



euro-TC operational office, Beatrixgasse 6/20, 1030 Vienna, Austria

Vice president Christian Heise represented Euro-TC at a conference hosted by the European Commission in association with the Hungarian Presidency of the EU “Building an EU consensus for minimum quality standards in the prevention, treatment and harm reduction”. Purpose of the conference was to discuss the preliminary findings of a Commission study carried out by the Swiss Research Institute for Public Health and Addiction in collaboration with EMCDDA and the WHO. A number of options for minimum quality standards were presented and most of them were accepted as recommendations for the national authorities.

Some examples for minimum standards in the field of treatment/rehabilitation:

- Staff composition: education (e.g. at least half of staff has a diploma in medicine, nursing, social work or psychology)
- Internal evaluation: (services must regularly perform an internal evaluation of their activities and outcomes)
- Individualised treatment planning: (treatment plans are tailored individually to the needs of the patient)
- Routine cooperation with other agencies (whenever a service is not equipped to deal with all needs of a given patient, an appropriate other service is at hand to referral)

Overall about 30 standards were discussed and acclaimed. Following further analysis of the evidence collected , feedback from the expert surveys and the stakeholder conference will set out a number of options for minimum quality standards for consideration by the European Commission at the end of 2011.

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