



Democracy, Cities & Drugs II - (2008-2010)

...to jointly improve local integrated drug-related responses among EU cities

The thematic exchange platforms

FORUM EUROPEEN POUR LA SECURITE URBAINE

38, rue Liancourt 75014 - Paris - France

Tel: +33 (0)140 64 49 00 - fax: +33 (0)140 64 49 00

Internet : <http://www.democitydrug.org> - <http://www.fesu.org>

E-mail : fesu@urbansecurity.org



The second *Democracy, Cities & Drugs* project (**DC&D II**) aims at supporting EU cities in developing local partnership-based drug policies involving the relevant stakeholders - local authorities, health services criminal justice services, communities, including visible minority ones, and drug service users – so that a coordinated, participative, targeted, and thus resource effective approach can be developed towards drug-related problems.

This project has received the approval of the European Commission for co-financing; it will start on May 1st 2008 and will end on April 31st 2011.

The DC&D II project is based on 3 pillars:

- 1 **EU experimental network of partner cities** that we invite you to join;
- 4 **national networks** (France, Italy, Portugal, Romania);
- 5 **thematic working groups** based on the findings of the 1st DC&D project.

These European thematic working groups will carry out 5 European **thematic exchange platforms** open to the partner cities. The exchange platforms will tackle:

- policies addressing the specific needs of **women** with drug misuse;
- activities for health promotion in **nightlife settings**;
- integrated responses related to **wandering young drugs users**;
- **outreach activities** as regards drugs use and sexual infectious diseases;
- local policies improving **access to treatment**.

We invite your city to join one or several exchange platforms according to your needs. Each exchange platform will involve about 5 cities and will include sharing workshops, training sessions, refinement meetings and guidelines. You will find below a presentation of each exchange platform which will help you to have a clear view of the local needs addressed during this project.

If you wish to take part in the project, you should sign a **commitment letter** and agree to a **financial contribution** depending on the global activities in which you will want to get involved. This financial contribution will cover your travel and accommodation expenses related to your participation in the various platforms.

In order to better understand the programme of each exchange platform and to participate to its tailoring according to your local contexts, you should attend two seminars gathering all the exchange platforms and partner cities. The first one, the **strategic seminar**, will be held in June 2008 in Paris, the second one, the **implementation seminar**, will be held in November 2008 in Bucharest.

Finally the project will organise a **dissemination conference** in November 2010 in Vienna.



The platform leader

IREFREA was created in 1989 in France to carry out research and promoting policies for the prevention of drug related and other problems among adolescents and women. Today it is a European network with different research partners located in 13 European countries. Among those, IREFREA Italy develops professional partnerships with European experts to carry out research and dissemination activities in the field of youth hardships, drug prevention and drug demand reduction. IREFREA Italy has carried out research, organised seminars, trainings and conferences, published information material and took part in scientific debates on therapeutic approaches to women with drug misuse problems.

Context

International research shows that girls and women use substances for reasons different than men and that girls and young women are more vulnerable to abuse and addiction. Women face unique stigmatization for their drug use and often experience discrimination in their ability to obtain treatment. Until recently drug treatment was largely designed upon men's need. Women's use of and relationship to drugs - and therefore the way in which help, support and care needs to be offered to them - is often affected by their experiences with domestic violence, their responsibilities for family and children, their economic and employment status.

The drug and women platform within the DC&D II project wants support policy makers and practitioners in European cities to design drug services which are attractive, respectful and appropriate to the specific needs of women with drug misuse problems.

Objectives

The objective of this platform is to share experiences and learn from available research and good practice at European level on the development of local drug policies which are appropriate in addressing the specific needs of women with drug misuse problems.

Cities taking part in the platform will have the possibility to join an assessment on the appropriateness of their current policies and services for women drugs users, to share views on existing good practices they have experimented at local level, to learn from existing research in the field and to strengthen their knowledge and capacity to address specific women's needs in the development of local policies.

Cities commitment

The platform addresses policy makers within specialised local governments' drugs, health and social services having a particular mandate or interest in gender and women's issues and practitioners from local health and private sector organisations working or interested in developing further work with women drug users.

Cities representatives will be involved in the collection and analysis of data on existing local policies and services for women drug users in their cities, to share good practices they might be aware of in this field and to contribute and benefit from the development of guidelines for integrated assistance of women drug users.

Methodology and timetable

A general overview of the platform objective and activities and the level of involvement of the cities will be presented at the DC&D II Strategic seminar in Paris in June 2008.

