charity Society is a senior expert in drug demand reduction. He has been a member of Northern Africa and the Middle East/Central Asia of Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on world drug problem since 2016.

Amir Moghanibashi-Mansourieh holds bachelor, master and a PhD candidate in social work. He is the deputy managing director of Rebirth and the project manager.

Daryush Puyan with academic English studies background has been working for Rebirth as project officer since 2015.

Faezeh Atefi is a social worker who works as the project assistant.



www.eurotc.org

Previous performance:

One result of the previous work was a training workshop for staff and was held between 7th and 16th of December 2020. Owing to the current restrictions the workshops had to be carried out virtually. The participants of the training workshop were Iranian case managers and peer support specialists who are offering case management services to homeless drug users in Iran. The trainers have been organized from the co-applicants WFAD and Euro-TC.

Timetable – Staff Workshop – 2020

	07.12.	08.12.	09.12.	10.12.
9.00	Xavier Ferrer Fran Calvo Roger Ferrer (Euro-TC)	Thomas Legl Iris Neuretter (Euro-TC)	Mulka Nisic (WFAD)	Monica Barzanti (WFAD) Abbas Deylamizade (Rebirth)
	Drugs and homelessness: Workshop opening session”	Drug abuse, comorbidity and homelessness – Impacts for motivation, counseling, treatment and reintegration	Treatment and recovery services/ Special needs and considerations regarding homeless drug users – Recovery capital & sustainable recovery management.	Recovery and its impact on people and Society – General aims for treatment and reintegration considering abstinence based program
12.00	Chantel Pepper (WFAD)	Ela Mega (Euro-TC)	Fernando Mendes (Euro-TC)	Stacy Doorly-Jones (WFAD) *Cancelled*
	Barriers to reintegration for homeless people who use drugs	Treatment – Role of families/ /Family Therapy in treatment – residential and outpatient measures considering a concept of codependency	Primary prevention and relapse prevention – Does primary prevention for social inclusion regarding homelessness and substance consumption exist ? – Best practice, necessitates Framework for relapse prevention.	Treatment and recovery services/ /Special needs and considerations regarding homeless drug users
	14.12.	15.12.	16.12	
9.00	Roger Ferrer Xavier Ferrer (Euro-TC)	Udo Zifko (Euro-TC)	Akos Topolanszky (Euro-TC)	
	Harm Reduction – Basic necessities and key strategies from the European perspective.	Medical Aspects – Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic/General psychoneurological aspects and considerations.	Ethical Aspects and Outlook – Main ethical aspects to be integrated into all interventions/Special challenges and humanistic necessities for this project – aims and positive outlook	
12.00	Laia Plaza, Belén Augusto, Fara Amirian Asia Ashraf (Euro-TC & WFAD)	Asia Ashraf (WFAD)		
	Gender sensitive considerations – Situations and findings in europe. Additional: Asia Ashraf with the perspective from her work in Pakistan	Case Management: Process, Guiding Principles and components		

• Handle it! – Strategies for addiction treatment in New Psychoactive Substances in Europe

The first Learning Teaching Activity in Budapest resulted in a working group whose goal was to develop a questionnaire for NPS consumers that could be used in all facilities of the participating countries. The aim of that survey was to improve the treatment and care services for consumers with addictive behavior related to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). In addition to sociodemographic data, there were questions about NPS use, such as the contexts in which NPS was used, the reason or motivation for doing so, or even the type of drug. The survey ran from mid-February to mid-April. Currently, the evaluation of the questionnaire is underway, which promises interesting results.

Another group that has developed in the first LTTA are the case studies: it deals with the background of NPS consumers through case studies & biography details. Each institution works on at least one case, which is special and has to do with NPS. Here the focus is on the biography of the persons. The aim is to have an overview of summaries with different biographies to discuss the cases and see what parallels and differences there are between them.

The third group, which emerged during the second online LTTA and is newer than the other two, is the staff experience group. This group is about the NPS topic from an employee perspective: What challenges they face as a staff member, how much knowledge about NPS is available or how the knowledge is conveyed, how is the work with NPS users experienced compared to users of other drugs, what would staff and colleagues wish for so that the work with NPS could be improved, what is already working well. Here we can profit very well from all the different experiences. Also the development and implementation of a questionnaire for the staff is planned to get a better overview about the different topics and questions explained before.

