

Thank you Mr Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for organize this session

COVID-19 had an impact on treatment system in more than half of European countries. Poland was in this group of country where treatment and harm reduction facilities used to had a problem with continuation of treatment especially for new client. However to our Polish survey more than 80% treatment centers introduced new form of help and therapy with using of information and communication technology (ICT). It also should be mentioned that drug-dependent persons, mainly homeless ones, have been particularly badly affected when the COVID-19 containment solutions were introduced.

The current situation, as every crisis, gives us a chance to learn lessons for the future. The entire healthcare system, including drug services, was faced with the lack of procedures in the case of the epidemic such as COVID-19. Therefore it is worth considering the creation of such procedures for the future, based on the experiences at hand. It might make us better prepared for another wave of this epidemic, if it happens, or an entirely new threat. It is worth to mention that in response to COVID-19, 86% of the drug services (N=69) in Poland introduced remote services in the field of drug treatment or harm reduction (telephone, video calls, online access). It will surely be a new quality in the offer of some facilities following the end of the epidemic. As a result the drug treatment system might be supplemented with new forms of client work.

IT will be useful to share experience how to use ICT in treatment and help to drug users

Thank you for your attention

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