Cities involvement in the platform will have to be formalised before the DC&D II implementation seminar, which should take place in Bucharest in autumn 2008.

During the following months, the platform coordinators will collect relevant research and existing practices at European level and will develop research tools aimed at assessing the level of existing gender sensitive policies and services in the participant cities.

Two workshops will be organised in Venice during the course of project implementation to monitor the development of the research and the guidelines where participant cities will be invited to attend and contribute.

Further Information

<http://www.irefrea.org>



The platform leader

ABD (www.abd-ong.org) is a NGO declared of public utility, working since the 80s in the areas of AIDS, drugs, gender equality, migrant integration, social inclusion, etc. In 2006, ABD has 5 headquarters (Barcelona, Madrid, Málaga, València and Palma de Mallorca). Energy Control is ABD's program implementing, since 1997, risk reduction strategies within the nightlife sectors including peer community group interventions, training for professionals, edition and promotion of specific prevention materials and guidelines. ABD was the leader of the 1st DC&D project WP on Safer Nightlife. (www.energycontrol.org)

Context

Throughout Europe, legal and illegal drug use has become a consistent feature of nightlife and a complex issue to attend. The use of cocaine is increasing in most European countries, the interrelated consumption of psychoactive substances, which include both alcohol and tobacco, the emergence of new substances and new trends complicate both our understanding and response

Objectives

Our platform aims to improve nightlife prevention programs and training for professionals and peer workers working on the front-line with drug users in nightlife settings (music festivals, clubs, raves, etc).

Together, besides of the exchange of practices and the different topics to be discussed, we will achieve different “productions” for our own use and to diffuse: a training guideline, preventive universal “ICONS” for music events, a digital library with preventive materials and documents from all the projects translated to English and a short film.

Cities commitment

The participant from the city within this platform should be the person responsible for the development of nightlife drug prevention programs and must be authorized to share openly about his city experience (good practice and difficulties)

Methodology and timetable

There will be 3 main Safer Nightlife meetings (Exchange platform 1, 2 and 3). Each of them will consist of 2 days of workshops and 1 night of partners' common on-site intervention.

We will define the topics of the workshops together but we have to keep in mind that we will have to produce a guideline on "training" (we can still define the content together, so it is quite open. We can also continue our exchange on European quality labels and other new topics)

The Safer Nightlife platform methodology and timetable will be:

In 2008:

- Strategic seminar, June 2008, Paris – presentation of the platform and discussion on the programme.
- Recollection of documents and information about safer nightlife (SN) projects training and communication methodologies.
- Recollection of SN specific prevention materials and documents from all countries (to be translated and put into an open digital library on the website and to complete the old one from the BASICS website)
- Proposition of ideas for the short film to illustrate realistic situation focusing on the decision making process of partygoers through the night.
- Exchange platform 1 - Implementation seminar (Bucharest in November 2008):
2 days of workshops:
 - Topics of the specific workshops to be defined previously by the partners
 - Proposition of the SN training guideline objective and structure (Outreach strategies within party settings, peer to peer personal talks, risk assessment for organizers, communication strategies,...)
 - Elaboration of 4 preventive "universal" icons understandable in all languages

In 2009:

- Translation of SN specific preventive materials and diffusion on line
- Design of 4 "universal" icons
- Production of the short film (Spain - ABD + Subindep Films S.L.)
- Exchange platform 2 (date and place to be defined):
2 days of workshop:
 - Workshops on specific topics
 - Elaboration of the training guideline
1 night of partners' common intervention on-site:
 - validation and testing of 4 preventive "universal" icons
- 2 refinement meetings on the SN training guideline

In 2010:

- Exchange platform 3 (date and place to be defined):

2 days of workshop:

- Workshops on specific topics
- Validation of the training guideline

1 night of partners' common intervention on-site

- Diffusion of the SN training guideline
- Diffusion of the 4 preventive “universal” icons
- Diffusion of the short film (DVDs, Internet,...)

Further Information

EUROPE: www.democitydrug.org/safernightlife

BELGIUM: www.qualitynights.be

FRANCE: www.fetez-clairs.org

SPAIN: www.nitsegura.info,

SWITZERLAND: www.safer-clubbing.ch



*Association Nationale des
Intervenants en Toxicomanie*

The platform leader

Created in 1980, the ANIT offers places of confrontation and expression for the professionals in the drugs field developing diversified practices (treatment, harm reduction, prevention, research, education, social inclusion, justice..), to take care of the users as citizens, to promote a global approach of the drug phenomenon design depending on the social, ideological and economic context in which it fits, to represent professionals and specialized agencies up to the public and French institutions. ANIT organises each year a national conference on drugs, organises training for professionals. ANIT is composed of Commissions open to its members. Created in 2003, the harm reduction commission, which will carry out the platform, is experienced in organising training sessions, conferences and investigations on the drug-related harm reduction issues.

