



International projects in the field of illicit drugs

Short overview

Colophon

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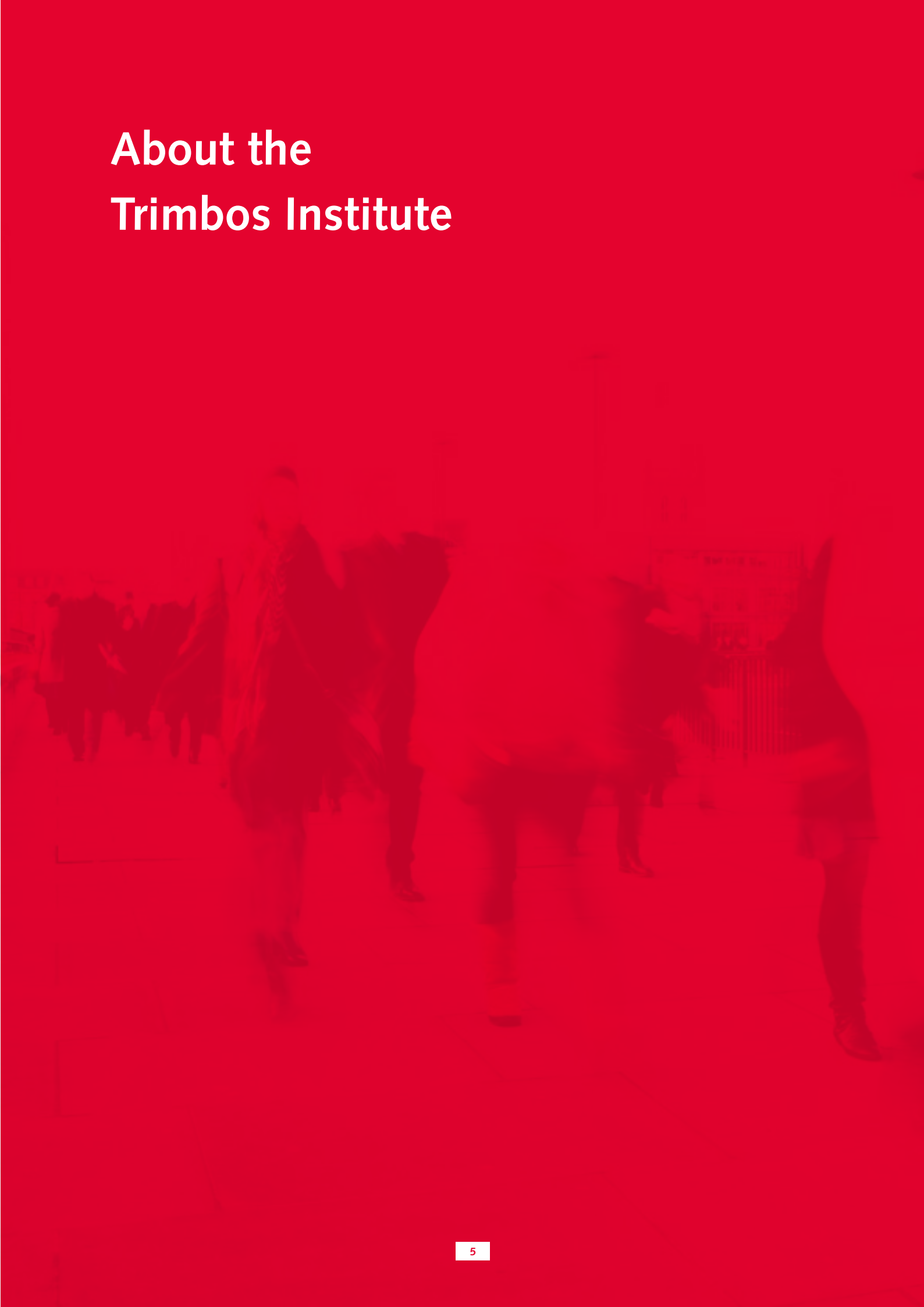
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About the Trimbos Institute



About the Trimbos Institute

Trimbos Institute

The Trimbos Institute conducts research on issues related to mental health and addiction. The experts at the Trimbos Institute put research findings into practice to support policymakers, educators, and professionals who provide mental health and addiction services.

The Trimbos Institute develops, implements and disseminates information, research findings, and policy consultancy on mental illness, addictions, recreational drugs, and alcohol for various stakeholders, such as clients, caregivers, service providers, decision makers and the general public. This information includes health education information, academic reports and journal articles, training manuals and courses for healthcare professionals and guidelines for policymakers.

Our researchers and specialists work according to disease management models, centering on collaborative, client-centered, evidence-based, coordinated care. The Trimbos Institute focuses on monitoring, prevention, treatment and on the quality and organization of care.

Further information can also be found on the Dutch-language website for the Trimbos Institute (www.trimbos.nl).

Trimbos International

The Trimbos Institute is a worldwide leader in mental health and addiction research and implementation. The international network and activities of the Trimbos Institute are broad and diversified, with experts from Trimbos advising national policymakers, developing and implementing programmes, and conducting project and policy evaluations. The Trimbos Institute cooperate with many international organizations, including the European Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as distinguished universities, hospitals, and research centres worldwide.

Drugs Monitoring & Policy

The longstanding, internationally acknowledged Dutch experience and expertise in prevention, harm reduction and drug policy evaluation is put to use in Trimbos' international consultancy, assisting countries across the globe in the implementation and evaluation of national drug policies, prevention, and harm reduction activities.

The Unit International Affairs, part of the department Drugs Monitoring & Policy focuses on:

- Evaluation of projects as well as national drug policies and strategies
- Exploratory research / intervention planning (Rapid Assessment en Response)
- Developing drug prevention programmes
- HIV prevention / harm reduction (in prisons)

On the next pages you will find an overview of the various projects that the Unit conducted in the past years.

Research, analysis of drugs markets and Policy projects



Final Evaluation of the Regional Program Harm Reduction Works - Fund it! EHRN

Objectives

This evaluation will cover the Regional program period from 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2016 - the timeframe before the end of the Regional program. Therefore, activities within the Program during the last quarter of the program will be still in progress.

The evaluation will be conducted for all 6 countries of the Regional program (Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Lithuania) and the region on the whole.

The key objective of the task is to provide an evaluation of the overall achievement of the Program goal and its two objectives and ways how they were achieved. The evaluation should specifically look at the following sub-components:

Building an enabling environment for sufficient, strategic and sustainable public and donors' investments in harm reduction:

1. Enabling environment for investment in harm reduction services, where evaluation would provide compression with the findings of the Baseline Assessment and the National Reports.
2. Investment in harm reduction services, where the contractor should provide insight on the potential strength/achievement and weakness/failures of the Program's work on enabling environment as reflected in the quantitative and qualitative changes in the level of investment; there are country-level reports available by EHRN from Investment Monitoring Group undertaken in the framework of the project in 2014.

