

### Preparation of a proposal for a Council Recommendation on drugs and prison

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[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/drug\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/drug_en.htm)

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### Background / EU policy level

- Article 152 of the Treaty:  
« to complement the MS actions in  
reducing drugs-related health damages,  
including information and prevention »
- EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012
- EU Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008  
(Action 13 : drugs and prisons)
- Council Recommendation of 18 June  
2003 (incl. availability/access to  
treatment services in prisons)

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### EC actions

- Commission report adopted on 18 April  
on the implementation of the 2003  
Council Recommendation (published on  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/drug/drug\\_rec\\_en.htm#1](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/drug/drug_rec_en.htm#1))
- Call for tenders on drugs policy and  
harm reduction launched in 2006 to  
prepare the future work as foreseen in  
the EU Action plan on drugs 2005-2008

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### External contract

- Contract signed in December 2006
- Work lasting for 12 months
- Final report expected mid-December 2007

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### External contractor reported, in particular on

- the status-quo of prevention, treatment and harm reduction services for people in prisons, reintegration services for persons on release from prisons
- current approaches to monitor/analyse drug use among prisoners (as one determinant for prisoners service needs)

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### External contractor consulted, in particular

- Specific sources (EMCDDA, WHO, Pompidou Group, UNODC/UNAIDS)
- Output from previous work:
  - EC co-funded projects (e.g. ENDIPP network incl. Cranstoun & WIAD, WHO database on prisons)
  - call for tenders on drugs

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### Specific Objectives of the future Recommendation

To encourage Member States:

- To develop activities to prevent drug use and to facilitate the access to treatment of drug users among prisoners,
- To increase access to harm reduction/reintegration services for (ex) prisoners and
- To monitor/analyse drug use in prisons

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### Ad-hoc expert meeting - 22/10/2007 (Lux)

- To exchange views about the possible structure and content of the future proposal for the Council Recommendation on drugs and prison
- To draw conclusions to be taken into account by EC when drafting the future proposal

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### Proposal of structure agreed by experts from MS (ad-hoc meeting on 22/10/07)

- Main recommendations (public health objective, monitoring/analysis, range of activities, evaluation)
- Specific recommendations among prisoners to:
  1. develop activities to prevent drug use
  2. facilitate the access to treatment of drug users,
  3. increase access to harm reduction (reduce unsafe practices)
  4. improve reintegration services for prisoners
- Invitation to cooperation, reporting, guidelines

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### Prevention: proposals

- Provision to prisoners and staff of information and counselling in adequate language form and content
- Encouraging + attitude towards HR (e.g. through peer-support, target group specific information)
- Promote networking and cooperation between prisons, ministries and health care services in and out prisons

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### Harm Reduction (HR) : proposals

- Reduce unsafe injection practices
- Reduce unprotected sexual contacts
- Reduce unsafe tattooing/piercing
- Provide vaccination programmes (Hep. A + B, tuberculosis)

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### Treatment : proposals

- Improve collaboration between prison and community health care services
- Provide treatment and care in prison, including HIV post-exposure treatment (emergency)
- Develop prisoners & staff competence (resuscitation in case of overdose)
- Improve access to diversified treatment approaches addressing needs of specific groups (migrants, women, juveniles)
- Improve early identification of patients for treatment

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### Reintegration services: proposals

- Improve collaboration between prisons and community health care services providing after release care (continuity of treatment) and better coordinate services including accommodation, education employment, etc
- Increase availability of relapse prevention interventions and quality of rehabilitation services

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### Civil Society Forum – Health - Some conclusions (23/04/2007)

- New trends (not only opioids)
- Higher quality data on HIV needed & Surveillance (TB/ HIV)
- Equivalence of HR measures
- Migrants in prisons (related to drug use)
- Treatments in/out prisons
- Alternatives for imprisonment
- Young people (< 18)
- Health & prisons projects; NGOs working in this field
- Ministry of Health/Justice + Interior (responsibility)
- Mechanism to check the implementation of BP in MS
- Balkans and neighbour countries

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### Next for this meeting

#### To keep in mind:

- the 2003 Council Recommendation on harm reduction and the EC report conclusion on its implementation regarding prison issue
- the useful background documents distributed
- the conclusions of the ad-hoc expert meeting and of the CS forum – health - meeting

**To discuss and report on common views** for the preparation of the future proposal for a Council Recommendation on drugs and prison

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