

Health Promotion for Young Prisoners (HPYP)

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Background

Health problems of prisoners are widespread and exacerbated by rising prison populations. Young prisoners have needs distinct from other prisoners and are more disadvantaged than their counterparts in the community showing negative impacts on their health. There is a clear need for prisons to respond with health promotion interventions to address health inequalities endorsing the World Health Organization's principle that time spent in custody should aid disease prevention and promote health.

The project

The general objective of the HPYP project is to develop and improve health promotion for young vulnerable people in the prison setting. It specifically aims at the subsequent implementation of a health promotion toolkit for young prisoners widely across European Member States. The toolkit will address health related factors regarding infectious diseases, sexual health, mental health as well as the prevention and treatment of drug use. The target group includes young people (up to 24 years old) in pre- and sentenced prisons, including particular vulnerable groups like women, migrants and ethnic minorities and problem drug users.

Methodology

Using a participatory approach, the development of the toolkit on health promotion will be based on the views and needs of vulnerable young people in prison as well as on those of prison staff and representatives from NGOs as possible deliverers of health promotion in the prison setting. Methods include:

- extensive literature reviews and document analyses;
- needs assessments including young prisoners, prison staff as well as other providers of health promotion by means of anonymous questionnaires;
- focus groups with young people in the prison setting further exploring questions arising from the needs assessment;
- qualitative interviews with prison staff and members of NGOs further exploring their role and needs in providing health promotion.

The toolkit will be piloted in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Romania, further developed and disseminated to a broad range of professionals and organisations in the EU Member States working with young vulnerable people in prison.

Partners

The Scientific Institute of the Medical Association of German Doctors (WIAD gem. e. V.) is the coordinator of the project. The HPYP project will bring together a multi-disciplinary network representing a wide range of different professional groups and practitioners working inside and outside prisons. Partners of the project are as follows:

- Association of Varna Organizations for Drug Prevention (AVODP), Varna, Bulgaria
- Birmingham City University (BCU), Birmingham, England
- Convictus Eesti, Tallinn, Estonia
- Latvia's Association for Family Planning and Sexual Health "Papardes zieds", Riga, Latvia
- Promovarea Dreptului la Sanatate (Promoting the Right to Health (PDS)), Bucharest, Romania
- Charles University in Prague, First Faculty of Medicine (Centre for Addictology), Prague, Czech Republic
- Association of Schools of Social Work in Romania (ASSW), Bucharest, Romania

The project's steering group and advisory board include representatives from the Grupo Portugues de Activistas sobre Tratamentos de VIH/SIDA - Pedro Santos, Portugal, the Osservatio Carcere, Padova, Italy, the European AIDS Treatment Group, the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction and a representative of the Offender Health Team, Department of Health, England.

Contact

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