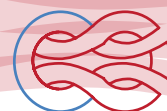


# NEWSLETTER



DRUG POLICY  
NETWORK SEE

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DPNSEE, BELGRADE  
29 & 30 NOVEMBER 2016



EARLY WARNING SYSTEM



REITOX MEETING EMCDDA, NOVEMBER  
22, 2016, LISBON



PARIS PACT EWG MEETING,  
BELGRADE 10 & 11 OCTOBER 2016

## News from the organizations of the Network

### Association Prevent

\_ TESTS FOR HIV/HCV

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\_ "TAKE DOWN THE LABEL" Centre for Life's  
nationwide HIV awareness campaign

### Prometheus

\_ I DESERVE TO KNOW: FREE SCREENING  
OF LIVER ELASTOGRAPHY ACROSS GREECE

\_ EUROPEAN TESTING WEEK 2016 - TEST.  
TREAT.PREVENT.

\_ RED UMBRELLA STRUCTURE

\_ STREETWORK CONDOMS DECEMBER

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DPNSEE, BELGRADE 29 &amp; 30 NOVEMBER 2016

**New enthusiasm for the future**

The Drug Policy Network South East Europe held its 1st regular annual General Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia on 29 and 30 November 2016. It was the opportunity for the extended number of member organisations to meet, analyse the work on establishing the Network and decide about the future work.

Thanks to the generous support from the Office for combating drugs of the Republic of Serbia, the Assembly was held in the Palace Serbia, the governmental representative building.

The Assembly adopted the report about the work in 2016 and financial report presenting participation in the UNGASS process and stabilisation and positioning of the Network as the main activities. The plans for 2017 were also adopted, based on the strategic priorities proposed by the Board and ideas for possible projects. Interim results of the research on the harm reduction and treatment services were presented and the plan for completing it in 2017 were supported.

Changes in the Board were introduced to ensure that this governing body is active in implementing the action plan. Tijana Žegura (Juventas, Montenegro) is elected new Chairperson and Vlatko Dekov (HOPS, FYRO Macedonia) new Vice-Chair. While Denis Dedajić (Margina, Bosnia Herzegovina) and Saša Mijović (4 Life, Montenegro) remain members of the Board as Secretary and Member, newly elected Board members are Erlind Plaku (Aksion Plus, Albania) which will serve as Deputy Secretary, Marios Atzemis (Positive Voice, Greece) Treasurer and Nebojša Đurasović (Prevent, Serbia) as Deputy Treasurer.

The Assembly welcomed one new member organisation – Prometheus from Athens, Greece. The Network now has 19 member organisations from 9 countries of South East Europe. Plans for enlargement in 2017 were confirmed so it is expected that new members will come soon!

**REITOX MEETING EMCDDA, NOVEMBER 22, 2016, LISBON**

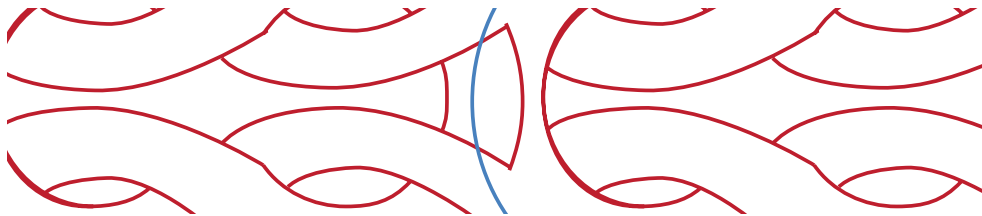
Representatives of candidate, potential candidate and neighboring countries of the EU joined members of the EMCDDA's Reitox network in Lisbon on Tuesday 22 November 2016 for the kick-off of the agency's fifth Reitox week. The purpose of this annual event was to broaden the scope of regular Reitox meetings, underline the importance of the EU drug monitoring model and add impetus to the agency's technical cooperation with countries outside the EU.

The 2016 Reitox week united 38 nations including the current 30 members of the network and a number of beneficiary countries of the European Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP).

