

## Annual Monitoring Working Plan 2018

### Background

Civil society organisations (CSO), working for and with drug users play a vital role in developing and implementing effective measures to address the negative consequences of drug use. This applies in particular to harm reduction and low-threshold services.

HR services have information and knowledge about new drug trends and developments in the field, which can contribute to more understanding and evidence-base in the field. Correlation – European Harm Reduction Network (CN) will develop a monitoring tool and collect reliable and comparable data from harm reduction services in the European Union and neighbouring countries. This information will complement existing monitoring efforts, such as the EMCDDA data monitoring system and can - on a long-term - improve the effectiveness of harm reduction responses and policies.

The monitoring tool will specifically address civil society organisations such as HR and drug user organisations and focus on the topics, including HCV, new drug trends and overdose prevention.

### Objectives

The monitoring activities within CN will focus on factors shaping the given information of governmental national or European institutions regarding developments in the particular area and provide recommendations accordingly. The report will target EU member states and neighbouring countries such as the Balkan States and Ukraine.

The CN Monitoring Report will complement existing data and information, including the annual reports of the EMCDDA and the Global State of Harm Reduction. At the same time, it acknowledges the importance of civil society organisations and harm reduction services, which are in direct, close and daily contact with People Who Use Drugs. By sharing their observations and information CN can contribute to a more complete picture of the current challenges and developments in the field of drug use and harm reduction. This will apply in particular to the topics of Hepatitis C, Overdose Prevention and new drug trends.

The CN Monitoring Report will also provide the foundation for practical and policy recommendations and support advocacy activities of CSO's on the national and European level.

### Methodology

The CN monitoring activities will be organised accordingly to the following framework:

Leading coordinator (LC)

The monitoring methodology will be designed and coordinated by the leading coordinator (LC), who has specific expertise and knowledge in the field of research and monitoring. The tasks of the LC will include:

- Analysing existing data collection measures and tools in the EU and identifying gaps and opportunities for complementary data collection in the three thematic areas.
- Developing and designing the monitoring tool (questionnaire, trend report structure) in the three thematic areas, including instructions for respondents. Note: the 3 thematic areas might have different designs and length.
- Sorting and analysing information and data collected from the responding organisations.
- Writing of the monitoring/trend report 2019 that assembles key data and findings.

#### CNO as supporting coordinator

A supporting coordinator - who is part of the Correlation Network Office (CNO) - will provide input and direct support to the LC during all steps of the process.

#### Scientific Expert Group (SEG)

The LC is also supported by a scientific expert group (SEG), consisting of 5 experts in specific areas in the field of drug use and harm reduction. The SEG has also proven expertise in regard to data collection and monitoring.

The tasks of the SEG include:

- Supporting all tasks of the lead consultant in developing and implementing the monitoring tool and in analysing the data.
- Reviewing of outputs of the monitoring working group
- Contributing to the development of reports and articles.

#### Thematic Expert Groups (TEG)

The LC and the SEG will be supported by three thematic expert groups (TEGs) focusing on the following priorities: HCV, Overdose Prevention (ODP) and New Drug Trends (NDT). Each TEG has a coordinator, and acts as main contact point.

The tasks of the TEGs include:

- Providing the LC, the SEG and the CNO with thematical expertise and input
- Safeguarding the feasibility and practicability of the CN monitoring tool
- Reviewing draft monitoring tools and reports
- Facilitating knowledge exchange between relevant CSOs in the field

#### CN Focal Points (FPs)

The Focal Points (FPs) are the national reference points of the CN and function as intermediary between the CN and relevant national stakeholders.

Tasks of the FPs include:

- Collecting data and information annually, based on the CN monitoring tool
- Involving different CSOs and HR services on national level
- Identifying relevant stakeholders for additional information
- Organising focus groups and interviews, if applicable
- Collecting data and information from focal groups and interviews, if applicable

## Output

The monitoring results will be synthesised in an Annual CN Monitoring Report from 2019 onwards, with specific chapters on HCV, Overdose Prevention and New Drug Trends.

### Annexes

Workplan plan for CSO monitoring

Justification for priority selection monitoring/trendreports