

UNODC project “HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia” (XEE/J20)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant on Assessment of Methadone Maintenance Therapy in Lithuania

Background

Lithuania was one of the first countries in Eastern Europe which initiated methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) in 1995 in Vilnius, Klaipeda and Kaunas. Since 2006 the number of MMT sites has increased from 12 to 21 sites (in 11 geographical regions) and the number of clients – from 381 to 712 clients in 2010. The last assessment of MMT was conducted in 2006 and since then several things have been introduced to improve quality of treatment: the new clinical protocol according WHO recommendations was prepared and approved by Lithuanian Psychiatric Association in 2009, new methods – case management, intervision, addiction severity index (ASI) for the monitoring of treatment results have been introduced and professional capacity building seminars and trainings have been organized for MMT specialists..

Taking into consideration this wide expansion and one of the UNODC project aims - to improve quality of methadone therapy programmes and to develop capacity and tools for monitoring and evaluation, it is necessary to undertake assessment of MMT in Lithuania.

Purpose of consultancy

To conduct evaluation of methadone maintenance therapy programmes in Lithuania and prepare recommendations for improving the quality of treatment.

Specific tasks

- Conduct desk research on MMT in Lithuania;
- Conduct interviews with main stakeholders and staff of the treatment centers;
- Conduct interviews with MMT clients and non-clients (low threshold cabinet clients);
- Conduct observation of the treatment centres;
- Analyze data and compare it with results of MMT assessments carried out in Lithuania in 2006;
- Prepare the final report with recommendations for improvement of MMT in Lithuania;
- Present recommendations in a national seminar with major stakeholders.

Timeframe and expected outputs

Task/Output	Date of completion or period
Desk research conducted	16-19 May, 2011
Treatment centres (19) observed, interviews with key stakeholders (10), staff (57), clients (256) and non-clients IDU's (30) conducted	20 May – 30 June, 2011
Data entered and analyzed	1-30 July, 2011

Draft report developed and submitted to UNODC for discussion with national experts	By 20 August, 2011
Final report prepared and recommendations presented in a seminar with key stakeholders	By 15 September, 2011

Implementation arrangements

UNODC will provide rewards (gift cards) for the respondents' (MMT clients) and questionnaires for the interviews. The final report together with the report on the distributed gift cards should be submitted to UNODC Regional coordinator for the Baltic States.

Travel costs to and from the centres should be included into the total cost of the services, indicating each cost category separately.

Competencies and Skills

- Advanced university degree or equivalent in social science, public health or other relevant discipline.
- Proven familiarity and practical experience with data processing and analysis, quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Previous experience in MMT evaluations would be an asset.
- Strong analytical and report writing skills.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Fluency in written and spoken Lithuanian.

Assessment criteria

The award will be based on cumulative analysis (a combination of qualifications, direct relevant experience and costs that represent best value for money). Assessment criteria and points available upon request.

Further information might be obtained:

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