



EPPIC

Exchanging Prevention Practices on Polydrug Use among Youth in Criminal Justice Systems

www.eppic-project.eu

Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology
30. August 2018

Günter Stummvoll

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union

- ❖ **Funding and duration:** Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020): Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea); 1. Jan. 2017 – 31. Dec. 2019
- ❖ **Project partners:**
 1. Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK) – **project coordinator**
 2. Change Grow Live (UK)
 3. Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Aarhus University (Denmark)
 4. Eclectica (Italy)
 5. ISFF - Institut für Suchtforschung, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
 6. Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (Poland)
 7. European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Austria)
- ❖ **Background:** Young offenders are considered one of the most vulnerable or at risk groups of developing drug problems and are often affected by numerous health problems and social inequalities
- ❖ **Health System & CJS:** Cross sectional project that focuses on social services for *health promotion* and *crime prevention*.

Classification of „Prevention“

EMCDDA

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug-Addiction

1. **Universal prevention** addresses a population at large and targets the development of skills and values, norm perception and interaction with peers and social life;
2. **Selective prevention** addresses vulnerable groups where substance use is often concentrated and focuses on improving their opportunities in difficult living and social conditions;
3. **Indicated prevention** addresses vulnerable individuals and helps them in dealing and coping with their individual personality traits that make them more vulnerable for escalating drug use.
4. **Environmental prevention** addresses societies or social environments and targets social norms including market regulations

Exchanging Prevention Practices on Polydrug Use among Youth in Criminal Justice Systems

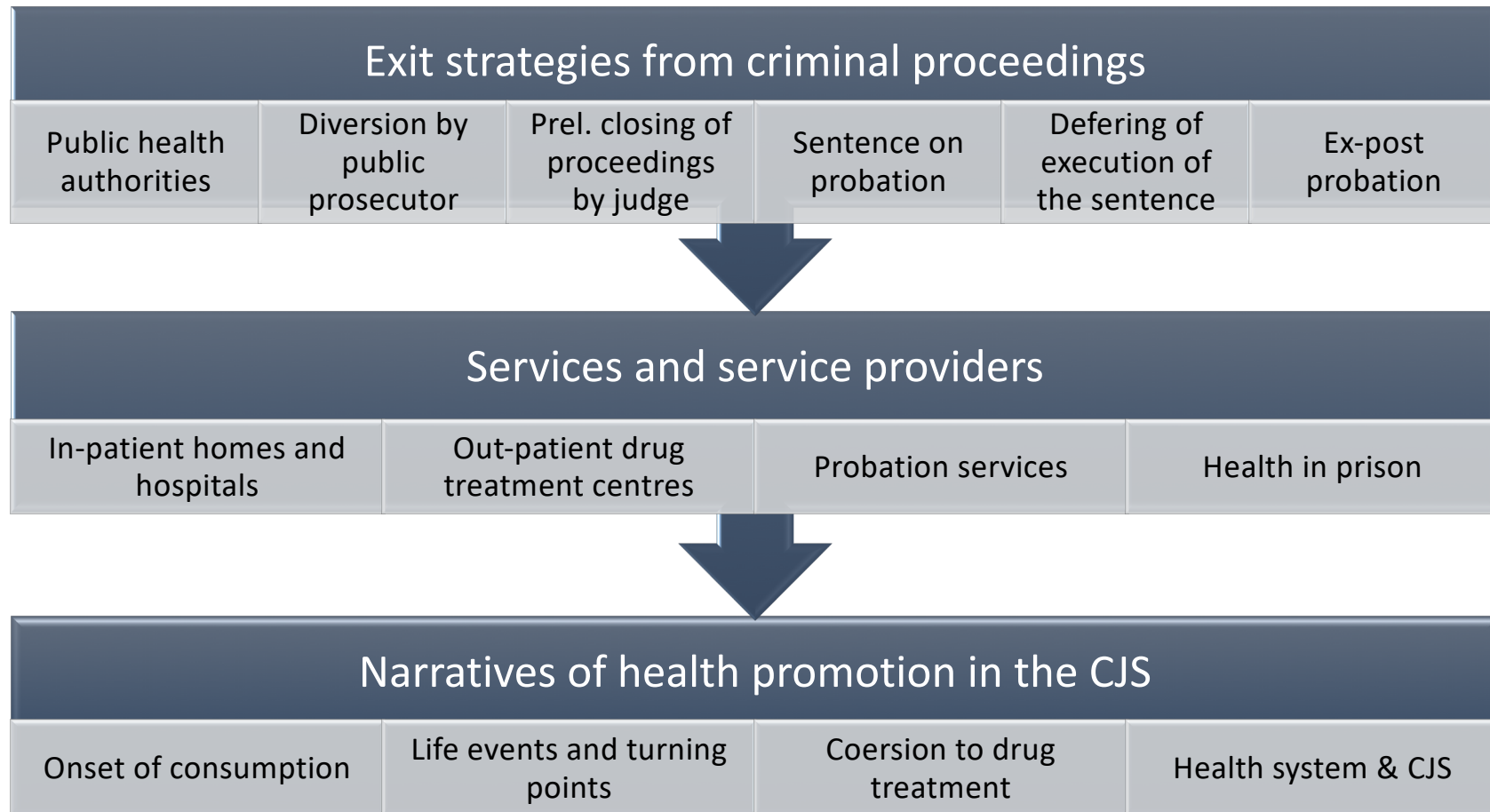
Objectives:

