

# THE CASE FOR INVESTING IN HARM REDUCTION IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

An infographic by

The Economist

INTELLIGENCE UNIT

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia the incidence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is increasing, largely due to injecting drug use, which is heavily criminalised. Over a 20 year period (2020-2040) the cost savings accrued from decriminalising can buy antiretroviral therapy (ART) and opioid agonist treatment (OAT) to control the current HIV epidemics in people who inject drugs (PWID) in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

## DECriminalISATION

Moving to decriminalise drug use and possession for personal use

## PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

Reinvesting saved costs into scaling up ART to 81% coverage and OAT up to 40% coverage as per UNAIDS/WHO guidelines

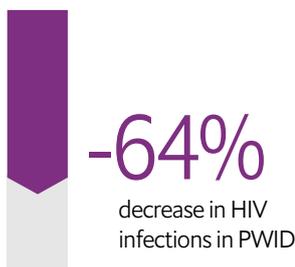
### BELARUS

DECriminalISATION in Belarus would save

€431m

**PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH**  
€431m could be diverted to scale up **ART to recommended UNAIDS target coverage** with money left over to **buy OAT for 41% of PWID.**

This would result in



and a total of

100,126  
life years gained

This would also generate

€38.6m  
in productivity

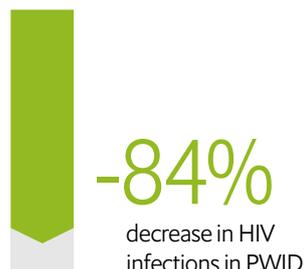
### KAZAKHSTAN

DECriminalISATION in Kazakhstan would save

€773m

**PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH**  
€773m can be used to scale up **ART to recommended UNAIDS target coverage**, with money left over to **buy OAT for 40% of PWID.**

This would result in



and a total of

148,464  
life years gained

This would also generate

€42.4m  
in productivity

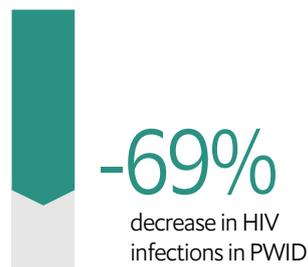
### KYRGYZSTAN

DECriminalISATION in Kyrgyzstan would save

€38m

**PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH**  
€38m can be used to scale up **ART to recommended UNAIDS target coverage**, with the money left over to **buy OAT for 29.7% of PWID.**

This would result in



and a total of

17,768  
life years gained

This would also generate

€0.6m  
in productivity

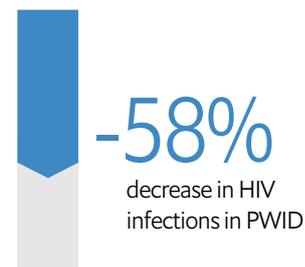
### RUSSIA

DECriminalISATION in Russia would save

€11.1bn

**PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH**  
€11.1bn saved can be used to scale up **ART to recommended UNAIDS target coverage**, with money left over to **buy OAT for 39.5% of PWID with HIV.**

This would result in



and a total of

2,586,534  
life years gained

This would also generate

€1.2bn  
in productivity