Positive developments and lessons learnt from national processes in CEECA countries

the thematic discussions in preparations for the ministerial segment of the 62nd session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs (CND)

23 October 2018

Olga Belyaeva Eurasian Harm Reduction Association
EHRA sets regional and national agenda and harm reduction with the meaningful involvement of community of people who use drugs

_Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) is a non-for-profit public membership-based organisation, registered by the initiative of harm reduction activists and organised from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECAs) in 2017.

We strive for a progressive human rights-based drug policy, sustainable funding advocacy and quality of harm reduction services oriented on needs of people who use drugs._

**7**

**SUB-REGIONS**

Baltics, Central Europe, South-Eastern Europe, European Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Caucasus, Russia, Central Asia

**29**

**COUNTRIES**

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

**247**

**MEMBERS**

Association is a membership-based network. Now the Association includes 247 members from CEEC region

Support. Don't Punish Day. Kazakhstan OST

On June 26, 2018, participants of substitution therapy programs, along with harm reduction organizations in Lithuania, Estonia, the UK, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Russia, held rallies near the embassies of the Republic of Kazakhstan and published photos and video messages calling to save the OST program in Kazakhstan. A community of people who use drugs and people living with HIV in Kazakhstan, our friends and partners held the event in Astana to support the program.
In EECA **up to 50%** of prisoners are **people who use drugs**

*Distribution of new HIV cases among people who inject drugs*

**EECA**
- People who inject drugs: 51%
- General population: 49%

**World**
- People who inject drugs: 8%
- General population: 92%
Positive developments on national level

- **Estonia.** June 2018. New project SÜTIK with the main goal to socialize people living with addiction.

- **Lithuania.** October 2018. Parliament legitimated cannabis derived medicines (enters into power in May, 2019), and researches with all substances from the 1st list are allowed.
Positive developments on national level

• **Sakartvelo/Georgia** There are 4 legislative bills in parliamentary pipeline now: Decrim Bill, Rights Law, Cannabis consumption regulation and Regulation of Cannabis cultivation and production for medical and industrial use.

• **Kyrgyzstan – 2019.** New Codes of Misconduct and Crime with some positive aspects: it clears up the alternative to punishment in the form of rehabilitation; the implementation of probation.
Lesson learnt and feedback from people who use drugs (1)

• 01.10.2018 *Police detained a person with a syringe containing 0.002 grams of narcotic drugs (meth). He faces 6 years in a jail.*

• Decriminalization bill – stuck on first iteration with committees.

• *Cannabis consumption regulation*, if accepted and made as a law, will come in contradiction with the last Constitutional court decision (legalizing Cannabis consumption).
Lesson learnt feedback from people who use drugs (2)

Lithuania

• Re-criminalized all drugs since 2017
• The same year up to 1400 people, age 18-29, got criminal record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIMINALIZATION COSTS</th>
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<th>europa</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSION OF DRUGS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANNABIS (herbal)</td>
<td>0.5 g</td>
<td>5-500 g</td>
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<tr>
<td>HERIN</td>
<td>0.02 g</td>
<td>0.02-2 g</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDMA</td>
<td>0.2 g</td>
<td>0.2-20 g</td>
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<tr>
<td>COCAINE</td>
<td>0.2 g</td>
<td>0.2-20 g</td>
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<td>frailty / criminal</td>
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Kyrgyzstan

• 2019 The penalty for possession of small amount is from 500 to 4000 Euro (average salary is 14 Euro per month).
• If one can`t pay during three months, imprisonment up to 2.5 years
• + upon release a person must pay 50% of the fine

*2018 - only 2 out of 10 PWUD are able to pay fine up to 400 Euro.
State responsibility for our health and human rights

• **#Save OST in Kazakhstan:**
  
  Kazakhstan the community advocacy efforts are aimed on saving the OST program, which is at risk of closure,

• in **Belarus** - on getting take-home OST pills to keep socialization going.
Any conventions can't abolish countries’ obligations to protect the rights of citizens to get the highest attainable level of health and well-being.