Context

This project was set up because European cities are facing difficulties to manage young wanderers using drugs cumulating problems of exclusion and immigration. Cities have to cope with 3 levels of problems related to young wanderers using drugs: Health problems (mental health, HIV, hepatitis etc.), Social (exclusion related to precariousness), urban safety (antisocial behaviours and violence). As a public health actor, we are not satisfied with only repressive responses. Different approaches are proposed by different actors but without real coordination.

The target audience is marginalized youngsters without occupation, either living in the city or wandering.

We subscribe to Zaragoza Drug workshop recommendations “The local level is confronted with citizens who are drug users (...). Faced with the complexity of situations and the obligation to find responses, local officials have the responsibility of giving coherence to the various strategies implemented by players in the field. This level thus turns out to be more appropriate for collecting information and experiments likely to enrich the discussion concerning the adaptation of legislation and regulations at the national and supranational levels”.

Objectives

The platform aims to increase the threshold of health protection, urban safety and social cohesion among EU Cities. In this way, we will reinforce the thresholds of competence of the stakeholders; will intensify the possibilities of joint actions between care, social cohesion and urban safety agencies targeting the drugs users.

Outcome: Building a common charter with recommendations and a welcome guide for young people and local actors adapted to each city.

Cities commitment

The platform addresses policy makers within specialised local governments' drugs, health and social services having a particular mandate or interest in young wanderers' issues and practitioners from local health and private sector organisations working or interested in developing further work with wandering drug users.

Cities representatives will be involved in the collection and analysis of data on existing local policies and services for wandering drug users in their cities, to share good practices they might be aware of in this field and to contribute and benefit from the development of guidelines.

Methodology and timetable

June 2008: DC&D **Strategic seminar** - presentation of the platform and discussion on the programme.

November 2008– DC&D **Implementation seminar** – Bucharest – 2 days – **1st training workshop** involving the participating cities: cities' needs assessment.

November 2009 – **2nd training workshop** – Paris - 2 days. Drafting of the common charter with recommendations and a welcome guide for young people and local actors adapted to each city.

From November 2009 to May 2010 – **Refinement meetings**: Experts from the project will come to your cities in order to support your local responses and partnerships.

November 2010 – **Dissemination conference** – Vienna – 2 days – dissemination of our results

Further information

www.anit.asso.fr

Health Education Around Drug Use for Professionals



The platform leader

ACCES is a NGO working in the field of health education with specific field of intervention around HIV/AIDS prevention, drug use, harm reduction... Our experience has lead us to elaborate training practices, team and individual supervision, and health education promotion based on the humanist Counselling approach of Carl Rogers. Our training experience covers different fields of intervention: health education actions in street work context, local & national training sessions for NGOs teams, presentations in European and international conferences. We have created a working partnership with three European NGOs: ARAS (Romania), Initiative for Health (Bulgaria) and Villa Mariani (Italy).

Context

Drug use is a reality that has effects on several levels of the civil society. We have to take this in account and find together strategies, according to our different levels of action, in order to reduce harm and damages linked to this use. This platform aims at working in terms of reducing harm in a health point of view and especially on issues such as HIV/AIDS infection, HCV and other health problems related to drug use (venous system damages, local and generalized infections, overdoses, psychiatric problems...) This initiative also aims at strengthening the general follow-up process of the user on issues such as ethic, care choice, or counselling as the helping relationship...

Objectives

The overall objective of this platform is dedicated to exchange and put in common good practices in terms of health promotion for people working with drug users:

- To set up information exchange and knowledge sharing regarding drug users support
- To lead training sessions directly connected with professionals issues doing outreach work with drug users

- To create a practical outreach manual guiding on the following thematic: harm reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention, ethic...

The long term objective is to reinforce the capacity of the civil society (NGOs, health services) and their cooperation with the local policy makers to promote a better health and care for drug users.

Cities commitment

Professionals that are invited to take part to this platform are those acting in the health concern: head of services, psychologists, street workers, trainers, representatives of local authorities. We invite Cities to join our exchange platform to encourage the work done by NGOS or public health services regarding drug use.

