BASIC VOLUME
Elements of Drug Dependence Treatment
Module 1

Drug dependence concept and principles of drug treatment

1. Biology of drug dependence
2. Addiction and the brain
3. Principles of drug dependence treatment and care
Addiction and the brain
Training objectives

At the end of this workshop you will be able to:

► Understand the mechanisms leading to vulnerability to start using drugs and become dependent

► Understand why people affected by drug dependence require treatment
Addiction is a brain disease that is chronic and relapsing in nature.
How brain works
How neurons work
Examples of natural rewards:

- Food
- Water
- Sex
- Nurturing
How the reward system works
Let’s think!

► How is addiction perceived in your country?

► What do you think should be done to educate people in your country about addiction?

► Do you think it is important to shift from a belief of „weakness“ to understanding addiction as a disease? Why?
Activating the system with drugs
The brain after drug use
Partial recovery of brain dopamine transporters in methamphetamine (METH) user after protracted abstinence
The brain after drug use
Let’s discuss!

► How do changes in brain make it difficult for people to quit drugs?

► How drugs affect brain and behaviour? Can you refer to different types of drugs?

► Can you think of a case from your practice, which you could relate to a patient’s particular behaviour?
Why do people continue drug use?

After repeated drug use, “deciding” to use drugs is no longer voluntary because

DRUGS AFFECT THE BRAIN!
Questions
Wrap-up

► Is quitting drugs just a matter of self-control? Why?

► Why do people with drug dependence and addiction require treatment?
Thank you for your time!
End of workshop 2