



Triple R: Rehabilitation for
Recovery and Reinsertion



Co-funded by the European Union

TRIPLE R

EVALUATION REPORT ON JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS

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Brief Introduction on the Triple R project

Triple R is a 2-year long EU project on the exchange of the best practice in the field of recovery between EU member states. The project aims at reducing recidivism and crime in regard to drug addiction and spreading cost effective and productive models on drug rehabilitation, social reintegration and reinsertion of drug addicts.

The Triple R project aims at:

- Exchanging best practice in the field of recovery between EU member states.
- Reducing recidivism and crime linked to drug addiction.
- Providing cost effective and efficient models on drug rehabilitation, social reintegration and justice intervention and which will investigate novel models and alternative measures to imprisonment for drug addicts.
- Disseminating resources across EU member states to support the implementation of effective and efficient models in rehabilitation for recovery and reinsertion.

The Triple R project is coordinated by San Patrignano (Italy) and implemented along with the following partners (in alphabetical order): ASOCIACION DIANOVA ESPANA (Spain), BASTA (Sweden), CeLS Rome - Associazione Centro Italiano di Solidarietà Don Mario Picchi (Italy), ECAD – European Cities Against Drugs (Sweden), POPOVGGZ VZW – Belgian Drug Treatment Court (Belgium), UDRUGA SAN PATRIGNANO SPLIT (Croatia), UDRUGA INSTITUT PULA (Croatia) and UDRUGA STIJENA – NGO (Croatia).

The project has been articulated in two consecutive phases. Phase I taking place from 2015 to 2017 has been focusing on the **best practice exchange among project partners**, undertaking study trips and training sessions to familiarize with the different programs implemented by partners in the project thematic areas and their methodology. Phase I culminated with the drafting, editing release and dissemination of the **Triple R thematic publications on rehabilitation, justice interventions and social reintegration** that promoted further knowledge on recovery models at the European and international level, capitalizing on the best practices of the project partners, including their referral and reinsertion networks.

Phase II of the Triple R project, which has been implemented in 2017 set the bases for a **piloting of the recommendations elaborated in the publication in Croatia**. A **feasibility study** assessed the actual needs of treatment services, therapeutic communities, social reinsertion programs and alternative sentencing interventions in the context of the newest EU member. The involvement of Croatian NGOs (NGO Stjiena, NGO Udruga SanPatrignano, NGO Institut Pula) has been crucial in the feasibility study and in the implementation of the piloting phase, as well as in networking with other therapeutic communities and service providers and in disseminating project findings at a national level.

Report structure

This report focuses on **social reintegration**, a complementary aspect to the recovery concept for the Triple R partners. From the project best practice exchange emerged clearly the importance of seeing the continuum between rehabilitation and social reintegration.

The structure of the report is organized to present the findings according to the two project phases and address all the activities that have been implemented.

In the description of each phase particular attention is given to illustrate the methodology of the evaluation, providing a detailed description of the accomplishments and findings.

PHASE I (2015-2017)

Exchange of best practices and drafting of the publications

Methodology of evaluation for Phase I

The evaluation of Phase I of the Triple R project has been based on the creation, dissemination and analysis of **feedback questionnaires completed by project partners**.

Participant organizations have been presented with specific questionnaires after the completion of each project activities. The surveys have been submitted both in paper and electronic versions to facilitate completion. Since 2016 all the surveys have been organized and fill in electronically via Survey Monkey, which had been identified as the most practical way to handle the evaluation.

A total of 8 questionnaires have been produced to evaluate **Phase I**.

Five project exchange questionnaires

Five surveys addressed the project exchange activities: 3 study visits (Belgium, Spain and Sweden) and **2 training sessions** (both taking place in Italy). The questionnaires had all the same structure and questions to secure consistency and facilitate comparison and elaboration of the results. They touched based on the outcomes of the visit or training, on the level of satisfaction on the activities undertaken and the reality check of the expectations. Furthermore they elaborated on the lessons learnt and the knowledge and skills acquired and how the person and organization plan to use them. Attention has also been dedicated to the feedback on the aspects that could be improved and also on practical suggestions for up-coming activities and the expectations on the following visit. The questionnaires have been disseminated and filled in by project partners soon after the activity had been completed.

Key evaluation survey

A more in-depth questionnaire called **Key Questions evaluation survey** has been created to collect feedbacks specifically on the thematic pillars of the project. The structure of this very comprehensive questionnaire has been organized in a preamble followed by 4 parts.

The **preamble** of the questionnaire collected information on the person completing the questionnaire and the organization she or he represents, the main focus of the organization work in the field of addiction, the target group and the networks.

