

Participatory groups as key players of drug policy in Brno and a basis for future action

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Mission of your organization

- We are a non-profit non-governmental organisation founded in 1991 in Brno, Czech Republic, providing a network of complex services to assist people at any stage of their drugs problem or, alternatively, to prevent the problem from happening
- One of the largest NGOs providing drug services in Czech Republic (more than 100 employees, 50 programmes, 4 czech regions)
- Many different services (e.g. Prevention, Low-threshold Harm Reduction programmes, Outreach programmes, Treatment and Counseling, Methadone substitution therapy, programmes for pathological gamblers, etc.)

Background

- Participatory groups as a part of new urban drug strategy in Brno for 2017 - 2020
 - group of HRDI (high risk drug users)
 - recovery group
 - nightlife/recreational DU's group
 - group of key persons from social excluded locality
- Established during drug survey in 2016 – bring their own ideas about their possible future action
- Groups will serve as a counselling teams for setting the drug policy in Brno and as a realizator of their specific project

HRDI group

- 5 active PWUD (people who use drugs)
- Started as a counsellors for new drug strategy (already 3 meetings)
- Their own projects drafts:
 - To establish a foodbank
 - To collect dirty needles in areas not covered by outreach workers and police
 - To educate professionals (doctors, police, social worker,...) about their daily life and struggles (bringing the „client“ perspective)
 - Bringing inovative ideas to Harm reduction services in the city
 - Part of „Early warning system“ (reporting about new possibly dangerous drugs in the streets)

Recovery group

- 10 people (formal drug users and gamblers) – already 2 meetings
- Recovered in different ways (in/outpatient; self-recovery, support groups, etc...)
- Discussing ideas of:
 - Recovery couches
 - Education of drug professionals
 - Bringing innovative possibilities in drug treatment services in the city

Nightlife group

- Variability of participants: clubowners, security guards, recreational drug users, taxi drivers, dealers (with coverd identity)
- Not yet established
- Function:
 - Part of „Early warning system“ (reporting about new possibly dangerous drugs in the streets)
 - Setting safer condition of urban drug policy towards nightlife
 - General monitoring of the recreational drug scene

Objectives

- Groups will be facilitated towards their self-sustainability
- Groups will be interlinked with city council and service delivery organisation
- Facilitation of the process of group leadership
- Focus on the education of other professionals and fulfilling their own projects

Thanks for Your Attention

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