Developing the capacity of the community of people who use drugs to advocate for availability and sustainability of harm reduction services that meet their needs, which includes PWUD community's capacity assessment with the focus on the following sub-components:

1. Assessment of organizational capacities of SSRs including the skill set, staffing and leadership as well as its sustainability
2. Assessment of PWUD's community's needs in technical support and assistance
3. PWUD's community analysis and overview of current structure: leadership, intergroup communication/ collaboration as well as analysis of challenges PWUD faces and that may affect community's advocacy-related activities in the next several years (in one-year and three-year period)
4. Overview of PWUD's community attitudes regarding change and support of their peers in their advocacy activities.

Product: Evaluation report

Project duration: December 2016 - March 2017

Funding: UNODC



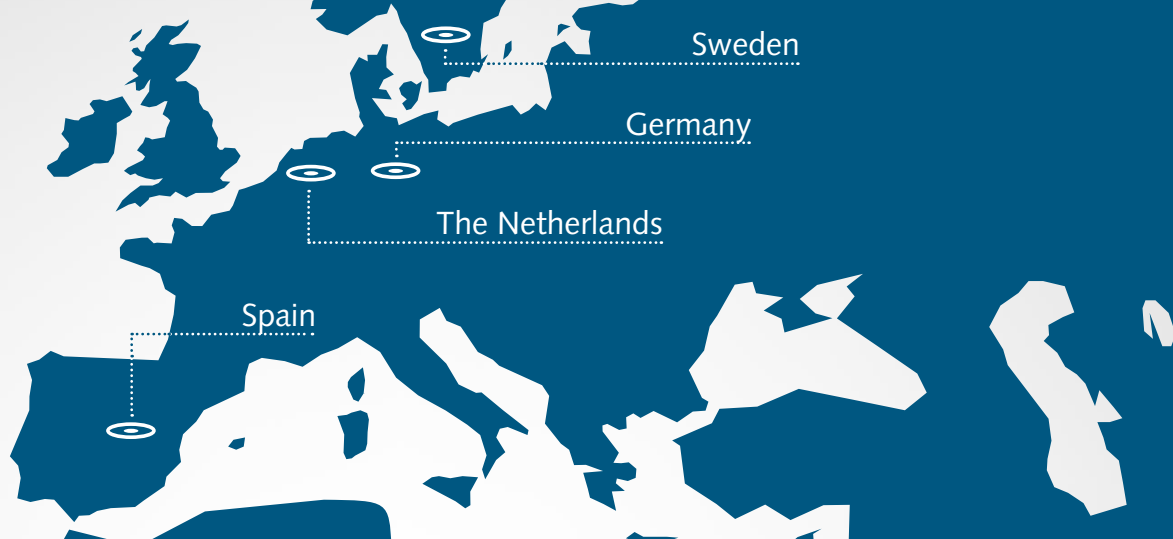
National Focal Point

The Netherlands REITOX National Focal Point for the EU drugs agency EMCDDA is based in the Drug Monitoring & Policy Program at the Trimbos Institute. There is close collaboration with the Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Security and Justice. The Reitox Focal point contributes to the EMCDDA's core task of collecting and reporting consistent, harmonised and standardised information on the drug phenomenon in the European Union. It does so by collecting information and producing comparable and scientifically sound data on the national situation on:

- The epidemiology of drug use and consequences (problem use, morbidity and mortality, drug-related supply and drug-related criminality)
- New developments in the drugs market (an early warning system), including new psychoactive substances which may pose a threat to public health
- National drug policies and responses for organising treatment, prevention and harm reduction activities.

As the national center of excellence on drugs and addiction, the majority of the core data are collected directly by the Trimbos Institute or obtained from its extensive network of partners from research institutes and other organisations. In the field of law enforcement and data on drug supply indicators, there is close collaboration with the Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Security and Justice.

Products:	All products required by the EMCDDA
Free download at:	www.trimbos.nl
Website:	National Focal Point
Funding:	EMCDDA; Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport; Ministry of Security and Justice



Predicting Risk of Emerging Drugs with In silico and Clinical Toxicology (PREDICT)

Objectives

Provide a more effective and rapid risk assessment of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in humans by identifying individual health risks (metabolomics, neurocognition, subjective experience and vital signs) of NPS. To identify NPS toxicity and to cross-validate this in humans and animals. Finally, to produce a computer-simulated tool (in silico testing) to support future risk assessments on new psychoactive substances (NPS).

Product: A metabolomic / in silico model to predict individual health risks of NPS and a standardized online survey to rapidly assess adverse effects of NPS.

Website: www.predictnps.eu

In cooperation with: University Maastricht
Prous Institute for Biomedical Research, Barcelona, Spain
Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM), Barcelona, Spain
University of Frankfurt, Germany
University of Malmö, Sweden

Project duration: 2016 - 2018

Funding: European Commission, DG Home



Project Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP VI) 2015 - 2018

Objectives

Support the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) with the development of

- A more systematised and comprehensive drug policy in the field of drug demand and harm reduction
- An institutionalised collection and analysis of reliable and objective drug-related data
- More innovative and state of the art practices of drug use prevention and drug treatment.

Trimbos Institute is leading the component on drug policy, assisting governments and other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia with the review of old and drafting of new National Drugs Strategies, Action Plans and drug legislation and with identifying and reaching consensus on drug policy needs and priorities. The key expected result is that the project will lead to an increase in knowledge, capacity and commitment of the national policy makers and other relevant stakeholders regarding the use of best practice from EU Member States for preparing balanced national strategies and policies and strategies, action plans and legislation employing European good practices, compliant with international standards and reflecting the national drug policy needs and priorities are adopted and implemented.

Product:	Reports with recommendations
Website:	www.cadap-eu.org
Project duration:	April 2015 - April 2018 (possible extension)
In cooperation with:	GIZ, Germany, project leader NBDP, Poland University of Applied Science in Frankfurt, Germany ReSAD, Czech Republic
Funding:	European Commission, DG Development and Cooperation



Assessment study drug treatment in the Republic of Croatia

Objective

Obtain insight into the needs and quality of the drug treatment system in the Republic of Croatia (health care, social welfare, legal system) in terms of available interventions, availability and implementation of intervention plans and guidelines, accessibility of treatment to clients, patient satisfaction and information on (cost)effectiveness. Main aim of the study is to analyse the state of play and provide recommendations for follow up.

Assessment questions:

The key question of this assessment study is: Is the current drug treatment system effective in addressing the objectives of the drug policy and the needs of the final beneficiaries?

This key question is divided in the following 5 sub-questions that address the key areas of the assessment study:

1. What are the main developments in the drug markets?
2. What are key trends in populations of users of these substances, and what are their needs?
3. Do the available treatment interventions cover the needs of their clients?
4. Do the treatment interventions match the professional standards and quality as described in guidelines and quality management systems?
5. Are there organisational challenges and needs?

Methods

1. Analysis of strategic/technical documents and reports (National Reports on Drug situation and Workbooks from 2011 - 2016, the National Drug Strategy 2012 - 2017 and corresponding Action plans, treatment guidelines, e.g. for Opioid substitution treatment, and other relevant documents, reports and articles.
2. Face-face interviews and focus groups with representatives from involved Ministries, drug treatment services, NGO's and other key stakeholders.

