

### CIVIL SOCIETY MONITORING OF HARM REDUCTION, IN EUROPE METHODOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS

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### THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN MONITORING HARM REDUCTION







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#### European Drug Report

#### **Trends and Developments**

Cannabis				
MDMA				
Drug-related infectious diseases				
Injecting drug use	Heroi	n and other opi	oids	
New psychoactive substances				
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MONITORING OF HARM REDUCTION IN EUROPE



HOME WHO WE ARE ACTIVITIES - EVENTS PROJECTS RESOURCE CENTER CONTACT O



#### C-EHRN & MONITORING



#### C-EHRN MONITORING FRAMEWORK

• 35 Focal Points (map from 2019)



### ADDED VALUES AND CHALLENGES OF (THE C-EHRN) CIVIL SOCIETY-LED MONITORING

### DATA QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY

- Monitoring is not FPs core business
- Diversity of data quality
- One-person x consultation of various CSO experts (contradictions)
- C-EHRN offered support with detailed guidelines, Q&As
- Adjustments on data checking/reporting/gathering
- Encouraged consultation, and reporting differences



# MAP DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN OFFICIAL POLICIES AND POLICY IN PRACTICE

- Take Home Naloxone Programs availability
- Problems:
  - Remained project-local based
  - Medical prescription needed
  - Only available for PWUD on OST
  - No access to family and friends of PWUD
  - Unnecessary barriers



THN not available 🔲 THN under discussion 🔲 THN available





### REPRESENTATIVENESS & COMPARABILITY

- Local organizations cold not respond for national context
- Detailed experience at the local level FPs and their PWUD clients
- Focus on civil society's expertise
- Change from national to local level (2020)



#### COMPLEMENT DATA FROM OTHER AGENCIES

- OD prevention at the policy level
- OD prevention training for PWUD and acquaintances
- Evaluation of first responders to OD (ambulance, fire brigade, police)
- OD circumstances



#### **RELEVANCE OF MONITORING** TO FPS AND CSOs

- Adjustments for advocacy
  - Fact sheets
  - Policy briefs
  - Executive summary in different languages (2020)

#### Correlation European Harm Reduction Jetwork Factsheet Naloxone Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of opioids and plays an important role in mediating the potential harms associated with opioid overdose (including death) for people who use drugs (PWUD).

Background:

death (2).

People who use opioids have a 50-70% lifetime risk of having an overdose and are more likely to be a

Opioids can be both derived from the opium poppy

they all have similar effects in the body. Opioids can

to cardiac arrest, brain injury and without intervention,

an opioid overdose is characterized by slowed or stopped breathing, pinpoint pupils and a loss of

Naloxone works to temporarily block the opiate

receptors in the body and to reverse the dangerous

the brain. Naloxone can be administered by multiple

routes in the

body. Naloxone available in

the community is either via

injectable (into a

muscle or skin) or

intranasal (given

via the nose) (1).

effects of overdose on the respiratory system and

bystander at an overdose (1). What is Opioid Overdose?

How Does Naloxone Work?

#### Is Naloxone Safe?

Naloxone is extremely safe; it does not interact with (morphine, heroin) or synthetic analogues like fentanyl, substances in the body other than opioids. It carries no risk from use and zero potential for abuse, although high doses may lead to the development of opioid reduce the respiratory drive and a person experiencing withdrawal symptoms such as vomiting, muscle cramps and agitation (1). consciousness. The lack of oxygen in the brain can lead

#### Who Should Have Naloxone?

Both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the EU Action Plan on Drugs strongly recommends that all people who are likely to witness a drug overdose have access to naloxone. This includes all PWUD and their friends and family members in addition to all people who work with the public such as emergency workers, police, harm reduction and community outreach workers. Populations more vulnerable to fatal overdose (PWUD being released from prison or hospitals) should also receive naloxone (1,3).

#### What is Take-Home Naloxone (THN)?

Programmes that combine training on overdose risk and management with the distribution of naloxone are called "take-home" naloxone programs (THN). These programs are evidence-based, cost-effective and have been shown to reduce overdose mortality (3).



#### CONCLUSIONS



## **SOME LESSONS**

- (C-HERN) civil society-led monitoring of HR can:
  - Point at bottlenecks of policy implementation
  - Complement data from other agencies
- Opportunity for CSO participation in reformulating indicators and defining data needs.
- Data quality, representativeness must be addressed



#### OTHER CURRENT QUESTIONS...

How to improve PWUD involvement?

Are online surveys the best method?

How to assure continuity/sustainability?



#### THANK YOU!

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