Exchanging Prevention Practices on Polydrug Use Among Youth in Criminal Justice Systems

www.eppic-project.eu

10. EUSPR Conference
European Society for Prevention Research
16.-18 Sept. 2019 - Ghent

Günter Stummvoll
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

Health system

Drug-dependent users

Criminal justice system

Health system

Criminal justice system

Recreational drug users
Balancing double deviance
Institutional Context

Elements of Intervention

- Medical treatment, substitution therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Pedagogics: Vocational training
- Social Work: Probation services
- Counselling and case management
Thank you for your attention

https://www.eppic-project.eu/