

**“Support Don’t Punish” Campaign:
DPNSEE kickoff event.**



Country Visit to Bulgaria



**Country Activities:
“Support Don’t Punish” Campaign.**



7th Regional Dialogue in Thessaloniki

News from the organizations of the Network

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- Awareness campaign for women, concerning HIV and AIDS

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- NGO Re Generation: Participation on the “Way of Life” festival

Visit to Bulgaria: Focus on transition



Delegation of the project "Strengthening NGO capacity and promoting public Health and human rights oriented Drug Policy in South East Europe" visited Bulgaria from 29 to 30 May. The visit is part of the efforts for the enlargement of the Drug Policy Network South East Europe as an essential prerequisite for making it a strong and reliable partner. The delegation consisted of 3 people: Marios Atzemis, DPNSEE Board member, Milutin Milošević, Executive director and Sofia Galinaki, Advocacy Officer, Diogenis (DPNSEE member organisation).

On the first day of the visit, the delegation had an interesting exchange with Dr Vyara Georgieva, the Chief Expert in the Ministry of Health for the programmes financed by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Petar Tsintsarski, Consultant for the program Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS. The key learning points from this meeting are that the HIV/AIDS problem should be seen from various angles besides medical: cultural, social etc. and that financing services should be concentrated on the level of local communities. During the meeting in the National Centre for Addiction with Momtchil Vassilev, Director of the National Focal Point on Drugs and Drug Addictions, and Nikolay Butorin, Expert on Training Programmes, the delegation got a lot of data about drugs in the country. The improvement of the Early Warning System for new psychoactive substances was an issue of joint interest.

During the second day of the visit, meetings with representatives from the following civil society organisations were scheduled: "Initiative for Health Foundation", "Centre for humane policy" and "Centre for the Study of Democracy". Our colleagues gave us a realistic and open image on the situation in the country, especially under the light of termination of the Global Fund support that will cause closing of services to drug users. Dr Tsvetelina Raicheva, who recently directed the National Addiction Centre, provided more statistics about the situation. At the Centre for the Study of Democracy the representatives of the network had a meeting with Mr. Dimitar Markov (Senior Analyst and Project Director, Law Program) and Mr. Atanas Rusev (Senior Analyst, Security Program). The Security program implements criminology research actively contributes to the Bulgaria's policy debate on organized crime and participates in projects on crime and security issues. The issues of inadequate funding and bureaucracy in the field of drugs were highlighted in this meeting as one of the biggest barriers at policy level. Moreover, the need for more action in the issue of immigration and its connection to drug use through several routes, has to be identified and addressed.

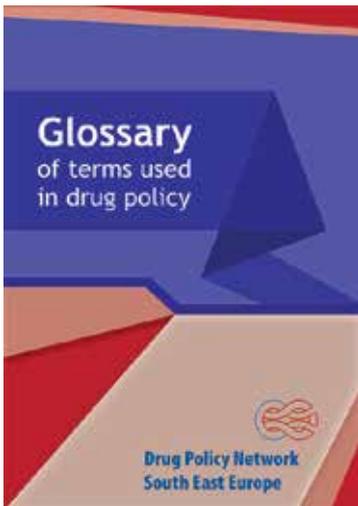
7th Regional Dialogue on Drug Policy Developments in SE Europe.



The 7th Regional Dialogue on drug policy developments in South East Europe, has been held in Thessaloniki, Greece from 8-10 June 2017. This regional conference has focussed on the issues: Sustainable Development Goals and Drug Policy, Women and Drugs, Drugs and Internet, the Harm reduction project in South East Europe and the Changing culture in drug use including new psychoactive substances. A session was devoted to initiatives in the countries of South East Europe related to the outcomes of the UNGASS and the role of NGO's, the Drug Policy Network in South East Europe (DPNSEE) made a presentation of the organisation, the involvement of drug users in policy issue has been discussed and participants reported about the developments on the cannabis policy in the region.