Product:	Report 'Assessment study Drug Treatment in the Republic of Croatia; Analysing the state of play and recommendations for follow up', D. van der Gouwe, B. Keizer and J.-P. Kools, 2016.
Project duration:	September 2016 - December 2016
Funding:	Government of the Republic of Croatia, Office for Combating Drugs Abuse



Expert meeting on Internet and drugs

Objectives

Explore the changes of the drug market through the use of Internet and bring together the existing knowledge and expertise. Final aim was to contribute to the knowledge base to assist the EU in identifying strategic responses to address the role of new communication technologies and the hosting of associated websites, in the production, marketing, purchasing and distribution of illicit drugs, including controlled new psychoactive substances, which is in line with Action 22 of the EU Drugs Action Plan.

Product

A report on the topic of online trade of drugs, on basis of the research and literature review done, of the outcome of the experts' meeting, of the views of relevant stakeholders and Member States and that provides for suggestions and recommendations for future action.

Project duration: January - June 2016
Funding: European Commission, DG Home



EU UNGASS

Objectives

As part of the presidency of the European Union, the Dutch government had the objective to give recommendations for the application of evidence-based interventions and best practices in the field of prevention, treatment, risk and harm reduction, recovery, social reintegration and rehabilitation.

Product

Report of the EU UNGASS Working Group 'Enhancing public health approach, based on evidence-based interventions and best practices: prevention; treatment; risk and harm reduction, recovery, social reintegration and rehabilitation'.

Project duration: 2014 - 2015

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Health



Evaluation of the Governmental Strategy and Action Plan (2010 - 2014) of Luxembourg regarding the fight against drugs and addictions

Objective

On request of the Luxembourg Ministry of Health, the Trimbos Institute has conducted an evaluation of the Governmental Strategy and Action Plan 2010 - 2014 of Luxembourg regarding the fight against drugs and addictions.

A survey was conducted through a questionnaire and face-to-face interviews with a selected group of stakeholders about the achievements of the Drugs Strategy and Action Plan, and a SWOT analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Drugs Strategy and Action Plan. This resulted in a number of recommendations for the new Drugs Strategy and Action Plan.

Product:	Report 'Evaluation of the Governmental Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2014 of Luxembourg regarding the fight against drugs and addictions, F. Trautmann and R. Braam, 2015.
Project duration:	October 2014 - February 2015
Funding:	Ministry of Health Luxembourg



Addictions and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe - Reframing Addictions Project (ALICE RAP)

Objective

Reframe the general understanding of addiction and to help redesigning addiction policy based on objective scientific evidence.

The purpose of the Trimbos Institute's (leader of the area on addiction governance) contribution was to study addictions governance by describing the views and forces that determine the ways societies steer themselves and by stock taking of present governance practices to old and emerging addictions.

In a study on addiction governance in practice the focus was on:

1. To perform a comparative analysis on national level policies on addictive substances by developing an instrument that measures the comprehensiveness and integration of public health measures and policies that reduces the harm done by addictive substances in Europe
2. To describe and analyse current practices and trends in governance implementation (programmes) in the fields of licit and illicit substances and non-substance related addictions (gambling, compulsive internet use)
3. To carry out qualitative (comparative) in-depth studies involving a selected number of countries to identify and better understand forces and factors operating in the implementation of governance/policy in four EU Member States.

Product:	Reports online
Project duration:	April 2011 - March 2016
Website:	www.alicerap.eu
Funding:	European Commission



Study on the further analysis of the EU illicit drugs market and responses to it - responding to future challenges

Objective

The focus of this study is on the EU drugs market. A more in-depth analysis and understanding of various features of the EU illicit drugs market are seen as vital for a better understanding of the drugs problem and possible ways to tackle it.

This study is a follow-up of the 2007 call of DG JLS for a 'Detailed analysis of the operation of the world market in illicit drugs and of policy measures to curtail it'. The result of that tender, a 'Report on the global illicit drugs market 1998-2007' presented an analysis of the developments of the global illicit drugs market, the drug problems and drug policy responses in the period 1998-2007 (P. Reuter and F. Trautmann, 2009).

Product:	Report 'Further insights into aspects of the illicit EU drugs market', eds. F. Trautmann, B. Kilmer and P. Turnbull, 2013.
Free download at:	trimbos.nl
Project duration:	May 2011 - November 2012
In cooperation with:	Institute for Criminal Policy Research (ICPR) RAND Europe National Centre for Addictions of Bulgaria Centre for Addictology of the Czech Republic Centre for Biostatistics and Bioinformatics of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" Instituto da Droga e da Toxicodependência (IDT) in Portugal Faculty of Health and Society of Malmö University in Sweden.
Funding:	European Commission

Evaluation of the Impacts and Strategic Outcomes of the Programme “Scaling up access to HIV prevention and treatment by strengthening HIV services for injecting drug users in the Russian Federation”

Objectives

Overall objective of the evaluation was to assess the Global Fund supported programme and activities of the Russian network ‘Non-Profit Partnership to Support Social Prevention Programmes in Health Care’ “ESVERO” (further referred to as ESVERO), which had earlier title of the Russian Harm Reduction Network. ESVERO’s policies and supported harm reduction services were assessed on the following criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.

Special objectives of the evaluation were:

- To evaluate the extent to which the Programme’s planned results, including agreed outputs and outcomes have been achieved, and how optimal were financial, human and technical inputs used to produce outputs.
- To evaluate the extent to which the Programme is recognized at the local and federal level and also among IDU and other targeted populations in terms of their commitment to use the Programme’s services further.
- To assess technical, managerial and institutional capacity of ESVERO, the Pool of Technical Advisors established by ESVERO, and its partners – service providers in the selected regions in continuation of key service delivery and advocacy activities, paying special attention and their current status in 4 months after the Programme’s end date.
- To identify specific organizational, methodological and financial needs of ESVERO and its partners – service providers in revival of the interrupted key harm reduction services.

Special attention in the evaluation was been given to the transitional funding phase of the ESVERO programming in the Russian Federation.

Product: Detailed evaluation report providing the key findings, conclusions and key recommendations for follow up programming.

Project duration: January - May 2012



Mid-term Evaluation UNODC 'Partnership on effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Vulnerable Groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe'

Objectives

The overarching goal of the project is to improve availability, coverage and quality of HIV services for injecting drug users and prisoners in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (and Azerbaijan until 2013).

The project is aimed to address the following challenges:

- Lack of the full range of HIV-related health and social protection services that are required for meeting the needs of drug users and people in detention;
- Poor quality and low capacity of existing services to provide for the scale of coverage of MARPs necessary to contain HIV epidemic and influence public health in general;
- Inadequate integration of HIV-related interventions in primary health care as well as in social protection services, weak referral mechanisms within and between these services and low-threshold services that translates into insufficient continuity of care, patients/clients' reversions to risk-behaviours, interruption of ARV and TB treatment and the development of multi-resistant forms of diseases;
- Outdated state monitoring and evaluation systems that prevent clear measuring the access of MARPs to health and social protection services and the effectiveness and efficiency of those services; Insufficient involvement of the police and other law enforcement forces in constructive partnerships with health care and social protection agencies and organizations who provide services for drug users and people in detention.