The Reitox week encompasses three events: international cooperation project-related meetings; a Reitox 'extended network' meeting (this year focusing on 'Drugs and recreational settings') and the regular Heads of focal point meeting. During the extended meeting, experts and researchers from 10 countries (Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Serbia) shared available data on substance use in open-air music festivals and other recreational and nightlife settings.

Irena Molnar, representative of Drug Policy Network South East Europe delivered the speech "The culture of substance use: New Psychoactive Substances in Serbia and SEE region", focusing on setting in which psychoactive substances are use in recreational setting. She emphasised that the National and regional wide researches and advocacy for nightlife outreach harm reduction programs and recreational setting in general should be conducted, so we can be aware of the situation specifics we are dealing with in all of the countries in the SEE region.

For more info: <http://www.dpnsee.org/european-information-network-on-drugs-and-drug-addiction/>



### PARIS PACT EWG MEETING, BELGRADE 10 & 11 OCTOBER 2016

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia hosted the Paris Pact Expert Working Group (EWG) on Integrating Drug Dependence Treatment in the Public Health System. The meeting was held at the Palace of Serbia in Belgrade on 10 and 11 October 2016.

The meeting of this working group is part of the activities of the Paris Pact Initiative and the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Participants had the opportunity to discuss current trends and scientifically based approach to the treatment of drug addicts, as well as the implications of UNGASSa – special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the global drugs problem. UNODC also introduced international standards of treatment of drug addiction, common document prepared by UNODC and the World Health Organization.

The event brought together 64 participants representing 22 member countries of the Paris Pact Initiative (Central Asia, Iran and the Balkan) and 3 international organisations. It included the series of interactive sessions where participants discussed, among other things, about the general situation regarding the use of drugs as well as on national systems for the treatment of addiction in the public health system.



Read more about the objectives and outcomes of the meeting: <http://www.dpnsee.org/paris-pact-expert-working-group-ewg-on-integrating-drug-dependence-treatment-in-the-public-health-system/>

## A CHALLENGE TO CONNECT AND COORDINATE

The FYRO Macedonia Country Coordinating Mechanism hosted the South East Europe High Level HIV Regional Meeting on 1 and 2 December 2016 in Skopje in partnership with local NGOs H.E.R.A. and Stronger Together and supported by AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

The objective of the meeting was to establish a regional platform in South East Europe from countries that are receiving and transiting from Global Fund to advocate for HIV sustainability beyond Global Fund projects both at national and regional level. Countries in the South East Europe expected to be part of the regional platform are: Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Romania.

This was the first regional meeting of the CCM representatives. It was initiated to coordinate actions in a very difficult situation when South East Europe is the only region which haven't EECA region didn't meet the Millennium Development Goal 6 related to HIV/AIDS. Question hard to answer is: Is it possible to end the HIV epidemic in SEE countries with current domestic and international investments? That is why the Government investments of in HIV response and funding CSOs programs for key populations are important but not enough.

Besides the Executive Director, DPNSEE had several member organisations in the national delegations: Viktorija from Bosnia Herzegovina, HOPS from FYRO Macedonia, Cazas and Juventas from Montenegro and ARAS from Romania. We had a good exchange and cooperated well when discussing the proposals.

More details on the meeting you can read here: <http://www.dpnsee.org/a-challenge-to-connect-and-coordinate-efforts-in-fighting-hiv-aids/>



## EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, with the support of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) organised a seminar for representatives of partner institutions and agencies on 27 and 28 October in order to establish operational Early Warning System on new psychoactive substances.

The aim of this seminar was to introduce European rules and standards for early warning on new psychoactive substances, as well as the establishment of this system in the Republic of Serbia. This is one of the obligations requested for in the EU accession process.

The representatives from CSOs were invited to participate in the part of the agenda concerning "Possibilities for development of regional network of early warning systems". Among issues discussed was a research on benefits of developing mechanisms of local early warning systems, responsibilities of the participants in the system, coordination of regional early warning systems and communication with the National Early Warning System, cooperation and protocols on exchange of information, requests for training, and more.

