

South East Europe Drug Policy Network

Update from IDPC Secretariat – January 2013

The South East Europe Drug Policy Network (SEE Network) has gone from strength to strength since it was set up in March 2010. The International Drug Policy Consortium secretariat (IDPC) has been proud to have been involved in setting up and supporting the coordination of SEE Network over the last three years.

The work of the SEE Network now has momentum that is driven by the coordinating organisation based in the region, Diogenis, with the support of the members. Given the maturity of the SEE Network and the increased capacity of Diogenis to lead and coordinate on the network's activities and work plan, the IDPC secretariat will now step back from being directly involved in coordination, communications, work planning and implementation of activities for the SEE Network.

We will continue to support the SEE network indirectly through promoting its work and in instances where we have available budget we may be able to dedicate some funds for small and clearly defined pieces of work or activities (such as our financial contribution to the organisation of the January 2013 advisory group meeting).

The IDPC secretariat will continue to support individual IDPC members in the region as we do elsewhere. In the region, our support remains the same. In 2013, we will fund two individuals from the members in the SEE region to attend the Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting in Vienna. These individuals should be from organisations that have not yet had a representative attend the CND as this should be a 'rolling' mechanism. We have also offered to fund one individual from each IDPC member organisation to attend the 2013 International Harm Reduction Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania. We may have budget available for registration, travel and subsistence but this will be confirmed in February 2013.

We wish the advisory group a fruitful meeting in Belgrade in January 2013. We look forward to hearing the outcomes and supporting the continued growth and development of the SEE Network led by Diogenis.