The ultimate project's beneficiaries are injecting drug users and prisoners since the project aims at improving availability, coverage and quality of HIV services for these two groups.

However, policy and decision makers at national and provincial level, managers and other staff of governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the area of healthcare, social protection, law enforcement and justice sectors also directly benefit from the project.

The project also works with professional education systems in order to mainstream HIV into the systems of graduate and continuous training of health, social and law enforcement professionals.

Product:

Mid-term Evaluation "Partnership on effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Vulnerable Groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe – Phase II" XCEA01 Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova and Ukraine, D. van der Gouwe and B. Uitterhaegen.



Final Evaluation 'HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings in Romania'

Objectives

This final evaluation targets the overall aim of the project: "to increase coverage of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services among injecting drug users and in selected prison settings in Romania."

This overall goal is linked to two performance indicators:

- That the project should contribute (alongside other donors) to IDU HIV prevention services coverage of >35% in Bucharest and at least 35% "in other localities".
- That the project should establish HIV prevention services in selected prison settings.

The project identifies three primary objectives:

1. Increase access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services for injecting drug users and in prison settings in Romania;
2. Create a supportive environment and ensure sustainability of HIV/AIDS prevention and care services for injecting drug users and in prison settings;
3. Generate and share strategic information to keep the programme on track and to respond appropriately to the rapidly evolving HIV/AIDS epidemics among IDU and in prison settings

Product: Final Evaluation ROMJ19 "HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings in Romania", D. van der Gouwe and J.-P. Kools, November 2011.



Evaluation of the Croatian National Drug Strategy 2006-2012

Objective

The envisaged evaluation was meant as a critical analysis of the implementation of the Croatian National Drug Strategy 2006 - 2012. The aim was to serve policy relevant information to the stakeholders involved in making and implementing drug policy in Croatia.

The focus of this evaluation was on the following questions:

- What were the key problems addressed by the current drug strategy and action plans?
- Did the Drug Strategy cover all relevant issues?
- Which of the plans formulated in the Drug Strategy have been realised?
- What were the main outputs (services, products, collaborations) that resulted of the implementation of the strategy and action plan?
- Did these actions contribute to the realisation of the objectives of the Croatian Drug Strategy?
- How do stakeholders assess the quality of the achievements?
- What were the strong and weak points of the implementation of the Action Plans?
- What were the main difficulties and opportunities encountered during the implementation?
- What changes were observed in the drug situation during the implementation of the strategy?
- What are priority needs to be addressed in the future Drug Strategy?
- What are the opportunities and difficulties for these future plans?

Product:	Report 'Evaluation of the National Drug Strategy of the Republic of Croatia (2006-2012)', F. Trautmann, R. Braam, B. Keizer and M. Lap, 2011.
Project duration:	May/June 2011 - January 2012
In cooperation with:	Office for Combating Drugs Abuse of the Government of the Republic of Croatia CVO Addiction Research Centre, the Netherlands
Funding:	EMCDDA



Evaluation of the HIV/AIDS Strategy and Action Plan (2006 - 2010) of Luxembourg

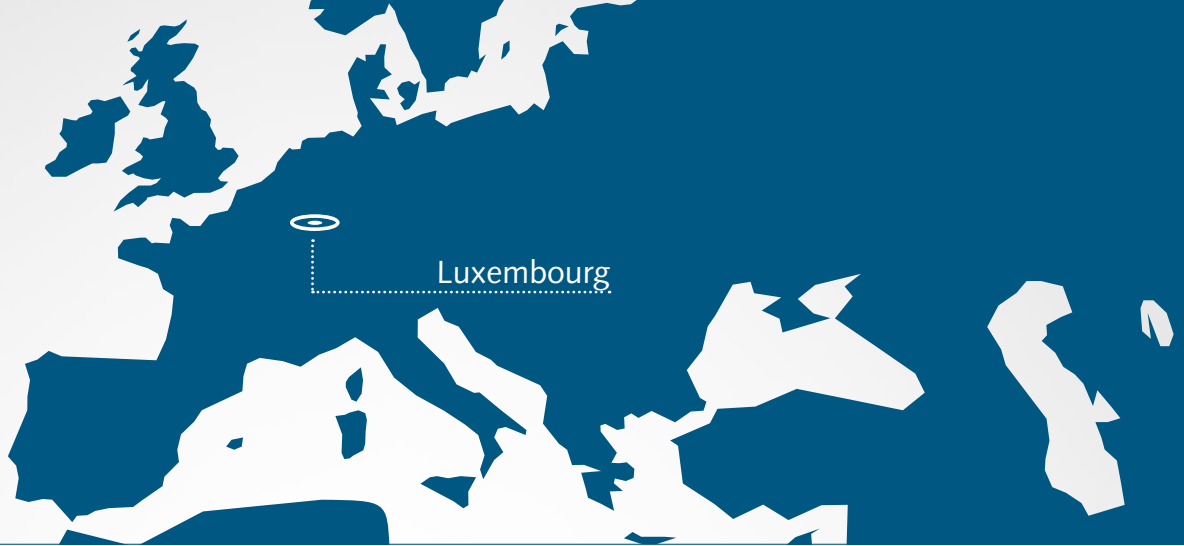
Objectives

The envisaged evaluation was meant as a critical analysis of the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Strategy and Action Plan of Luxembourg 2006 - 2010. The aim was to serve policy relevant information to the stakeholders involved in making and implementing HIV/AIDS policy in Luxembourg.

The evaluation focussed on the following questions:

- *Priorities*: Do the Strategy and Action Plan address in an appropriate way the priorities put forward by the different stakeholders, e.g. by clear problem definitions and clearly defined actions?
- *Conditions*: Were conditions sufficient to realise the actions formulated in Strategy and Action Plan, e.g. by serving the necessary instruments and resources, and by dividing and defining the responsibilities and by facilitating cooperation between the different stakeholders? Has the existing co-ordination structure proved to be appropriate and efficient?
- *Results*: Did the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Strategy and Action Plan result in the realisation of the envisaged actions?
- *Process*: Did the process of policy formulation and implementation go well (managed appropriately, allowing and taking-up input from all stakeholders, etc.)?

Product:	Report 'Evaluation of the Strategy and Action Plan to combat HIV/AIDS (2006-2010) of Luxembourg', F. Trautmann and R. Braam, 2010.
Project duration:	January 2010 – August 2010
In cooperation with:	CVO Addiction Research Centre
Funding:	Ministry of Health Luxembourg



Evaluation of the National Drug Action Plan (2005 - 2009) of Luxembourg

Objective

Analyse and evaluate the implementation of the Luxembourg Drug Action Plan to deliver policy-relevant data for developing new action plans.