To find out more about the outcomes of the meeting follow link: <http://www.dpnsee.org/early-warning-system-on-new-psychoactive-substances/>

## EHRN BUDGET ADVOCACY



# What works in budget advocacy?

The Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) organised an interesting workshop on “What works: Budget advocacy for national investments in harm reduction” from 23 – 25 October 2016, in Budapest, Hungary. The workshop was organized within the EC funded project “Harm reduction works! Improving funding for harm reduction and HIV prevention in the EU” with co-funding from the Open Society Foundations. The goal of the workshop was to provide a learning and planning space for national advocacy teams with representatives of harm reduction NGOs from Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia for greater domestic investments in harm reduction in their countries. 9 Drug Policy Network South East Europe member organisations from member 5 countries participated in the workshop, along with the Executive director of the Network. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know more about on-going projects and plans for the future, present the Network and get contacts for possible partnerships.

More on the workshop: <http://www.dpnsee.org/what-works-in-budget-advocacy/>

## SERBIAN VISIONS

Where the civil society meets business sector. German – Serbian Chamber of Commerce (Deutsch-Serbischen Wirtschaftskammer <http://serbien.ahk.de/>), in cooperation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.pks.rs/>) organised the second multi congress Serbian Visions on 26 and 27 November 2016 at the hotel Radisson Blu Old Mill in Belgrade. The aim of organizing the only multi was strengthening the role of civilian movements within the country as well as creating more favourable economic environment by emphasizing important country-development activities. Drug Policy Network South East Europe hosted the session on “Sustainability of support services to drug users”. DPNSEE Board members Denis Dedajić and Saša Mijović, together with the Executive Director Milutin Milošević, presented the situation in Serbia and the region and also some ideas for action that can help make the difference and ensure regular and comprehensive services.



## VISIT TO ALBANIA



The delegation of the Drug Policy Network South East Europe, including Board member Vlatko Dekov and Executive Director Milutin Milošević, visited Albania from 11 to 14 October 2016. Aim of the visit was to present DPNSEE to the Albanian society and build strong relationships with the authorities, institutions and services.

Our great hosts were Genci and Erlind, colleagues from the member organisation Aksion Plus ([www.aksionplus.net](http://www.aksionplus.net)). They welcomed us in the building they built themselves, from the ground! It is an amazing place, providing great conditions for work and different kinds of activities.

The building hosts one of currently 6 methadone centres the organisation holds throughout the country – and two more are to be opened soon. Aksion Plus, an NGO, is the only institution that provides opioid substitution therapy in the country! No hospital, no ambulance, no other state institution. A unique case in the World.

For more details on the visited institutions and meetings go to: <http://www.dpnsee.org/albania-is-going-green/>

## VISIT TO BOSNIA - HERZEGOVINA

Delegation of the Drug Policy Network South East Europe with Saša Mijović, Board member, and Milutin Milošević, Executive Director, visited Bosnia Herzegovina from 3 to 6 October 2016. It was fourth in the serial of visits aimed to present DPNSEE to the society, build strong relationships with the authorities, institutions and services and explore opportunities for partnerships.

Our member organisation "Viktorija" (<http://www.izaberi-zivot.rs.ba/>) prepared program of visits to authorities and institutions in the Republic of Srpska. A committed team of the Methadone centre and Psychiatric Clinic of Banja Luka Clinic Centre offered a warm welcome and a lot of information about their work. In Tunjice prison, "Viktorija" is involved in activities supporting drug users. The main message from the meeting with the prison management was that post-penalty treatment is missing to prevent recidivism. The day in Sarajevo was opportunity to meet with the new DPNSEE member organisation PROI (<http://proi.ba/en/>). A friendly exchange generated interesting ideas about the situation with drugs and emerging trends, especially in young population.

Welcome in Margina (<http://margina.ba/home/>), the Network member organisation, ensured the delegation that their commitment is still strong and services are organised, even though the sustainability is jeopardised.