Part A assessed the best practice exchange of the project and analyzed each study trip and training, asking specific questions on each thematic pillar of the project: recovery, justice interventions and social reintegration. Project partners have been asked to evaluate each study visit and training on a scale from one to five, labeled respectively as:

1. not at all satisfactory
2. partially satisfactory
3. satisfactory
4. good
5. excellent.

The criteria that have been applied were the following:

Efficacy: ability of the best practice to reach the program goal.

Visibility: relevance and recognition of the best practice in its local and/or national context.

Sustainability: ability of the best practice to secure the necessary funds and support to undertake its work and run its program.

Social impact: ability of the best practice to make the difference for their residents or clients and for the community as a whole.

Part B inquired on the contempt of recovery. Since this theme is the leading paradigm and shared common ground among the partners of the Triple R project, more attention has been dedicated to it in comparison with the other thematic areas.

Part C elaborated on the level of satisfaction with the project implementation and **increased knowledge**, on the top skills acquired and how they plan to use it, on the areas or topics that have been missing or needed more attention and details and generally on possible improvements.

More information on part B and C could be found in the evaluation report dedicated to recovery.

Part D focused on the work on the Triple R publications and assessed the work done in contributing to the drafting, on the role of the focal points and how they got organized to deliver the expected results. Moreover, it asked questions on the expectations regarding the impact of the publications and the relevance of them for the professionals working in the field of recovery, justice interventions and social reintegration and for the policymakers at the local, national and international level.

Event questionnaire

The **Event questionnaire** has been designed to collect the feedbacks on the two Triple R dissemination events held in Vienna and Brussels in March 2017. The Vienna and Brussels events presented the highlights on the project, and launched the Triple R publications. The questionnaire was sent to all the participants to both events to assess their main interest in the topics, their feedback on the content of the thematic presentations and touched base on the publications they plan to download and read.

Publication feedback questionnaire

The **Publication feedback questionnaire** aimed at collecting input from the people who read the publications. A link had been sent to project partners and also made public in the Triple R website on the page where the publications are available for download. The survey investigated on the main area of interest of the readers, on the relevance of the sessions in the publications, on the relevance for the work of their organization, for improving the work of the practitioners in the thematic fields of the project, and for the policy makers at the national and international levels.

Based on the findings of all the questionnaires, the evaluation report has been structured to reflect the activities of the project and provide useful insights on both the Triple implementation and results, according to each thematic pillar.

Evaluation on Project exchange: study visits and trainings

General information on project partners

All partners participated in the evaluation and completed the surveys as requested. A total of 9 responses had been collected. The focal point in each organization took care of completing the online formularies. In terms of geographic distribution 2 contributions came respectively from Italy and Sweden, one from Belgium, one from Spain and 3 from Croatia. 55% of the respondents were male and 45% female. Their level of education was Master degree (67%), Bachelor degree (11%), College or unfinished university (11%) and high-school diploma (11%).

The main areas in which the partners are engaged are the following: 66% of them work in social reintegration programs, 55% are active in drug prevention and recovery oriented drug treatments,

44% runs therapeutic communities, 33% offer close setting residential rehabilitation programs and 22% have harm reduction interventions. Among additional activities the following have been mentioned: motivation program for rehabilitation in prison, training program for social workers and practitioners in the addiction fields and drug treatment court.

The majority of the interventions are targeting male population. Some of the partners are addressing all the target groups (Adult Males, Adult Females, Male adolescents, Female Adolescents, Children, Elderly, Imprisoned males, Imprisoned females, HIV- positive, Hepatitis or other drug related diseases affected population).

ECAD works specifically on drug policy issues engaging with cities and municipalities and with youngsters.

In terms of networks, all the partners reported to be connected with either one or more national, regional and international organizations or counting with local or international branches.

Summary of the activities

The Triple R project exchange had been articulated in 3 study visits in Belgium, Spain and Sweden and 2 training sessions both held in Italy.

Study visits offered the opportunity to gather an overview on more realities in one country apart from the host organization and were more focused in getting to know different rehabilitation programs and methodologies.

Training sessions were mainly organized in order to provide in depth knowledge of the rehabilitation program of the host organization, to offer hand on experiences of the methodology and daily work of the centers.

Triple R study visits

31th of January - 4th of February 2016

Location: Gent, **Belgium** organized by **Popov GGZ**

Main focus: exploring the **Belgian drug treatment court model**

28th of February - 3rd of March 2016

Location: Barcelona, **Spain** organized by **Asociación Dianova España**

Main focus: exploring **Spanish interventions in the field of drug rehabilitation**

3rd - 7th of April 2016

Location: Nykvarn & Skara, **Sweden** organized by **Basta**

Main focus: getting to know the **Basta model in drug rehabilitation, social enterprise and social reinsertion**

Triple R workshops and training labs

16th - 20th of May 2016

Location: Rome, **Italy** organized by **CeIS Rome**

Main focus: getting to know **CeIS Rome intervention in the field of addiction** and visiting different branches of the organization

27th June-1st July 2016

Location: Rimini, **Italy** organized by **Comunità San Patrignano**

Main focus: learning first hand on the **San Patrignano recovery program**, experiencing a week in San Patrignano and **the community life and methodology**

Overall rating of the study visit activities.