A survey was conducted through a questionnaire and face-to-face interviews with a selected group of stakeholders about the achievements of the Drugs Strategy and Action Plan, and a SWOT analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Drugs Strategy and Action Plan. This resulted in a number of recommendations for the new Drugs Strategy and Action Plan.

Product:	Report 'Evaluation of the National Drug Action Plan (2005-2009) of Luxembourg', F. Trautmann and R. Braam, 2009.
Free download at:	trimbos.nl
Project duration:	June 2009 - December 2009
In cooperation with:	CVO Addiction Research Centre
Funding:	Luxembourg Ministry of Health



Detailed analysis of the operation of the World market in illicit drugs and of policy measures to curtail it

Objective

Provide an analysis of the main characteristics, mechanisms and factors that govern the global illicit drugs market and to examine the extent to which perception of this issue matches reality.

Key issues

- Analysis of the operation of the global market for illicit drugs (Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS))
- What has happened to the market 1998 - 2007?
- What were the policies of the period?
- How did these policies affect the markets?

The report provides the key findings of a project assessing how the global market for drugs developed from 1998 to 2007 and describing drug policy around the globe during that period. To the extent data allows, the project assessed how much policy measures, at the national and sub-national levels, have influenced drug problems. The analysis is focused on policy relevant matters but it does not attempt to make recommendations to governments.

Product:	Report on Global Illicit Drug markets 1998-2007, eds. P. Reuter and F. Trautmann, 2007.
Free download at:	trimbos.nl
Project duration:	December 2007 - May 2009
In cooperation with:	Rand Organisation
Funding:	European Commission Directorate-General for Freedom, Justice and Security



Evaluation of the methadone programmes in Slovenia

Objectives

- Capacity building
- Development of an evaluation tool
- Piloting the evaluation tool
- Train-the-trainer seminars for staff on designing the evaluation tool and execution of the evaluation
- Recommendations for the improvement of the quality of methadone programmes.

The evaluation included the following elements:

- Rationale, aims and evidence for the effectiveness of SMT
- Force field analysis
- Assessment of the SMT quality (including patient satisfaction)
- Assessment of the efficiency of the SMTCs
- A rough comparison with pre-selected reference countries.

Product:	Report 'Evaluation of methadone programmes in Slovenia', F. Trautmann, 2007.
Project duration:	March 2007 - October 2007
In cooperation with:	University of Ljubljana
Funding:	Slovenian Ministry of Health, European Commission, Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection



Mid-term evaluation UNODC Regional Office for Russian Federation and Belarus - Scaling up and improving access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs for injecting drugs and in prison setting in the Russian Federation

Objectives

The overall goal of the project was to assist the Russian Federation (RF) to halt and reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemics among injecting drug users (IDUs) and in prison settings. The evaluation covered the first half of the full implementation period, November 2006-November 2008 and focused on the following objectives of the project:

1. Build national consensus on effective implementation strategies to address HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users and in prisons.
2. Increase coverage of HIV prevention and care services to IDU and in prison settings.
3. Generate and share strategic information to keep the project on track and to respond appropriately to the rapidly evolving HIV/AIDS epidemics among injecting drug users and in prison settings.

The focus of the mid-term evaluation has primarily been on the progress made on objective 2. However the evaluation team also considered whether the project is on its way to meet the other two objectives by 2010. The evaluation team has studied all the relevant documents and conducted about 50 interviews with groups of stakeholders and additionally 11 interviews with groups of clients. In total about 200 people were interviewed. The preliminary findings were discussed at a stakeholders meeting held on 5 March, Moscow and additional comments and feedback are processed in this draft.

Product:	Report 'MID-TERM EVALUATION TDRUSJ17. Scaling-up and increasing access to HIV prevention and care programs among injecting drug users and in prison settings in the Russian Federation'.
Project duration:	2006 - 2010
Funding:	Dutch Government through the UNODC HIV/AIDS Unit in Vienna



Combating drug-related criminal activities in Macedonia

Objective

Improve drugs policy and coordination capacities in the country.

The work focused on the following issues:

- Creation of an Action Plan on Drugs based on the National Drugs Strategy (NDS)
- Implementation of the National Drugs Strategy
- Strengthening of the national drugs coordination mechanism
- Improved information capacities
- Preparation of legislation for a National Reitox Focal Point preparation of legislation on statistical data collection
- Review of relevant EU third-pillar legislation - licensing and control legislation - legislative harmonisation with EU legislation
- Effective drug demand reduction models piloted, evaluated and made ready for nation-wide application
- Primary drugs prevention programmes developed and made ready for implementation
- Culture-sensitive, community-based programmes for minorities prepared
- Information materials available for distribution
- Website operational and regularly updated
- Effective drug supply reduction capacities piloted, evaluated and made ready for nationwide implementation
- Information and coordination centre on supply reduction prepared
- Licensing and control of licit activities (narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and chemical precursors) strengthened and improved.

Product: Report 'Combating Drugs related Criminal Activity in Macedonia'.

Project duration: May 2006 - September 2007

In cooperation with: National Institute for the Prevention of Drugs, Hungary and the Ministry of Health of Macedonia (project leader)

Funding: European Commission (Twinning project)



Inventory of activities related to the prevention and reduction of health-related harm associated with drug dependence

Objective

Assess the state of affairs of harm reduction services in EU Member States.

In June 2003, the Council of Health Ministers of the European Union adopted a series of recommendations aimed at preventing or reducing health-related harm in drug users. The EU-wide implementation of these recommendations was to be evaluated in 2005.

Trimbos Institute was commissioned by the European Commission (EC) to perform a mapping exercise in the then 25 EU member states as well as a literature review on the most effective measures to prevent or reduce drug-related health damage. These investigations were carried out under the coordination of the EC and in cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

In addition to verifying whether the Council recommendations had been implemented, the project also sought to map out the current drug-related prevention and harm reduction activities within the EU. In some components of the project, the Trimbos Institute worked with experts from the Mainline Foundation and the Amsterdam Municipal Health Service. In mid-2006, the Trimbos Institute delivered its conclusions and recommendations to the EC, which reported the findings back to an expert committee. The results were submitted to the member states in late 2006. Partly on the basis of this mapping exercise, new recommendations for further action were developed.

Product:	Report 'Prevention and reduction of health related harm associated with drug dependence: An inventory of policies, evidence and practices in the EU, relevant to the implementation of the Council Recommendation of 18 June 2003', D. van der Gouwe, M. Gallà, A. van Gageldonk, E. Croes, J. Engelhardt, M. van Laar and M. Buster, 2006.
Free download at:	trimbos.nl
Project duration:	October 2004 - January 2006
In cooperation with:	EMCDDA Mainline Foundation Amsterdam Municipal Health Service (GG&GD)
Funding:	European Commission



Evaluation of the implementation of the Hungarian National Strategy to Combat Drugs

Objective

Develop an instrument for evaluating the Hungarian National Strategy to Combat Drugs from 2000 to 2004.

The project consisted of two key elements:

- Methodology and capacity for the evaluation of the National strategy to combat drugs is developed by carrying out a (partial) evaluation of the medium-term priorities of this strategy
- Co-ordination of policy evaluation and formulation of drugs policy is strengthened.