For the end of the visit, the delegation had a pleasure to participate in the meeting of the Country Coordinating Mechanism for Global Fund project. Some good news on additional funding and ideas for possible regional project were good result of this meeting.

For more details go to: <http://www.dpnsee.org/visit-to-bosnia-herzegovina/>

## VISIT TO FYROM



**D**elegation of the Drug Policy Network South East Europe visited the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 21 to 22 December 2016. It was one of the final visits in the region in this year in an attempt to understand the situation and meet with a variety of stakeholders in drug policy in the country. The delegation of the Network included Chairperson Tljana Žegura and Executive Director Milutin Milošević. Thanasis Apostolou, DPNSEE founding Chairman and Director of Diogenis was also present for the drug law reform part of the visit.

DPNSEE member organisation HOPS was host for the visit. This very active and widely involved in social issues organisation presented their work, including the drop-in centre. The staff, both in the office and the drop-in, showed the variety of projects and support services.

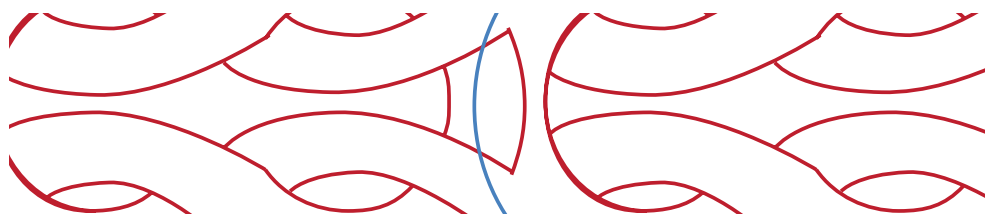
Even though shortages in the proposed budget for 2017 and expected closing of the Global Fund projects are threatening future, we hope that lively and active CSO scene will find their way in providing support to affected populations.

VISIT TO TURKEY



The project “Strengthening NGO capacity and promoting public health and human rights oriented drug policy in South Eastern Europe” had planned in the work plan 2016 to pay a visit in Turkey in order to identify NGOs working in the field of Drugs and discuss possibilities of co-operation in the framework of the Drug Policy Network in South East Europe. From 27-30 December 2016 Thanasis Apostolou, director of Diogenis who has the lead of the project and Milutin Milosevic, director of the Drug Policy Network in SEE (DPNSEE) visited Istanbul and had a number of meetings with NGOs active in the field of drugs. Thanks to the excellent co-operation with the Green Crescent of Turkey and the dedicated assistance of Ms Rukiye Deniz staff member responsible for foreign affairs we have had a presentation of Mr. Gökhan Dinç director of Project department of the Green Crescent, about drug policy in Turkey. Further we visited the following institutions and NGOs: -the Centre for Alcohol and Drug abuse treatment and Research (AMATEM) (Dr. Rabia Bilici) -the counselling centre (YEDAM) (Ms Melike Simsek), BEMEV (Foundation for Prevention of Addiction and Education) (president Aril Serdaroglu and staff) - Narcotics anonymous, -the organisation BAYEV (Ms Nursan Alagoz). The organisation BAYDER (Mustafa Esser), the Human resource and development foundation (Muhtar Cokar) and the Social Policies, Gender Identity and Sexual orientation studies Association (Necip Varan). There were three (3) very interesting days establishing contacts and speaking with people with whom we can co-operate in the future.

You can read the full report at the follow link:<http://www.diogenis.info/en/library/diogenis/reports/>



PREVENT

SERVIA

TESTS FOR HIV/HCV

Association Prevent tested over 100 people on HIV and HCV for 5 days During the campaigns "HIV Testing Week" and "World Aids Day", Association Prevent tested 105 people on HIV and HCV.





"HIV Testing Week" was held from 18 to 25 of November 2016. In Serbia this campaign was running under the slogan "Testing is in vogue". Association Prevent in cooperation with institutes for public health and other CSOs organized testing in prison and in drop-in center for sex workers in Novi Sad and three cities in Vojvodina (Kikinda, Bačka Palanka and Vrbas). 65 people were tested on HIV and HCV.