More than 40 participants from 11 countries attended the meeting and exchanged experiences and good practices on the issues of the programme. The representative of UNODC Mrs Jo Dedeyne-Amann made a presentation on the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and drugs and Nikos Stergiou reported about the findings of two seminars about "SDG's and drugs" held in Athens and Thessaloniki. The drug Co-ordinators from Romania (Sorin Oprea), Croatia (Zeljko Petkovic), Serbia (Milan Pekic) and the head of the Greek Monitoring Centre for drugs (Manina Terzidou) reported about initiatives in their countries related to the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document. Prof. Meni Malliori made a presentation on "facts and special characteristics for girls and women who use drugs", followed by a presentation of a project of "addicted Mothers and the journey of therapy" by Ms Georgia Aslanidou, psychologist at OKANA Thessaloniki. Mr. Ilias Paraskevopoulos, consultant by the Therapeutic Centre of dependent individuals (KETHEA), presented the issue of "Drugs and Internet" and Sofia Galinaki reported about the outcomes of the first stage of the project "Harm Reduction in South East Europe". The DPNSEE has been presented by the director Milutin Milosevic and Irena Molnar and Bojan Arsenijevic made a presentation on "Changing culture in Drug Use including new psychoactive substances. Participants took actively part at the discussions and expressed appreciation about the programme and the valuable contacts between policy makers, scientists and practitioners. NGO Diogenis as organiser of the conference declared to continue this initiative in the future.

Glossary of terms used in drug policy



DPNSEE presented the Glossary of terms related to the problem of drugs, aiming to contribute to better understanding the drug problem in more empathic manner. Glossary is an alphabetical list of terms used in a domain of drug policy, with the definitions for those terms. It contains explanations of concepts and terms related to the field of drugs and relevant related matters. Those interested, can get the Glossary from the DPNSEE website at <http://www.dpnsee.org/glossary-of-terms-used-in-drug-policy-promoted/>.

The glossary should firstly serve to member organisations in a way that will help in process of harmonization of opinions and attitudes. This material will also serve a wider range of groups of people including policy makers, stakeholders, activists, the media, police, judiciary and others.

The Glossary is currently in English only, but DPNSEE plans to produce versions in various languages of South East Europe. We are also open to work on versions in other languages. Those interested in joining us in these effort should contact the DPNSEE Staff at office@dpnsee.org.

“Support Don’t Punish” Campaign: DPNSEE kickoff event.



The Drug Policy Network South East Europe coordinated activities of the campaign in South East Europe around the Global Day of Action 26 June - which is also the United Nations’ International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. This global campaign was held in 2017 in more than 178 cities in 85 countries, promotes drug policies based on human rights and public health approaches. The campaign is a voice against ruinous “War Against Drugs” which in a 46 years period, has brought numerous negative consequences including overdose deaths, HIV and hepatitis C infections among people who use drugs, prison over-crowding, extra-judicial killings, the use of the death penalty, and an exacerbation of stigma, marginalisation, violence and corruption

The Network announced activities in scope of the "Support. Don't Punish" campaign at the Kick-off event held on 20 June in the EU Info Centre in Belgrade, Serbia. During the event, the Network representatives emphasized numerous problems that organisations which provide services are facing, as well as growing trends in the region and Serbia specifically. Dr Maja Vučković Krčmar, representing the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, presented the European Drug Report 2017, prepared by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addictions, underlining dilemmas around cannabis decriminalisation, emerging of new psychoactive substances and increased availability of cocaine. Director of the Office for Combating Drugs of the Government of Republic of Serbia Milan Pekić, reminded that Serbia is at the main Balkan drug route and called for coordinated work of all governmental structures and civil society organisations in preparing and implementing an holistic answer to the problem.

For more information about the activities in South East Europe, please visit <http://www.dpnsee.org/support-dont-punish-see-country-activities/>. Follow the development at Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/230427164134426>) or Twitter (https://twitter.com/DPN_SEE).

For information about the campaign worldwide, please visit <http://supportdontpunish.org/2017-global-day-of-action/> or follow the Facebook event (<http://www.facebook.com/supportdontpunish>) or Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/SDPcampaign>).