Thus, besides evaluating the implementation of the National Drug Strategy, which is the main focus of this report, the MATRA project also aimed at reflecting on how to strengthen the existing coordination structure in the field of drug policy in Hungary.

Results

- Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Drugs
- Recommendations for the further implementation of the National Drug Strategy
- Recommendations for the improvement of the national coordination structure.

Product:	Report 'Evaluation of the implementation of the national strategy to combat drugs', M. Gallà, A. van Gageldonk, F. Trautmann and H. Verbraeck, 2006.
Project duration:	January 2004 - October 2005
In cooperation with:	CVO Addiction Research Centre
Funding:	EVD, Agency for International Business and Cooperation, Trimbos-institute, Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs



Implementation National Drug Strategy Estonia

Objectives

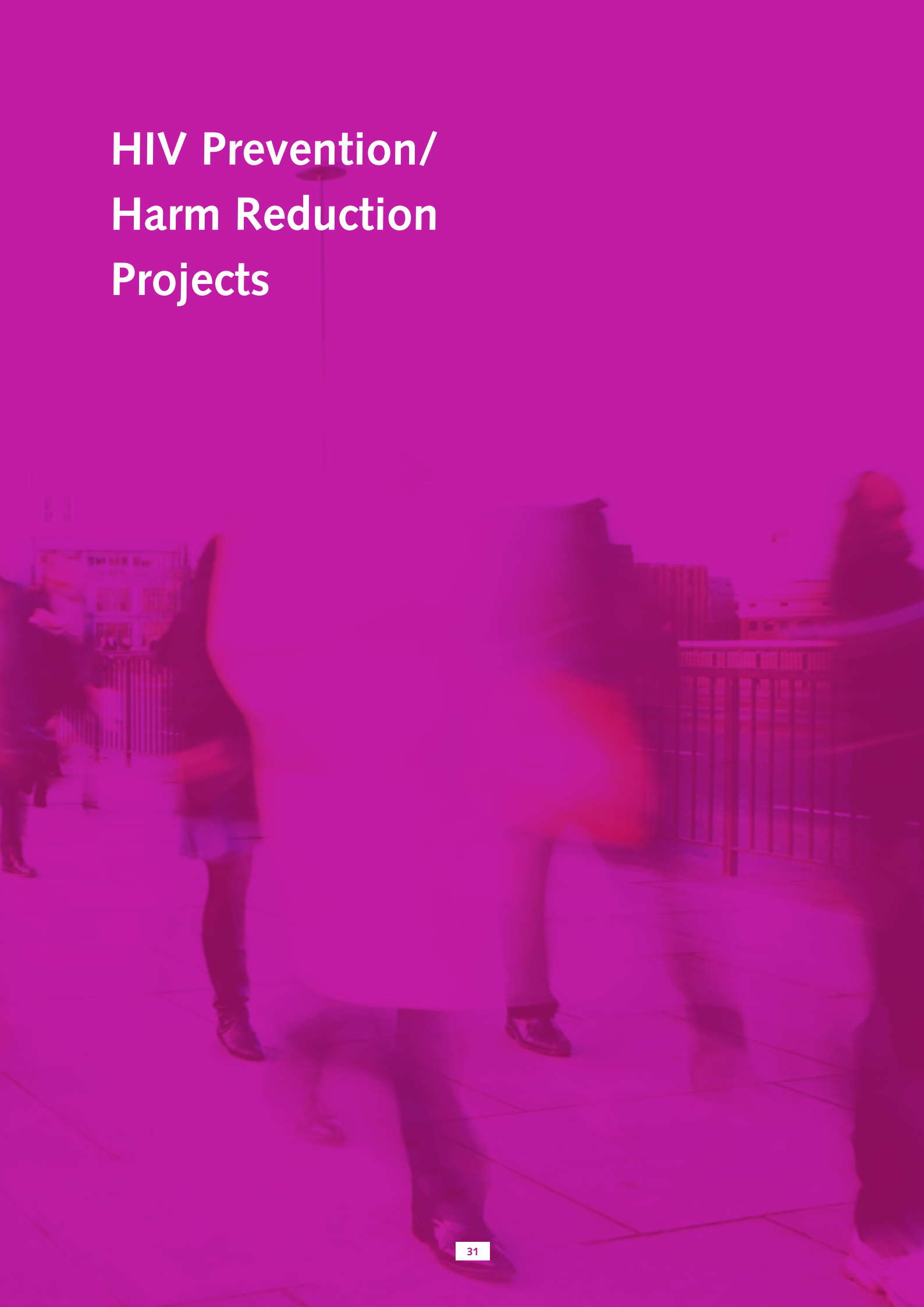
- Assist the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia in implementing a professional system of drug treatment and rehabilitation
- Make a network of health care and social support services operational.

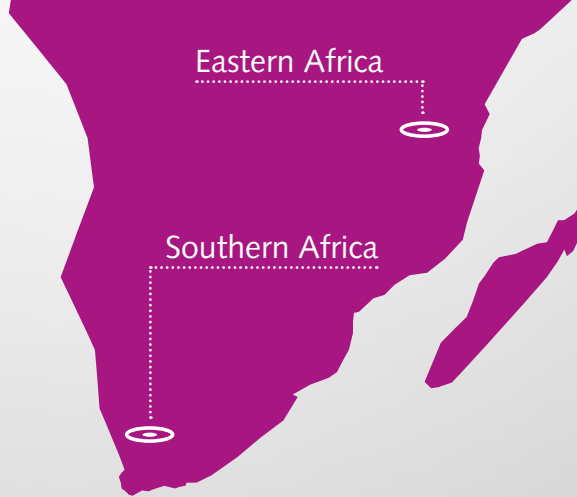
The focus of the work was on the following issues:

- Concept for setting up 2 treatment centres is developed
- Network of outreach work is operational and linked to the treatment and rehabilitation centres, with trained staff
- Needs analysis list and specifications of equipment for treatment and rehabilitation centres and grant contracts drawn up and procurement is prepared.

Product:	Report 'Implementation and further development of the National Drug Strategy Estonia', F. Trautmann, A. Taal, A. Kurbatova and M. Koopmans, 2005.
Project duration:	2004 - 2005
In cooperation with:	Estonian Ministry of Health
Funding:	European Commission, Twinning project

HIV Prevention/ Harm Reduction Projects





Project HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support in Prison Settings in Sub-Saharan Africa

Objective

Support development of health- and rights-based HIV policies and services in correctional services in 11 countries in Southern and Eastern Africa. The project has been part of the multiyear programme of the UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa to support prison health in the region. The Trimbo Institute has been providing guidance on prison health and has developed supportive instruments to strengthen the existing HIV/TB/health services in prison settings. Sets of guidelines, standard operational procedures and training manuals on a number of key items related to HIV and TB prevention, treatment and care on a number of key topics were developed:

- Voluntary Counselling and Testing in prison settings
- Psychosocial counselling for People Living With HIV/AIDS in prison settings
- Counselling for Most At Risk Populations in prison settings
- Condom Programming in prison settings
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission in prison settings
- Collaborative HIV-TB activities in prison settings
- Anti-Retroviral Treatment services in prison settings.

