Of these, at least 1 out of 10 will suffer immediate or long-term consequences to their physical or mental health.

**Childhood** is a period of significant development and great **opportunity**. As children advance through **adolescence**, they grow, explore, and have the chance to realize their individual unique **potential**. This also makes them vulnerable to unhealthy behaviours, including using drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Most children and adolescents will never use drugs, and those who do are often **affected by vulnerabilities** beyond their control.

- Poverty and exposure to violence.
- Not benefiting from warm and supporting parenting.
- Engaging with peers themselves at risk.

The earlier children start to experiment with drugs, the more likely they are to develop drug dependence later in life.
Resilient children and supportive environments result in:

Positive families, schools and communities.

LISTEN FIRST

Children and youth need you to listen to them with warmth and care.

Provide children and youth with skills and opportunities.

Support science-based prevention to make them happy and resilient.

Offering parenting skills programs to families and teaching social skills at school to elementary school children, can prevent 2/3 of the cases of non-medical use of prescription drugs at age 21.

Control group

Program group

6.5%

2.5%
Less drug use and risky behaviours

Some evidence-based programmes provide teachers with interactive tools to promote positive behaviour whilst they teach their normal programme. This not only improves the behaviour of the children in class and helps them learn better. It has been shown to have a significant impact up to the age of 21.

When reaching adulthood, boys that had shown signs of aggressive behaviour in the first year of primary school will suffer from drug dependency disorders. Among those participating in this prevention program will show violent or criminal behavior.

Among those taking part in this program will graduate from high school.

83% in the control group will smoke.

50% among those participating in this prevention program during first school year.

40% will smoke.

34% in the control group will graduate from high school.

20% among those taking part in this program will graduate from high school.

75%

Saving social and health care costs

Saving up to 30 times the amount of funds invested in prevention.
“Listen FIRST”
is open to all interested Member States, civil society, academic and international organizations.

ALREADY INVOLVED
Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Chile, China, CICAD, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, EMCDDA, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mentor International, Mexico, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, the Philippines, the Pompidou Group, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, UNODC, Uzbekistan, WHO.