• INTERLEAVE – INTERvention toolKit to deal with women drug users victims of Gender bAsed ViolEnce

The project will achieve will foreseen overall assessment of specific local initiatives performed by participating countries through literature review, structured questionnaires and focus groups to assess current tools for the active prevention of crime on favor of the empowerment of the affected women identify best practices. Best practices sharing will allow to improve performance by replication success throughout partner organizations raise of the overall quality of services offered to women with drug problems facing Gender Based Violence and will also allow to avoid duplication and save costs through increased productivity and efficiency.

The project will aim at producing a toolkit of intervention that will be first tested in the countries participating in the Project, meant to support the regional, local, civil society authorities and organisations by reinforcing. Each participating country will then train professionals from civil society on how to apply the protocol as part of their daily practice. The overall objectives of the projects are: Contributing to the implementation of coordinated and coherent efforts across the different countries, as well as improving knowledge and awareness about gender-based violence (Newsletter INTERLEAVE, March)

Paolo Stocco is President and General Director of "Comunità di Venezia s.c.s.". He is in charge of programming, monitoring, and coordinating the therapeutic communities managed by the cooperative and accredited by the Veneto Region. European and Local Project Manager and Researcher, he coordinates the working group on cross-border mobility and services qualitative evaluation provided by Rete Nazionale Grandi Ospedali of FederSanità (ANCI, National Association of Italian Municipalities).

Laia Plaza Hernández is a social psychologist and anthropologist with a Masters degree in Gender Studies (University of Barcelona). At the *Fondation Santé et Communauté*, she coordinates international gender projects. Furthermore she works as a gender advisor for international cooperation projects. At the INTERLEAVE project she is the coordinator of Work Package 2 („Documentary Review and Participatory Survey“).

• FENIQS-EU

The general objective of this project is to enhance implementation of Quality Standards (QS) in drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction throughout the EU, with more services, organizations and countries applying QS in daily practice. The project will focus on the actual application of QS in all EU countries and factors stimulating implementation. By identifying good practice examples and successful implementation strategies, key stakeholders (e.g. policy makers, service providers and users) will have access to do's and don'ts for implementing QS in various areas of drug demand reduction. A key activity will be the organization of a 2-day QS event in Lisbon, eventually resulting in consensus around core implementation strategies. The main output of this action will be a field-tested implementation toolkit, providing step-by-step guidance for individuals and organizations interested to implement QS. Training sessions, webinars and a video tutorial will support the introduction of the toolkit.

Country representatives and civil society organizations will be involved throughout the project to maximize stakeholders' abilities to share good practices and to implement project recommendations in daily practice and at local level.

Project partners are three academic partners (based in Belgium, Croatia and the Czech Republic) and four pan-European networks (IREFREA, Correlation C-EHRN, Euro-TC, EUFAS), covering all EU member states and DDR areas, as well as representing a good balance between science and practice and crucial stakeholders across the EU in the fields of prevention, treatment and harm reduction.

Wouter Vanderplasschen from the Department of Special Needs Education at **Ghent University (UGent)** is an international expert in the area of addiction treatment and recovery and previously coordinated a nationally funded multi-centre study ([COMIQS.BE](#)) on application of QS in DDR in Belgium (2016). A. Brotherhood was one of the driving forces behind the successful EDPOS project and will join the UGent team as project manager.

M. Feric & V. Kranzelic from the Laboratory for Prevention Research (PrevLab) at the **University of Zagreb (ERF UNIZG)** have contributed to several national and international projects on implementation of QS (e.g. EDPOS, SPAN, UPC-Adapt, ASAP Training).

K. Kalina & M. Miovsky from the Centre for Addictology at **Charles University (CUNI)** in Prague led the development of a national quality assessment system and policy in DDR in the Czech Republic. They have previously collaborated with UGent (e.g. [COMIQS.BE](#) project) and ERF UNIZG. The partners' competences (treatment, prevention and harm reduction) and geographical spread are complementary: UGent will cover the research activities in Northern and Western Europe, ERF UNIZG in Southern Europe, and CUNI in Central and Eastern Europe.

The four **European networks (IREFREA, C-EHRN, Euro-TC and EUFAS)** cover all areas of DDR and all have a clear competence in the development and implementation of QS. Their close links with civil society organisations across Europe will facilitate the project implementation (e.g. identification of good practices, field testing), as well as dissemination of the outputs to enhance the implementation of QS in DDR in Europe. The involvement of these organisations will help bridge the gap between science and practice and create impact on the European level.