Each of these guidelines will be complemented by the development of relevant training manuals and curricula, and be introduced and presented to the member states in regional events to reach a consensus and support national implementation. The consultancy will further assist to update the UNODC publication *"HIV in Prisons in Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunity for Action"*.

Project duration: April 2014 - April 2016
In cooperation with: Foundation of Professional Development (FPD), Pretoria
Funding: UNODC South Africa



Harm reduction in the Turkish prison system

Objective

Develop harm reduction programmes and practices in prisons and to lay a foundation for drug addiction treatment programmes in prisons in Turkey.

The project focused on:

- Information and education of prison staff and drug users
- Basic knowledge of prisoners on personal hygiene and preventive measures
- Information for the surroundings of prisoners such as family, partner and friends.

Health promotion activities were implemented to be the foundation for the further development of:

- Health care, health education and health promotion for prisoners
- Safety and good detention climate for prisoners
- Safety and good working conditions for personnel
- Programmes and treatment for drug users in prisons.

Activities included:

- A Rapid Assessment (RAR) including development of a RAR-manual geared to the Turkish situation
- Study visit to the Netherlands
- Training of staff about health promotion (covering mental health, infectious and communicable diseases, drugs and drug use)
- Supporting the development of information and education material
- Supporting day programme development and peer work in prisons
- Developing programmes to involve and support family/partners/friends of inmates
- Intervention of prison staff
- Training of trainers.

Project duration: January 2010 - December 2011

In cooperation with: NHC and Ministry of Justice (project leader)
Turkish Ministry of Justice
Yeniden Health and Education Society
Ümraniye prison

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs



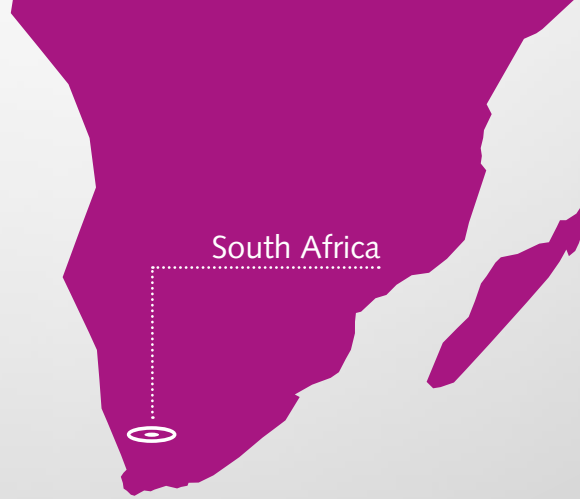
Correlation II - European Network Social Inclusion and Health

Objectives

The Trimbos Institute participated in the EC-supported project Correlation II (2009-2011), whose aim is 'to tackle health inequalities in Europe and to improve prevention, care and treatment services, targeting blood-borne infectious diseases (BBID), in particular Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS among vulnerable and high risk populations (e.g. drug users and young people at risk).'

The activities to update the Peer Support Manual were coordinated by the Trimbos Institute. The on line manual describes experiences, good practices and lessons already learned from peer support in Europe. Its ultimate aim is to initiate and facilitate the design and implementation of peer support programmes for drug users, that are effective and are based on principles of genuine meaningful involvement. The manual provides support and inspiration to both service providers and peer initiatives in the drug field as well as in other areas of health promotion and social care for vulnerable groups.

Product:	Updated on line Peer Support Manual The final product can be found on www.peerinvolvement.eu
Project duration:	April 2009 - March 2012
In cooperation with:	Rainbow Foundation (Amsterdam), project leader
Funding:	European Commission



Developing HIV prevention services among drug using populations and among prisoners in South Africa

Objectives

Main objective of the project was to address the HIV epidemic among people using drugs in South Africa by developing targeted public health programmes and services. The project followed the findings of an earlier AIDS Fonds commissioned assessment on HIV risk among in the Sub Saharan region and concentrated on South Africa that has established a emerging drug market and substantial drug using populations.

The initiative had the following special objectives:

- Assess the nature and extent of HIV risk among drug users, of priority needs, of current services, of resources and support for HIV prevention services in South Africa
- Assist in developing 'African' HIV prevention and harm reduction
- Advocate for effective and inclusive HIV prevention approach among national and local policy makers

Methodology

The project used a series of Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR). The RAR methodology provides a good community-based instrument that provides insights at low costs, in limited time and builds local support and ownership for the identified responses.

Final results

- 3 local Rapid Assessment and Responses in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria focussing on assessing the situation and preparing adequate interventions
- Series of advocacy and training events among key stakeholders and local communities in the 3 project regions and among national actors like the Central Drug Authority, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development
- Detailed evaluation report providing the key findings, conclusions and key recommendations for follow up programming.

The project catalysed the development of harm reduction policies and services in the country. Significant success was noted from discussions with Departments of Health, Social Development and the Central Drug Authority, who recognise the need on developing effective HIV responses for drug using populations. The initiative from the Trimbos Institute has been instrumental in widening up the window of opportunity for effective drugs/health policies in South Africa.

Product: Report 'Developing HIV prevention services among drug using populations and among prisoners in South Africa', J.-P. Kools and F. Trautmann, 2015

Project duration: September 2009 - December 2010

In cooperation with: SMART, Capetown
South African Aids Association, Johannesburg
Foundation for Professional Development, Pretoria

Funding: Dutch Aids Fonds

Prevention Projects





Prevention and education among young people through social networking

Objective

Increasing awareness, knowledge and skills of young people to cope with risky substance consumption in nightlife settings via social media.

A website, smartphone app and Facebook are integrated with the aim to connect young people interactively and to increase awareness to look out for each other while clubbing. This intervention will provide also information about the risks of alcohol and drug use and how to act in case of drug incidents.

Functionalities of the smartphone app:

- Create a personal account or use your Facebook account
- Create friend groups to communicate during clubbing
- Individual and group chats with friends
- The option to share GPS location when clubbing
- Assessing nightlife venues and sharing GPS locations with friends
- Creating reminders and tips how to support safe clubbing and getting home safely for yourself and your friends, in combination with GPS location
- Information about the effects and risks of alcohol use and the main nightlife drugs
- First Aid in case of drug incidents: info and illustrations what to do in case of a drug or alcohol incident. An 'emergency button' that calls 112 automatically
- Internet links to useful websites in the Netherlands and other European countries.

Product: Smartphone apps and interactive information website

Project duration: 2013 - 2015

Website: www.partyfriends.eu

In cooperation with: Solidarnost, Bulgaria
NIHD, Estonia
SICAD, Portugal
Sananim, Czech Republic

Funding: European Commission



Strengthening community-based drug prevention and intervention for young people in Kosovo

Objective

Strengthen community-based drug prevention and intervention activities for young people in Kosovo.

