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**29. September - & 01. October 2011**

**Civil Society & Drug Policies**

**Impact on Research, Prevention and Treatment**

**International Conference & Training Seminar Coimbra**

Day 1:

On Thursday 29. September the Euro-TC/ IRIFREA conference „Civil Society & Drug Policies“ was opened with the first round table starting at 9 am. It featured the “Role of Civil Society and European Drug Strategies” with presentations by Matej Kosir from the UTRIP Institute for Research and Development in Slovenia, Paulo Anjos from Assiciacao in Portugal, Thomas Legl EURO-TC President and director of Knappenhof / Austria and Akos Topolansky/budapest from the European Economic and Social Council/ EU.

This first section was followed by presentations around “Prevention and Research”. This round table was opened by Gregor Burkhard from EMCDDA referring on “Development(s) or not in Prevention”. Focusing on Prevention and Research he highlighted the value of environment and social influence training in addiction issues. Highlighting important findings and statistical results on European level, as well as some results from successful programmes that aimed to prevent adolescents from drug abuse/ addiction, he gave an lively and interesting presentation about the intervention of effective programmes and their sustainable longtime effect.

Mariangels Duch from IREFREA Spain gave an interesting speech about a Spanish research on family education ,concerning what parents know about their childrens’ activities outside home and family supervision as a strategy to prevent adolescents’ drug use.

Valdeci Purim from the Azores Drug Abuse Department in Portugal presented the issue of drug use in the Azores and outlined the specific problems they meet there in implementing

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strategies for prevention, also due to the geographic characteristics of the Azores and the movement of adolescents from one island to another because of schools.

Peer Van Deer Kreeft from the Faculty of Education, Health and Social Work at the University College Ghent in Belgium lively presented his topic about “Practitioners working with researchers in prevention”.

Afterwards the opening ceremony took place with local political representatives , IREFREA, EURO-TC and the director of the nursery school that hosted the conference ,welcoming the approximately 100 participants. The programme of the three conference days was outlined.

After lunch the participants returned back to a short break out session which was followed by three training sections: one about school prevention which was carried out by two local participants. Another one had a focus on the treatment of parents and children carried out by Horst Brömer from Tannenhof Berlin and Nicoletta Capra from Villa Renate in Venice.

The representatives from Megallo Csoport gave an introduction to theatre therapy. This session was very lively and inspiring and participants could actively participate in the training.

## Day 2:

The second day started with a round table concerning the overall topic “Treatment and Research” and was chaired by Christian Heise, Vice-President of Euro-TC.

As first speaker Teodora Groshkova from EMCDDA presented on history strategies as outcome of research on addiction treatment, especially from the Therapeutic Community Model..

Jelena Damjanac from “The Bread of St. Anthony” Therapeutic Community presented next about “Peace Work in a Therapeutic Community”. After an introduction about the current situation following the war in former Yugoslavia, she explained why it is important to involve peace work also in therapeutic communities, namely because the effect of traumas that are not solved in one generation, are likely to influence next generations as well and because the prevention of conflicts is going to contribute to lasting peace.

Rocha Almeida from Associacao Portuguesa de Adictologia in Portugal gave a presentation about “Drug Treatment: Portuguese Reality”.

The last presenter in this round table was Oleksandr Akhmerov from the Ukrainian therapeutic community in Odessa “Stupeny”. His presentation gave an overview about the situation of drug abuse in the Ukraine and the specific characteristics, such as the consumption of self-made opioids from puppy (which grows in the Ukraine), which is a serious problem. He went on by explaining the problem of a missing policy on alcohol and drugs and pointed out that a modern treatment system needs to be adapted. Finally, he presented the structure and the goals of the organisation “Stupeny”.

After a coffee break the next round concerning “Impact on Harm Reduction” was opened and chaired by Paulo Anjos.

The first three speakers were Portuguese:

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Paula Andrade from IDT Portugal, Maria Lobo from Associacao Existencia and Filipa Homem from Irefrea in Portugal who gave insight into the work of the project “Before you get burned” aiming at informing young people in Coimbra about alcohol and all related consequences.

Stephane Leclercq from the project NEWIP in Belgium gave detailed overview about the evolution of the safer nightlife projects in Europe. He introduced the efforts of NEWIP by presenting actions and strategies such as standards, the use of emerging medias, training and field intervention.

Similar was the next presentation of Montse Juan from Irefrea in Spain who reviewed the “Health and safety standards in nightlife” project. This project aims at to prepare and test a set of selected health and safety standards for nightlife, an evaluation of these standards and a promotion to incorporate these standards into legislation.

After the lunch break three more training sessions (workshops) in Portuguese language exclusively took place and marked the end of the second day. The workshops were highly appreciated by the participants, most among them young Portuguese students.

### **Day 3:**

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of October the third and last day of the conference was opened by a pioneer of drug-related issues, Ambros Uchtenhagen from Switzerland. He presented about the topic “Treatment, Substitution, Recovery: Integrative Approaches” and structured its presentation in three categories, namely structural, functional and conceptional integration. Due to his numerous statistics and data he was able to give an overall picture about harm reduction programmes and treatment.

Johannes Schönthal was the next presenter who gave insight into the project “SURE”, a project for substituted patients in rehabilitation. The experiences they made in Tübingen, inclusive criterias to enter the program were part of his presentation.

With the presentation about teamwork and professional care of Gabriel Roldan, which was held in Spanish, this round table ended.

After the coffee break the last round table around the subject “Peer Education” was opened with Irma Brito as Chairwoman.

The first speaker was Walter Kern-Scheffeldt from the Zuerich University of Teacher Education who gave a general view about peer groups. His presentation contained of a definition of peer groups, pedagogical approaches to peer education, as well as the effect of peer education programmes.

The next speaker was Doris Sarrazin from Germany who gave insight to the project “Take Care”. This project aims at developing strategies towards responsible alcohol consume for adolescents in Europe. Among other, she focused on the possible health consequences, the problematic price policy on alcohol and affordability in European countries and the multi-level approach the Take Care projects is following.

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The last presenter was Hélder Santos from the “Dyname International: Street Work Educators Network” who gave a lively presentation about street work in Portugal. The aim of this network is to improve the quantity and the quality of street social work in Europe. Emphasising social issues , he featured on poverty, social exclusion, stigmatisation and rejection as problems for the youngest as well as for the whole society.

With the speech of Hélder Santos the round table finishes and the closing ceremony started with Fernando Mendes thanking and congratulating all people who were involved in the planning of the conference.

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