



EPPIC

**EXCHANGING
PREVENTION PRACTICES
ON POLYDRUG USE
AMONG YOUTH
IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEMS**

Project Progress Report
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- **Duration:** January 1st 2017 – December 31st 2019



Partner institutions



Co-ordinator: Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (**UK**)

- Change Grow Live (**UK**)
- Aarhus University (**Denmark**)
- Eclectica (**Italy**)
- European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (**Austria**)
- Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (**Germany**)
- Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (**Poland**)

General objectives of the project



To gather knowledge, exchange best practice & identify transferable innovations & principles of good practice on interventions to prevent illicit drug use, the development of polydrug use and use of NPS among young people in the criminal justice system (CJS)

To develop a set of guidelines adapted to the development of initiatives aimed at the target group based on European Drug Prevention Quality Standards

To initiate a European knowledge exchange network for practitioners and stakeholders working with young people in the CJS

Methods and means



- **Qualitative approach** – enables understanding of substance use and experiences of prevention interventions from the young person's perspective and from those who work with young people
- Use of common 'core' questions, coding and analysis frameworks will facilitate comparative analyses
- **Range of theoretical perspectives** – youth transitions, drug use transitions/trajectories (eg. normalisation), & desistance from crime theories

Overview of Work Packages



WP4

Knowledge exchange on current evidence & practice

April-July 17

WP5

Drug using trajectories, innovative interventions & experiential evidence

June 17-Dec 18

WP1 Coordination

WP2 Dissemination

WP3 Evaluation

WP6

Guidelines for good practice & quality standards in the CJS

Jan 19-Nov19

WP7

Cultural appropriateness & transferability

April 19-Dec 19

WP1 Progress: Coordination (DARC, Middlesex University, UK)



Completed:

Advisory group established

MS1: Kick-off meeting
(Luxembourg, 13-14 Mar 17)

D1: Consortium Agreement

To be completed:

MS10 - 1st Thematic meeting
Warsaw (M13)

D6 - 1st technical & financial
report (M18)

MS17 - 2nd Thematic meeting
Aarhus (M25)

MS28 - 3rd Thematic
meeting/international
conference /webinar

D12 – 2nd technical & financial
report (M36)

WP2 Progress: Dissemination (ECSWPR, Austria)



Completed:

MS2: Draft dissemination strategy

MS4: Evaluation tools & protocol measures

D2: Leaflet to promote project

D2.4: Dissemination strategy

D3: Website and twitter account

To be completed:

MS11: Interim impact monitoring report (M13)

MS29: 2nd impact monitoring report (M25)

MS23: Final impact monitoring report (M34)

D13: Layperson version of final report (M36)

WP3 Progress: Evaluation (Ghent University)



Completed:

MS3: Draft evaluation strategy

D3.3: Evaluation strategy

Evaluator has been copied into all communication re: milestones, deliverables

To be completed:

MS12 1st process evaluation report (M13)

MS15 Data collection for interim evaluation report (M16)

D7 Interim evaluation report (M18)

MS24 2nd process evaluation data (M34)

MS27 Survey & telephone data collected for evaluation (M35)

D15 Final evaluation report (M36)

WP4 Progress: Knowledge exchange on current
evidence & practice
(Institute of Psychiatry & Neurology, Poland)



Completed:

MS6: Literature review,
scoping survey, workshops,
country reports

D4.1 Draft cross national
report

D4.1 Final cross national
report (M12)

Work package now
completed

WP5 Progress: Drug use trajectories, innovative interventions & experiential evidence (Eclectica)



Completed:

Identification & description of innovative interventions

Ethical approval obtained depending on local requirements

Interview schedules for young people and professionals

To be completed:

MS13 Phase 1 country reports (M13)

MS14 Quality standards country reports (M13)

D5 1st Cross national report (M15)

MS16 Phase 2 country reports (M21)

D8 2nd Cross national report (M24)

D14 Edited book (M36)

WP6 Progress: Guidelines for good practice & quality standards in the CJS (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences)



Completed:

Review and collation of various sets of quality standards/ guidelines

To be completed:

MS18 Test quality standards/ Guidelines (M29)

MS21 Set of principles/ guidelines adapted on website(M31)

MS25 Amended principles/ guidelines after feedback

D9 Set of principles/guidelines on good practice (M34)

D10 Cross national report on good practice guidelines & minimum quality standards (M35)

WP7 Progress: Cultural appropriateness and transferability (Middlesex University)



Completed:

Preliminary literature reviews

To be completed:

MS19 Conceptual framework for policy transfer (M29)

MS20 Workshops country project group (M30)

MS22 Country reports (M32)

MS26 Cross national analyses (M26)

D11 Cross national report on transferability (M36)

Key findings emerging from initial literature review, scoping surveys (WP4)



- There are few drug prevention initiatives aimed directly at young people in the CJS
- Polydrug use (ie. alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs) is common among these young people & responses need to reflect this pattern of substance use
- For the target group, problem substance use is not a single problem of health or criminality, but the complex interaction of multiple problems (ie. health, crime, family & social difficulties, education problems & economic and social structural factors).
 - *Responses that focus only on drug use or on crime are unlikely to be successful in reintegrating young people. Collaborative working by different stakeholder groups is required to address the needs of this target group.*
- Paucity of data on drug use among young people in contact with criminal justice systems. Lack of information on prevention/intervention initiatives specific to target group & little evaluation.
 - *Therefore → important opportunity for the EPPIC project to make a substantial contribution to the field*

Dissemination activities so far...



- The EPPIC website and twitter account are active
 - www.eppic-project.eu
 - **twitter: @eppic_project**
- Partner countries have established links between their institution's websites & EPPIC website
- Mailing lists have been established at national levels
- A wide range of stakeholders in partner countries have been informed of EPPIC through distribution of project leaflets, scoping surveys, interviews, & national advisory groups
- Members of COPOLAND & WHO Health in Prisons projects have been informed about EPPIC
- Blog on WEPHREN website:
<https://wephren.tghn.org/community/blogs/post/49326/2017/08/preventing-drug-use-young-people-criminal-justice/>
- ISFF participated in international conference on prison health in Vienna
- Ecletica (Italy) participated in a national meeting in Padoa on addiction in prisons
- Middlesex University, UK participated in a national prison drugs policy symposium organised by Volteface
- IPiN presented an EPPIC poster at the EUSPR conference in Vienna

Expected outcomes



1. Improvement of **knowledge & understanding** of prevention & intervention in young people's drug using trajectories with particular reference to the CJS and use of NPS among policy makers and relevant stakeholders
2. Increased **knowledge exchange activity** between researchers & practitioners and greater exchange among all stakeholders at national & European levels of experiences of 'good practice' approaches re: intervention for young people in touch with CJS

Expected outcomes (continued)



3. Initiation of a **new knowledge network** & mechanism for continuing discussion & knowledge exchange between relevant practitioners and other stakeholders



4. Awareness & access to a **set of quality standard guidelines** for the design & development of interventions in drug use among young people in CJ settings.