Results

- National Action Plan on drugs education and prevention
- Building up expertise of the inter-ministerial anti-drugs committee
- Providing technical support to the inter-ministerial anti-drugs committee in translating the national anti-drugs strategy into a national action plan
- National school-based drug prevention programme
- Building up expertise of local stakeholders in the development and implementation of school-based drug prevention programme
- Providing technical support in the development of a drugs prevention programme in cooperation with 8 pilot schools
- Providing technical support in the developing and implementing of a national drug prevention programme based on good practices of the 8 pilot schools
- National curriculum on substance use and counselling skills for primary health care providers
- Training of trainers of primary health care trainers in substance use and counselling skills
- Providing technical support in the development of a national curriculum on substance use and counselling skills that will part of the Continuous Learning Programme for health care workers in Kosovo
- Learning network for local-level drug demand reduction
- Organising workshops and meetings to exchange expertise and information among all stakeholders in the field of drug demand and supply reduction.

Project duration: September 2009 - February 2012

In cooperation with: Kosova Health Foundation

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Establishing a school-based drug prevention programme in Macedonia

Objectives

- Develop and implement a school-based drug prevention programme in Macedonia, in cooperation with the Macedonian NGO Healthy Options Skopje (HOPS)
- Train a team of prevention workers in drug prevention, after which it will develop the prevention programme for schools in cooperation with schools, municipalities and other stakeholders in three pilot cities (Skopje, Strumica and Tetevo).

Final results

- Setting up a team of six drug prevention workers (Macedonian- or Albanian-speaking)
- A School-based drug prevention programme (consisting of drug education modules, information brochures, school protocols and an implementation manual)
- Expert group on drug prevention working from the Education Ministry
- Incorporation of the school-based drug prevention programme by the Education Ministry into school curricula in Macedonia.

Project duration: November 2008 - October 2011

In cooperation with: NGO Healthy Options Skopje (HOPS)

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands Ministry of the Interior



Establishing a Bulgarian drugs helpline and interactive information website

Objective

The aim of the helpline is to raise awareness about drugs, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in Bulgarian society. More specifically, young people and parents and family of psychoactive substance users can get information on drugs and related problems. They can also receive consultation through telephone, e-mail and chat interaction, a public Internet forum and a drugs information website. The helpline is anonymous and strives to be as objective, evidence-based and accessible as possible.

Final results

- Creation of a drugs and alcohol helpline and an interactive information website in Bulgaria
- Staff trained in telephone, e-mail and chat counselling and in operating and maintaining the helpline and information website
- Effective public relations activities.

Project duration: May 2008 - February 2010

In cooperation with: Bulgarian NGO Solidarnost

Website: www.drugsinfo-bg.org/en

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Developing a community-based drug prevention programme for schools in Bulgaria

Objective

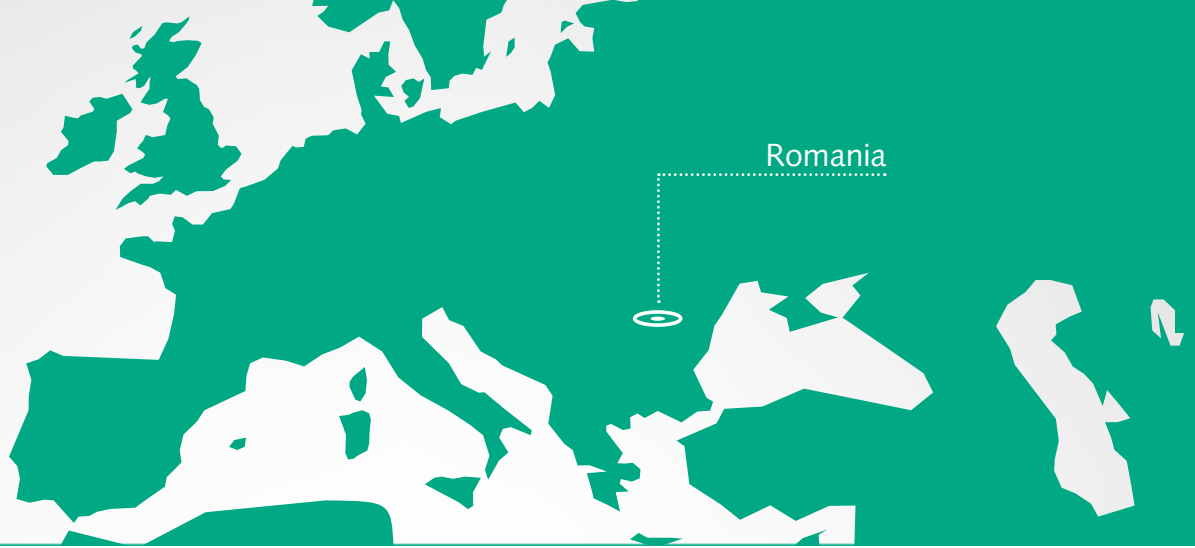
Establish a school-based drug prevention programme that was geared to the complex social, economic and community contexts existing in Bulgaria.

After the fall of Communism in 1989, there was an increase in both the use and the diversity of illicit drugs in Bulgaria, especially among young people. This pilot project developed school-based drug prevention programmes that were embedded in local communities or neighbourhoods. Three schools in Sofia, Kazanlak and Blagoevgrad served as experimental sites where school-wide programmes were developed. To ensure optimal embedding, the Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR) methodology was used to develop a prevention strategy for the local neighbourhoods or communities surrounding the pilot project.

Product:	Report 'Support of the development of a coherent, effective and comprehensive community-based drug prevention programme for school education in Bulgaria', M. Gallà, 2007.
Project duration:	2003 - 2007
In cooperation with:	Secretariat, Bulgarian National Drug Council (NDC) Bulgarian State Agency for Child Protection (SACP)
Funding:	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Matra Programme Implementation Division (DZO/UM)

Treatment Projects





Support for the development of community mental health services in Romania

Objectives

- Increase the quality, accessibility and acceptability of mental health care services
- Political criteria: institutional stability to guarantee democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the rights of minorities.

Project purpose

Improvement of the Mental Health services in Romania through the following tasks:

- Develop community mental health services as alternatives to hospitalization, providing treatment in the least restrictive environment
- Improve the quality of hospital care
- Develop links with the primary sector of care.

Project duration: November 2007 - November 2009

In cooperation with: Agency for European Integration and Economic Development, Austria (project leader)

Funding: European Commission, Twinning project



Russian Federation

Development of drug treatment options in the Russian Federation

Objective

Create and implement treatment and reintegration services for drug users as essential part of a coherent and integral treatment programme in some important regions of the Russian Federation, especially Yaroslavl.

Final results

- Knowledge and expertise transfer in the field of treatment and reintegration from other parts of the world and to adapt this knowhow to the specific needs and characteristics of the Russian society.
- Development of the expertise in the field of pre- and post-detoxification therapies and the treatment among the Russian health professionals. This was achieved by trainings, seminars and coaching.

Product: Report 'Development of drug treatment options in the Russian Federation'.

Project duration: 2002 - 2003

Funding: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign affairs, MATRA project