- Identify innovative *drug prevention practices* for young people in contact with the CJS
- Study the *views of service providers* on preventive approaches for this target group
- Research *trajectories of young people* and crucial turning points in their criminal career / drug career
- Examine the effectiveness of current European drug prevention *quality standards* for young people and to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange across countries.

Exchanging Prevention Practices on Polydrug Use among Youth in Criminal Justice Systems

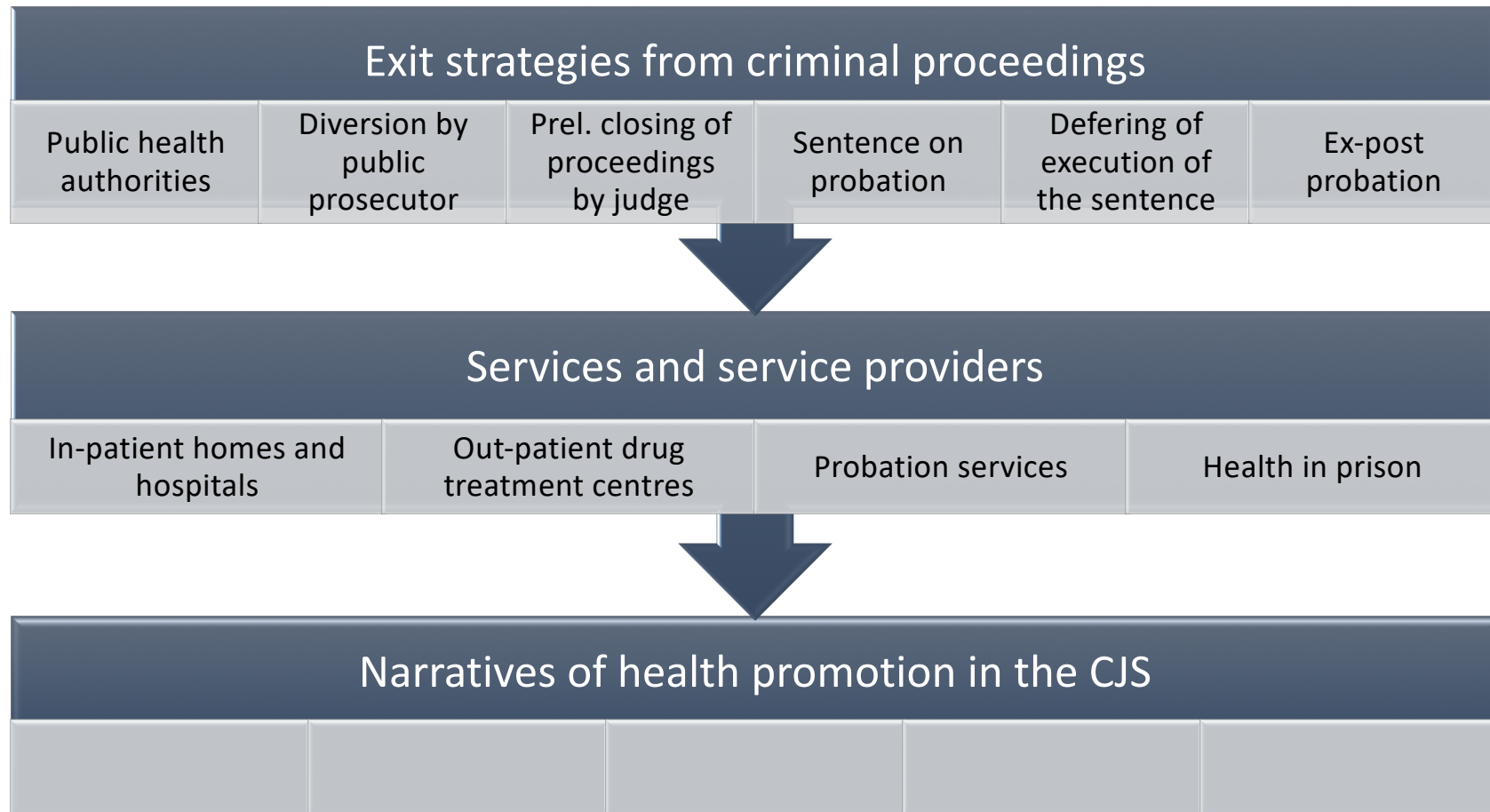
Methods:

- Analysis of prevention programmes in prison settings as well as forms of diversion (“therapy instead of punishment”) in six European countries: UK, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Germany and Austria
- Laws & statistics
- Explorative interviews with service providers
- Interviews with youth
- Regular correspondence with practitioners in National Advisory Boards (“Mirror Groups”)



Summary of statistics (Austria):

1. The police report a constant increase of drug offences in the crime statistics
2. Approx. 50% of all suspects of drug-related crimes are 24 years or younger
3. Approx. 60% of youth drug-crimes are dismissed by the prosecutor, 17% are offered some form of diversion, 23% are forwarded to the court.
4. Approx. 50% of all offers to diversion refer to drug prevention programmes.
5. Juveniles get convicted predominantly for property offences (50%).
Convictions for drug-related offences: 13%.
6. The most frequent penalty for juveniles is *conditional imprisonment*.

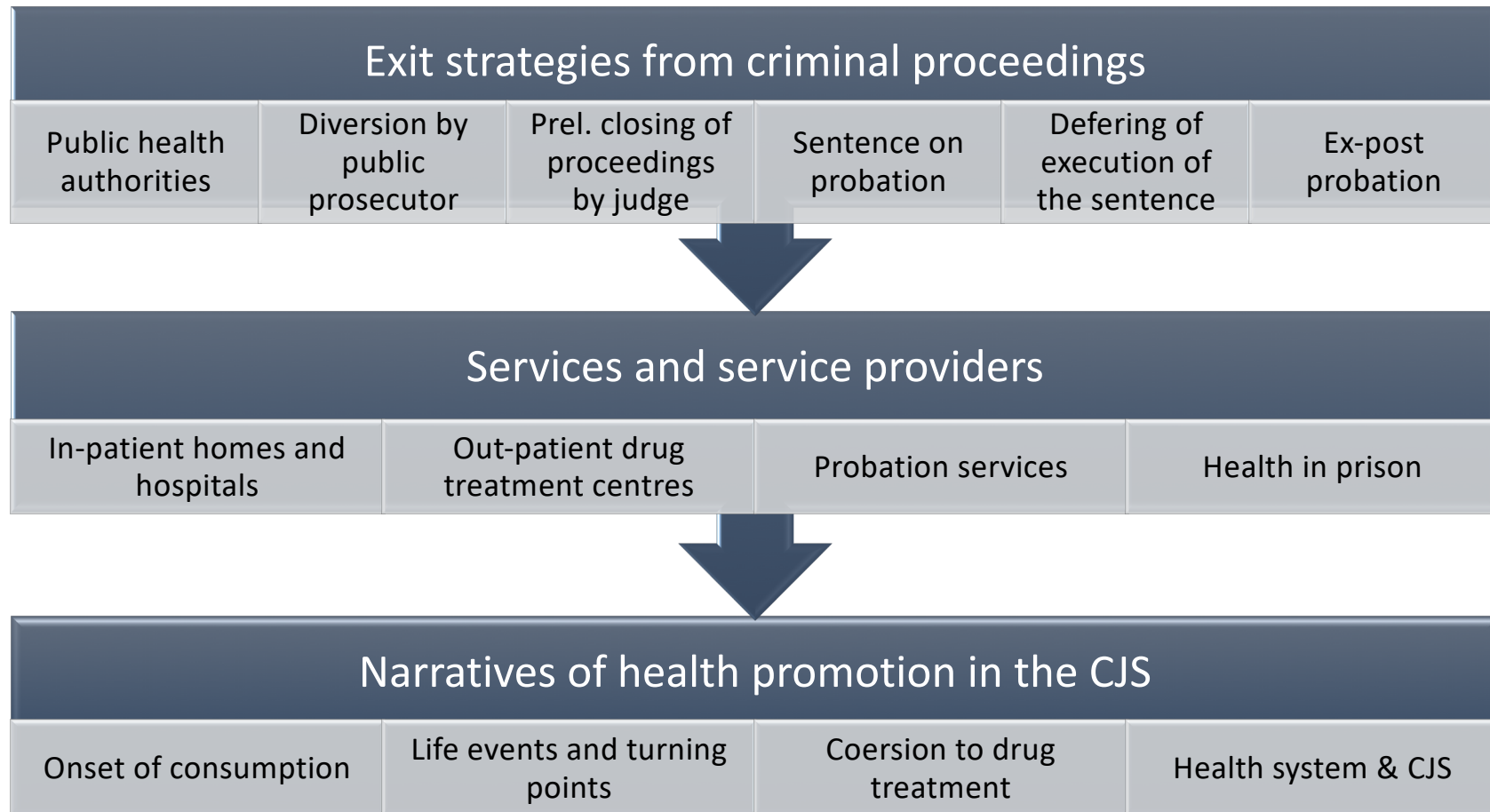


**Austria: Interventions in health promotion
(„Gesundheitsbezogene Maßnahmen“ §11/2 SMG - drug law)**