During "World Aids Day" on December 1st 2016, Association Prevent tested people from Subotica during public action and prisoners in Subotica and in drop in center for PWID. Totally 40 people were tested on HIV and HCV. Through these two campaigns nine people found out that they are Hepatitis C positive.

## CENTER FOR LIFE

GREECE

### "TAKE DOWN THE LABEL" Centre for Life's nationwide HIV awareness campaign

"She was asking for it", "stay away from me", "incapable of being a mother", "perverted", "immoral" ... these are just a few of the "tags" that we have stuck on people living with HIV / AIDS for years, because of the lack of information on the matter.

The Centre for Life invited people to take down the labels, with an inventive campaign on information and awareness, which was implemented through social media and through the distribution of leaflets throughout the country.

The first phase of the campaign ran through Centre for Life's official Facebook page, where a photo of a man was posted full of labels and stereotypes, representing people living with HIV / AIDS. The audience was invited to take down the labels, by pressing the "angry" reaction, stating this way their objection. Each day, with the support of the FB users, a label was being removed, until this man was finally free of all those tags, giving him the right, even a digital one, to live a normal life.

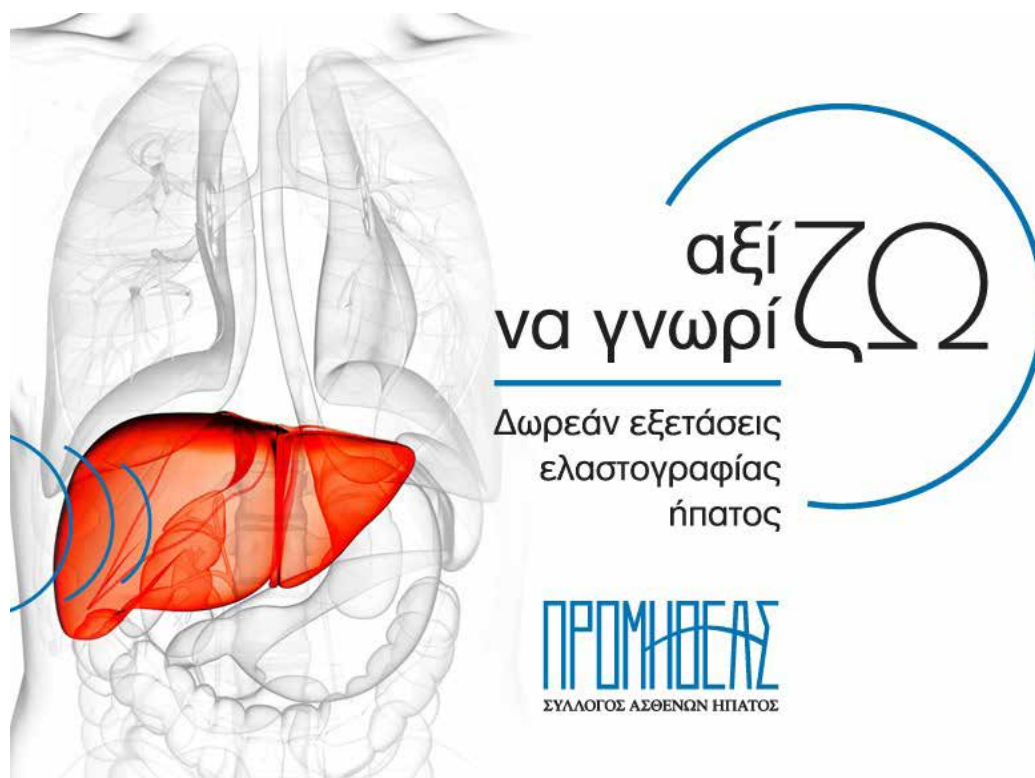
The campaign featured the well-known TV hostess Jenny Balatsinou and the singer of the musical group ONIRAMA, Thodoris Marandinis, who through two creative videos presented labels that people have stuck on them. Thus, through their own experience, they talked about how difficult it is for a person to take down a label that was stuck on them and move on in life, let alone the difficulties faced by a person living with HIV.