Methodology and timetable

May 2008 – Strategic committee - Paris - Presentation of the platform, contact with Cities interested in the platform

June 08 to February 09 - Exchange platform – Assessment phase- Presentation of the country situation regarding drug use & definition with Cities of the training needs and conditions

November 2008 - Implementation seminar – Bucharest

Presentation of the training and finalization of the group of member cities

June 2009 – Training workshop – Marseille

Training for local stakeholders from the 5 involved cities on the specific following subjects: outreach work, HIV/HCV prevention, substance use, the counselling helping relationship ...

July 09 to July 10 – Exchange platform – Implementation phase

Organisation of the workshops and refinement meetings

Development of the outreach manual

Aug. 09 to Feb. 10 – Refinement meetings

Visit of the platform partners to the 5 involved partner cities for support in assessing needs, responding problems and evaluation actions.

June 2010 – Evaluation workshop – Marseille

Evaluation of the platform, validation of the manual & preparation of the final dissemination conference

July to December 10– Exchange platform – Finalisation phase

Editing, printing and translation of the Manual

Diffusion of the manual for professionals working with drug users in the harm reduction field in participating Cities

December 2010 – Dissemination conference - Vienna - Presentation of the manual and the project results to the EFUS network and other representatives of national authorities

Contacts to diffuse training methodology and manual

January to May 2011 – Exchange platform - Evaluation work

Evaluation of the tools created during the project, participation to the general evaluation of the project and reflection on a sustainable results dissemination strategy

Further information

If you are interested in joining this exchange platform or want to have more information, please contact Eric Schneider or Amandine Akouka at ACCES office : 0033/ 491 500 375 or per e-mail: aces13@wanadoo.fr



The platform leader

EuroTC is network of addiction treatment centres from 9 European countries with the aim to exchange experience, identify best practice and carry out conferences and seminars on important topics. Euro TC especially promotes the development of flexible therapeutic programmes which fit the patients' needs as well as integrated treatment programmes for special target groups as parents with children, adolescent persons with psychogenic co morbidity, ethnic minorities and gender oriented approaches

EURO TC promotes exchange on the scientific level through research and evaluation but also on the level of clients through International Youth Forums, Therapeutic Theatre Seminars and Performances or an International Soccer without Drugs Cup

Context

The platform was set up to identify the actual challenges in treatment and find responses to local specificities and actual consumption patterns. It aims in developing best strategies for the local city level.

On the other hand the platform will promote exchange to other stakeholders in first grade to prevention and harm reduction agencies, police force and justice system, other care units, practitioners, representatives from the municipalities and representatives of the community (e.g. parents' organisations, users' organisations).

This exchange is aiming in better information offering continuity in the measures available and specially make treatment better accessible and more attractive for the persons in need.

Objectives

The platform is aiming to support and enhance a multi disciplinary cooperation on the topic of Addiction Treatment. The partner cities will receive support in developing better cooperation between treatment facilities and 5 cities will involve the exchange platform carried out by the platform.

Specific topics: Continuity, in terms of substitution/abstinent treatment; Cooperation between municipalities, general drug series, prevention specialists, treatment centers, police, etc.; Flexibility, finding individual answers for special drug consuming populations, in terms of abused substances, age, gender, ethnicity

Cities commitment

Official representatives from the city, ideally responsible persons for the drug coordination and or health care unit should be officially nominated by the City Council. Beside that active

governmental Organisations and NGO's working in the drug and addiction field should be motivated to take part and also sign their commitment of participation

Methodology and timetable

Activities to address the objectives: preliminary meeting of the scientific group of the project to establish a detailed work plan; develop a questionnaire to evaluate a status quo in terms of treatment continuity and accessibility on the local level as well as the challenges to treatment on the individual local city level; administer the questionnaire to relevant officials of cities within the network; analyze the questionnaire selecting 5 cities to take part as partner cities in the development of the guidelines

June 2008: DC&D **Strategic seminar** - presentation of the platform and discussion on the programme.

November 2008– DC&D **Implementation seminar** – Bucharest – 2 days – **1st training workshop** involving the participating cities: cities' needs assessment.

Then, the scientific group will organize **2 workshops** which will involve representatives of the municipality and representatives of treatment providers, drug services, and prevention specialists from the same cities. Once the guidelines are finalized there are **5 refinement meetings** (in each city) that will be organized including all different stakeholders aiming in dissemination of the guidelines as well as optimized adaptation to the local needs

Further information

www.euro-tc.org