1. Medical surveillance of health status
2. Medical treatment including substitutional therapy
3. Clinical-psychiatric counselling and care
4. Psychotherapy
5. Psycho-social counselling and care

Forms of Intervention

- Interventions:
 - Cognitive therapy
 - Motivational interviewing
 - Group therapy
 - Systemic psycho-therapy
 - Changing circumstances: job, education, structure of everyday life
 - Holistic interventions: “global care for the person” or “multi-disciplinary integrated intervention”; “partnership approach”.

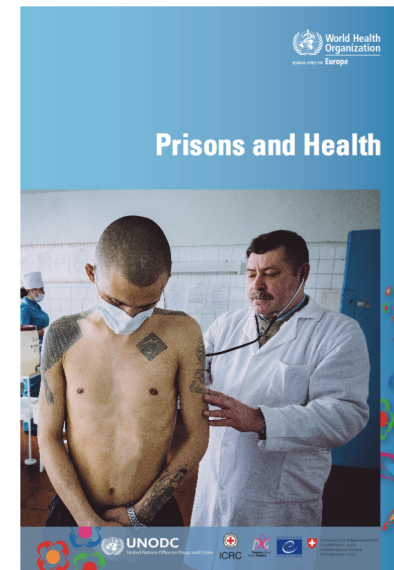
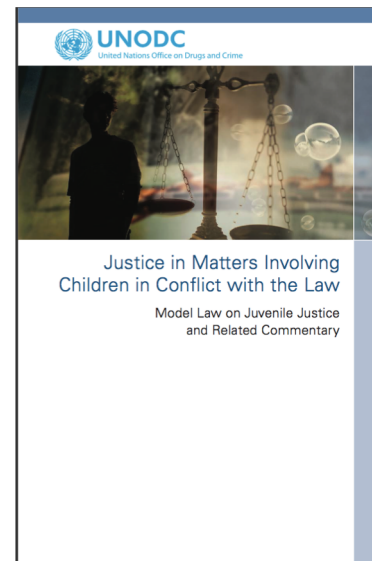


- **Next steps in the project:**

Examine the effectiveness of current European drug prevention *quality standards* for young people and facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange across countries.

International and European guidelines and standards:

UN, Council of Europe, WHO, World Medical Association, EMCDDA



Thank you for your attention



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

stummvoll@euro.centre.org