

DRUG POLICY NETWORK SOUTH EAST EUROPE

The South East Europe Drug Policy Network is an initiative that is aiming to coordinate activities on drug policy issues with a regional perspective, promote co-operation and joint bilateral or multilateral initiatives, create close and constructive relationships through open and objective dialogue with experts, key policy makers in national governments, regional bodies, European and international organisations in order to promote humane and effective drug policies.

Members

The Drug Policy Network SEE has members from the following South East European countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.

Members can be NGOs, academic institutions, and professional networks with a national regional or local geographical coverage, and a credible track record in the drug policy field.

Membership can be obtained by application to the advisory Board of the Network.

Criteria for membership

- members must be a legally constituted organisation or network
- members must agree with the Network vision, mission and policy principles
- members have a proven track record of expertise in a policy field relevant to local, national, regional and international drug policy
- members must have the willingness to constructive engagement with policy makers and decision making bodies in their country

Procedure

Every organisation active in the countries of the SEE region can apply for membership. The organisation that expresses interest to become a member will receive from the secretariat of the network an application form with some questions to be answered by the applying organisation. The questions relate to issues as the goals and objectives of the organisation, the focus of the activities, advocacy interventions, etc. If the answers of the organisation meet the requirements of the criteria for membership, the secretariat sends the form with the answers to the members of the network asking them whether they have any objections to accept the applying organisation as a member. In case of disagreement, the Advisory board of the Network will take the final decision.

Advisory Board

The Network has an advisory board consisting of one representative per country. The organisations per country propose their member of the advisory board. The term of the advisory board members is two years.

The members of the advisory board are -in cooperation with the Association DIOGENIS and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)- responsible for the implementation of the annual work plan. The board meets at least once a year, adopts and monitors the agreed activities and proposes a draft action plan for the next year.

Decisions of the advisory board are in the rule taken by consensus. In case this is not possible there will be a vote. Voting for practical issues can be taken by majority of votes. Voting about persons or organisations or matters of principle, decisions will be taken by 2/3 of the votes.

The meetings of the Advisory Board are chaired by one of the board members. The board can decide whether the chair would be appointed per meeting or for a term of two years. The secretariat of the Network and the responsibility for the minutes of the Advisory Board lies by the Diogenis Association.

The role of IDPC and Diogenis Association

IDPC supports the SEE network indirectly through promoting its work and in instances IDPC has available budget may dedicate some funds for small and clearly defined pieces of work or activities (such as a financial contribution to the organisation of the annual advisory group meeting, the participation of Network organisations at the annual CND meeting or specific conferences seminars etc.) The network members who are members of IDPC will continue to receive IDPC support as in the previous years.

The Association Diogenis provides secretarial support for the Network. Administers the membership issues (applications, changes etc), publishes the Newsletter of the Drug Policy Network in SEE and coordinates activities that have been decided by the advisory board.

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