Country Activities: “Support Don’t Punish” Campaign



Albania - Aksion Plus



For the first time this year, Aksion Plus joined the campaign “Support. Don’t Punish”. Within this framework, a 2-week awareness campaign was organized. The campaign included several different meetings, focusing on the promotion of human rights of people who use drugs and recommendations regarding tools that they can use to advocate for their rights and increased access toward social, health and legal public services.

In addition a “Photo campaign” took place, where different stakeholders were invited to take a photo with the poster of the “Support. Don’t punish” campaign. Among the people involved in the photo campaign were decision makers, state representatives and service providers by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Probation Service Institution, Public Health institutions, Ombudsman, social workers, psychologists, volunteers, celebrities and organization’s service beneficiaries, such as MMT, sex workers, LGBT and Roma community members.

The main activity was the awareness day on the occasion of the 26th of June, in Durres. Since the majority of the people are in summer holidays, a big event at the beach of Durres was organized. For this event, Aksion Plus strongly collaborated with Caritas Albania and its 50 young volunteers, who jointly distributed information leaflets to the public. At the beginning of the activity, a big banner with the logo “Support. Don’t Punish” was placed in an open place with a key message on drug policy, in order for the passers-by to see and to understand what this activity was about.

Different local TV channels were invited (Top Channel Durres, A1 Report) and the director of Aksion Plus, Mr. Genci Mucollari, gave an interview concerning the aim of this day and activity. Mr. Mucollary called all responsible institutions and decision makers’ to be involved in the promotion of IDUs human rights and strengthening access toward service provision. He also gave some messages to general population, against the discrimination towards these vulnerable groups.

Greece - Diogenis



For one more year, the global campaign “Support. Don’t Punish” has been successfully implemented in Greece, with the valuable support of Drug Policy Network South East Europe (DPNSEE), that effectively coordinated the implementation of the activities among the different countries in the SEE region, and International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) - responsible for the overall coordination of the campaign around the world.

This year in Greece, 6 different civil society organizations – that constitute the Greek NGO Platform for Psychoactive Substances, an unofficial initiative for joint action among organizations working in the area of drug policy and psychoactive substances (<https://ppsgr.org/>) – joined forces and cooperated in order to effectively spread the message of the campaign, sensitize the public, raise awareness regarding the harms being caused by the criminalization of people who use drugs and promote the need for human rights and public health oriented drug policy and drug law reform.



More specifically, these organizations that supported the implementation of the campaign were: “CENTRE FOR LIFE” [DPNSEE member], “DIOGENIS”- Drug Policy Dialogue [IDPC partner member & DPNSEE partner member] “PeNUPS”- Peer Network of Users of Psychoactive Substances, “POSITIVE VOICE”- Association of People living with HIV/AIDS [DPNSEE member], “PROMETHEUS” – Hellenic Liver Patient Association [DPNSEE member] “PRAKSIS” [IDPC network member].

For the achievement of the aforementioned goals, two main activities were implemented:

1. A press interview (June 27th, 12.00-14.00h, Athens)
2. A street event (June 27th, 19.00h, Athens)

Furthermore, before the 27th of June, representatives of these organizations took the initiative to spread the message of the campaign during several official events that were organized by state authorities by asking officials, journalists, scientists, decision-makers and other high-ranking representatives of governmental organizations to take a photograph with the logo of “Support. Don’t Punish” (e.g. Mrs. Teta Papoutsopoulou-Diamantopoulou, the National Drug Coordinator; Mr. Evaggelos Kavetzopoulos, President of the Hellenic Organization against Drugs- OKANA; Mr. Nikolaos Manios, Chairman of the Parliament’s Committee on Social Affairs; Mr. Nikolaos Paraskevopoulos, MP and former Minister of Justice).