In the second phase of the campaign, Centre for Life in collaboration with the National Intermunicipal Network Healthy City – Health Promotion (EDDYPPY), distributes more than 100,000 leaflets in more than 40 municipalities of the country. The main objective is to inform the public, since ignorance is the main reason that leads people to misunderstandings that cause or intensify their fear regarding HIV and AIDS.



## PROMETHEUS

GREECE

**I DESERVE TO KNOW: FREE SCREENING OF LIVER ELASTOGRAPHY ACROSS GREECE**

**H**ellenic Liver Patients Association «Prometheus» after identifying the urgent need of people living with liver diseases for unobstructed access to diagnostic tests, planned and is currently implementing a nationwide program entitled "I Deserve to Know". This program refers to the continuous provision of liver elastography screening- via a fibroscan machine- to people who have been diagnosed with liver diseases across Greece, in cooperation with hepatology clinics of public hospitals. For more information: <http://bit.ly/2mWvAiZ>

**EUROPEAN TESTING WEEK 2016 - TEST.TREAT.PREVENT.**

**H**ellenic Liver Patients Association "Prometheus", Hellenic Association of Seropositive People "Positive Voice" and Centers for Screening and Prevention "Checkpoint" successfully participated in the European Testing Week for HIV and Viral hepatitis B and C, held from Friday, the 18th until Friday the 25th of November, 2016. During this week, we had the opportunity to provide free screening examinations by the method of «rapid test» for HIV and Viral Hepatitis B and C and information regarding sexual education and health, in Attica and Thessaloniki, Greece.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/2msJmMd>

## RED UMBRELLA STRUCTURE

In the structure "Red Umbrella Athens", in collaboration with Association of Seropositive People "Positive Voice", we provide on a weekly basis, psychological support services as well as free pre-symptomatic control screening for hepatitis B and C and HIV, free condoms and safe injection kits for people who inject drugs. Additionally, we make referrals to relevant organizations and clinics, when needed.

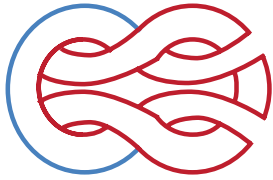


## STREETWORK TEAM OF POSITIVE VOICE - HELPA PROMETHEUS- CHECKPOINT



The streetwork team of "Positive Voice", "Prometheus" and "Checkpoint", on December 2016, distributed 29.284 condoms, under the context of raising awareness of the general population and vulnerable social groups regarding sexual education and health promotion, in Athens Greece. In the city of Thessaloniki 2.216 condoms were distributed to people who use psychoactive substances, to men who have sex with men and to women who have sex with women.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/2lOcqtB>



## DRUG POLICY NETWORK SEE

4Life, Podgorica, Montenegro

Aksion Plus, Tirana, Albania

Aliat, Bucharest, Romania

ARAS, Bucharest, Romania

Cazas, Podgorica, Montenegro

Centre for Life, Athens, Greece

Diogenis, Athens, Greece

HOPS, Skopje, FYRO Macedonia

Juventas, Podgorica, Montenegro

Labyrinth, Kosovo

Margina, Tuzla, Bosnia Herzegovina

Positive Voice, Athens, Greece

Prevent, Novi Sad, Serbia

Proi, Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina

Re Generacija, Belgrade, Serbia

RHRN, Bucharest, Romania

SEEAN, Ljubljana Slovenia

Viktorija, Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina

Romanian Harm Reduction Network (RHRN),  
Romania

Prometheus, Greece

The newsletter is aiming to inform and keep updated organisations, institutions and individuals on drug policy developments along with news in the website and social media of the network. Our plan is to actively involve member organisations to report about their activities and about developments in their countries.

The Newsletter is prepared and published by the Diogenis, Drug Policy Dialogue.

Members of the drug policy network feed into the Newsletter following on topics related to criminal justice, social and Health programmes, human rights and events of interest.

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E-mail: [info@diogenis.info](mailto:info@diogenis.info)

