Double Deviance:
Young Drug Users in Criminal Justice Systems

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Background information

**Funding:** Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020): Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea)

**Coordinator:** Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK)

**Project partners:**
1. Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK)
2. Change Grow Live (UK)
3. Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Aarhus University (Denmark)
4. Eclectica (Italy)
5. ISFF - Institut für Suchtforschung, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
6. Warsaw Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (Poland)
7. European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Austria)

**Duration:** Jan. 2017 – Feb. 2020
Young drug users in the criminal justice system

Empirical input:
• Interviews with service providers
• Interviews with clients – young drug users in the CJS

Theoretical framework:
• Systems theory – role theory
• Structural functionalism

Legal framework:
• Diversion to treatment instead of punishment – Alternatives to conviction or punishment
Young drug users in the criminal justice system

**Criminal Justice System**
- Caution the offender
- Conditional suspension of prosecution
- Deferring the execution of sentence
- Drug treatment courts
- Conditional early release on probation

**Health System**
- In-patient homes and hospitals
  - „Attenuated custody“ – drug treatment in prisons
- Out-patient psycho-therapy
- Early intervention - counselling services
- Case management – „peer navigators“
Treatment and target group

“Young drug users who have come in contact with the CJS”
• The situation of dependent drug users in the CJS
• The situation of “recreational” drug users in the CJS

Risk factors
• Biological
• Psychological
• Family risk factors
• Peers factors
• School factors
• Neighbourhood and community factors
• Gender and risk factors

Clustering and accumulation
Aetiological explanations in youth delinquency

- Biological predisposition
- Developmental psychology
- Learning theories
  - Classical conditioning (Pavlov)
  - Instrumental (operant) conditioning +/- reinforcement (Thorndike and Skinner)
  - Model-learning (Bandura)
  - Social learning (E. Sutherland: “differential association”)
- Social disorder and opportunity structures (Chicago School of Sociology, human ecology)
- Labeling Theory and stigmatising

Risk factors

- Propensity – Impulsivity, lack of self-control
- Early childhood experiences, traumata, fears, phobia
- Peer-Group (power, status, courage)
- Lack of social control (family, school, job)
- Status frustration, “broken homes”
- Poverty: Neighbourhood, housing conditions, unemployment
- Criminalisation, secondary deviance, self-fulfilling Prophecy
Two social systems of double deviance
Institutional Context

Elements of Intervention

- Medical treatment, substitution therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Pedagogics: Vocational training
- Social Work: Probation services
- Counselling and case management
Balancing double deviance

Vulnerability pathology in need of help health promotion

Medical deviance

Alleged danger criminality punishment repression

Legal deviance
Thank you for your attention

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