Serbia - Re Generation



On Monday, 26th of June 2017, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, NGO Re Generation in the collaboration with the ethnology and anthropology students club KSEA, organized a movie marathon within "Support. Don't punish." campaign. The event was organized on the terrace of the independent art venue "Kvaka 22" in Belgrade, and the movies were screened inside. During the event, the following three video advocacy movies produced by NGO Re Generation and Rights Reporter Foundation were presented: "Without shift" that was premiered (https://www.youtube.com/edit?video_id=nNHo5J5E8tM), "Clubbing and youth health" and "Medical cannabis legalization in Serbia". Guests in the event were Siniša Dugonjić, the director of photography of two movies, Galeb Nikačević Vice Serbia journalist who also produced several documentaries on drug related topics, and Milutin Milošević, the director of DPNSEE. After the screening, the discussion was moved to the terrace, where the panel for "Support. Don't Punish" campaign was set. There, an informal discussion arose during the sunset, on beautifully decorated terrace. The discussion was lively and interactive, with minimal interventions by the moderators. The guests from different fields – anthropologists, journalists, directors, designers, pharmacists, medical workers etc., contributed to the interdisciplinarity. Throughout the discussion, many questions were raised, such as media attention to psychoactive substances in the region, laws, politics and general discourse about psychoactive substances. In the future, ReGeneration will continue to inform youth and to raise awareness about psychoactive substances, with the particular focus on "designer drugs" and harm reduction.



CENTER FOR LIFE

GREECE

**The Centre for Life designed an awareness campaign for women, concerning HIV and AIDS
“Take the first step for your protection”**



“Take the first step for your protection”, the Centre for Life’s awareness campaign for women, concerning HIV and AIDS.

With the support of the Melina Merkouri Foundation and with leading roles played by Lena Drosaki, Lena Papaligoura, Ioanna Pappa and Gioulika Skafida, we are sending the message that HIV concerns women as well.

More than 50% of people living with HIV worldwide are women, while in Europe 1 in 3 HIV diagnoses concerns women, according to WHO and the ECDC, respectively. In Greece, 66,5% of women that have been diagnosed with HIV, until today, acquired the virus through heterosexual sexual intercourse (Centre of Disease Prevention and Control. Epidemiological Survey of HIV / AIDS infection in Greece, 31-12-2016 (Issue No. 31). Athens 2017).

The above data combined with the fact that there is lack of female-oriented awareness campaigns in Greece, motivated the Centre for Life to design a powerful awareness campaign for the female population, focusing on heterosexual intercourse, in order to convey the message that HIV concerns women as well and that women can take the initiative for a healthy sex life.

A campaign video was created unfolding, in a very beautiful way, the stories of 4 everyday women who take the initiative for an erotic approach. Through the video, we see the actresses in different moments of their everyday life, such as at the workplace, at a bar or while enjoying a hobby, making the first move with their sexual partner, while taking the initiative to protect themselves.

You can find the campaign’s video at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RNeSNgHq2M&feature=youtu.be>

DIOGENIS

GREECE

Drugs & SDGs: Policies for Development and Harm Reduction

In early May 2017, Diogenis - Drug Policy Dialogue, implemented an action entitled "Drugs & SDGs: Policies for Development and Harm Reduction" under the LADDER program. The action included two interactive workshops in Athens and Thessaloniki under the auspices of the respective Municipalities, as well as an awareness campaign through social networks (Facebook & Instagram). A total of more than 60 people participated in both workshops, while the information campaign reached more than 350,000 people in Athens and Thessaloniki. The action was also under the auspice of the Municipality of Aghios Dimitrios, and it was funded by the LADDER project, through E.G.T.C. Amphictyony.

The general objective of this project was to raise awareness regarding the strong relationship between SDGs and drug policy reform. Local authorities' staff, NGO members, academic community (teachers, professors, etc.) were informed on all the latest developments and new, well-documented and evidence-based approaches in the field of drug policy and harm reduction and their close connection and essential role in achieving a sustainable development.

POSITIVE VOICE

GREECE

Information campaign on the occasion of 26th June.

On the occasion of the World Day for Drugs on 26 June, Alimos Municipality, a nice and crowded by the sea suburb, in collaboration with "Positive Voice", "Prometheus" Patient Care Association and Checkpoint Prevention and Examination Centers, we organized an information campaign on Saturday 24 June 2017 at the Alimos beach next to the Municipal Cinema. The "Checkpoint" mobile unit provided the free trial for HIV and viral hepatitis with the "quick test" method. This test uses only one drop of blood from the finger and gives a trusted result in just one minute. It is anonymous and free of charge and the announcement of the result is absolutely confidential. Also, "Positive Voice" staff and volunteers informed the public and distribute printed material on sexual education and health and reduce harm from the use of psychoactive substances.



