

Overcoming barriers in access to HIV/hepatitis/TB and drug services

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What barriers are we talking about?

- Legislations criminalising drug use, harm reduction services, sex work, etc.
- Law enforcement practices targeting people who use drugs and harm reduction service providers
- Legal and regulatory barriers in access to naloxone, drug checking services, drop-in centres
- Lack of drug services in prisons and other closed settings
- Lack of funding – or non-developed mechanisms for funding – for harm reduction and treatment services
- Stigma and discrimination from healthcare providers, from the general public, from public authorities

Opportunities: International level

- The 2019 Ministerial Segment – linked to the UNGASS and the Sustainable Development Goals
- The Commission on Narcotic Drugs – CND resolution 60/8 ‘Promoting measures to prevent HIV and other blood-borne diseases associated with the use of drugs, and increasing financing for the global HIV/AIDS response and for drug use prevention and other drug demand reduction measures’
- UNAIDS meetings
- World Health Organisation/World Health Assembly
- International Harm Reduction Conference, Porto, 28 April to 1 May 2019

Opportunities: European level

- HepHIV2019 Bucharest Conference: Challenges of timely and integrated testing and care: led by Romania, 28-30 January 2019
- 69th meeting of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, 2019
- The new EU drug strategy post-2020

Opportunities: National level

- Identification of priority countries where the situation is particularly problematic?
 - Global Fund departure and lack of government funding
 - Populism/shrinking civil society space
 - Deprioritisation of harm reduction
 - Etc.
- Identification of priority countries where there is a political opening?
 - Drug policy/law reform
 - Innovative harm reduction interventions
 - Etc.

What we want to get out of this discussion

- Identification of 2-3 key strategic priorities for the coming year
- Identification of key targets for advocacy
- Identification of concrete advocacy tools & methods for specific events/target groups

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