PROMETHEUS

GREECE

Programmes on Harm Reduction

Hellenic Liver Patient Association “Prometheus”, is currently implementing a nationwide project entitled “I Deserve to Know”. The purpose of this action is the continuous provision of liver elastography screening (Fibroscan) to beneficiaries that have been diagnosed with liver diseases across Greece through collaboration with hepatology clinics, doctors of public hospitals and rehabilitation or substitution units. This project was thoroughly planned after taking into consideration the urgent need of people who live with liver diseases for unobstructed access to diagnostic testing.

Focusing on the socially vulnerable group of People Who Inject Drugs (PWID), a population with high prevalence of hepatitis C, the certified personnel of “Prometheus” from April until June 2017 implemented 14 visits, in structures of substitution (Greek Organization Against Drugs “OKANA”) or rehabilitation (Network for Dependent People “KETHEA”) centers in Athens, Alexandroupolis, Volos, Thessaloniki and Kavala city.

Hellenic Liver Patient Association “Prometheus”, is also implementing a panhellenic program entitled “C -afora” aiming to raise awareness, to inform and to promote prevention on Hepatitis C to PWID, in collaboration with rehabilitation or substitution structures regarding psychoactive substances. Analytically, the purpose of the program is to inform the target population for viral hepatitis C, for safe use practices of psychoactive substances and to elucidate myths that accompany the disease, to promote the importance of health care and treatment and to tackle social stigma. For that reason, representatives of “Prometheus” from April until June 2017 visited 3 structures of Network for Dependent People “KETHEA” in Attica and the structure of “Self-help Promoting Program” in Larisa city (under the context of this continuous program).



26th of June - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

On the occasion of the "International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking - 26th of June", Hellenic Liver Patient Association "Prometheus" participated and supported activities and events regarding raising awareness of issues related to drug use and health prevention. In particular:

Saturday June 24th:

Municipality of Alimos in collaboration with Greek Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS "Positive Voice", Centers of Prevention "Checkpoint" and Hellenic Liver Patient Association "Prometheus" organized a prevention activity that included rapid testing for HIV, Hepatitis B & C and distribution of relevant informative material.

Monday June 26th:

Hellenic Liver Patient Association "Prometheus" participated with a presentation at the one-day meeting organized by KETHEA KIVOTOS in Kavala city, in collaboration with OKANA of Kavala and Medical Association of Kavala titled "Rehabilitation: a holistic approach"

Tuesday June 27th

Hellenic Liver Patient Association "Prometheus" participated in the Press Conference organized by the Drug Peer Network of Psychoactive Substances -which was supported by the organizations "Diogenis" Drug Policy Dialogue, Positive Voice, Center for Life, HELPA- Prometheus and Praxis- as part of the global campaign titled "Support. Don't Punish".



RE-GENERATION

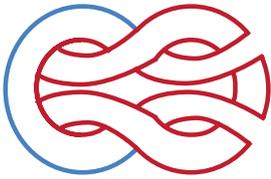
SERVIA

UPCOMING EVENT:

Re Generation on the "Way of Life" festival

NGO Re Generation (<https://www.facebook.com/NVOReGeneration>) has been advocating launching of harm reduction programs in recreational clubbing and festival settings in Serbia for many years. Re Generation strives to influence changes in this regard by influencing decision-makers with evidence based advocacy, but also offering its services to music event's organizers. This year Re Generation Team will implement part of the activities at a Way Of Life festival (<https://www.facebook.com/events/191424108026888/>), promoting the health of young people, safe sexual practices and minimizing potential harms caused by the use of psychoactive substances. Apart from several founders with decades of harm reduction program implementation and extensive clubbing experience, Re Generation has developed capacities in the form of a team of young volunteers who can most appropriately transfer their knowledge and valid information on these topics to their peers in nightlife events.





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.

Reactions can be sent to: Diogenis Association, Fokionos 8, 10 563 Athens, Greece

E-mail: info@diogenis.info



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