The overall rating of the study visits has been quite positive: 44% of the respondents considered them excellent, 44% positive and 11% satisfactory.

The Belgian best practice was assessed as excellent by 55% of the interviewed, 33% considered it good and 11% satisfactory.

The Spanish best practice was evaluated by 55% of the respondents as good, 33% assessed it as excellent and 11% as partially satisfactory.

The Swedish best practice was considered excellent by 44% of the partners, 44% evaluated as good and 11% as satisfactory.

Study visits

Belgian best practice on justice interventions: the Drug Treatment Court

We are very impressed by what we learnt on the Drug Court Model

Quote from Triple R project partner

Social justice at the very high level

Quote from Triple R project partner

One of the best examples of legal framework in which there is strong cooperation among state and not for profit sector

Quote from Triple R project partner

The Belgian Study trip aimed at sharing knowledge on the model of the Drug Treatment Court (DTC). The municipality of Ghent adapted the US model of the DTC to the Belgian context and law and came out with the first European Drug Treatment Court. During the visit the partners had the opportunity to see the DTC in practice and understand the complex network of stakeholders. The DTC model is addressing all the life aspects of the beneficiaries and assists them in all the phases of rehabilitation and reintegration.

The partners highlighted the following aspects as the key points in the Belgian successful experience in justice interventions:

- **Developing motivation in drug addicts to change their life:** The drug treatment court (DTC) model in Ghent work with drug addicts inmates to stimulate their motivation in assessing their life situation and in finding a viable plan to ameliorate their life condition, access to treatment and social reintegration programs. The intervention is strongly individualized, since each clients is able to shape his/her own plan and modify it according to personal progress.
- **Treatment instead of punishment.** DTC offers a unique opportunity to drug addicts in prison to access treatment and leave the detention setting to pursue the rehabilitation and recovery path that suits them better.
- **A coordinated network:** DTC are mobilizing a very active network of professionals to take care of the addicts, counseling and guide them towards the best rehabilitation path and social reintegration opportunities. A fundamental role in the Belgian DTC is played by the Liaison. The liaison offer assistance to the client in assessing his/her needs, in identifying solutions and in finding a path toward recovery and making a plan to be submitted to the

judge for approval. The liaison is committed to confidentiality and it is able to create a bond of trust, safeguarding the dignity of the individuals and allowing them to open up, sharing their needs, counting on a non-judgmental attitude.

- **Suspension of the sentence.** The judge of the DTC, following the Belgian Law, suspends the sentence and encourages the clients in his/her way toward recovery. After consulting with and thanks to the support provided by the liaison a plan is drafted and presented to the judge for approval. Regular checkups are in place to secure that the clients is following the desired path and progressing in sobriety and independence.
- **Addressing priorities and needs:** the DTC model is quite flexible and allows some discretion to the clients. In case of recidivism in drug addiction, some contingency plan could be made and with the assistance of the liaison the client could find immediate solution to be able to stay in the project and do not endanger the achievement toward social reintegration.
- **Highly individualized program:** The DTC model believes in the importance of focusing on the individuals. Every case is handled putting the people at the center and looking carefully at the best options for the clients among the different opportunities that could be offered.

Few **criticalities** also emerged in the evaluation:

- **Length of the program:** according to one of the partner the DTC program is quite short. There is a suggestion to extend the length of the program to secure better results.
- **Funding:** DTC are dependent from public funding to survive. The cost and effectiveness of the DTC has been evaluated trough the years to provide politicians and stakeholders with evidence supporting the investment in the DTC with the taxpayers money. Currently the DTC Ghent is a pilot project, and Belgium is considering options either to scale up the model or finding eventually cheaper alternatives.

Overall the evaluation of the Belgian experience according to the criteria has been very positive:

Efficacy: the partners shared a very positive feedback: 50% of them assessed as excellent, 38% good and 12% satisfactory.

Visibility, Sustainability and Social impact collected the same response: 63% of the partners considered them as excellent and 37% good.

Spanish best practice on justice interventions

Not enough insides on justice interventions in Spain

Quote from Triple R project partner

During the study visits in Spain, the Triple R partners visited different branches of the Dianova Spain organization, getting to know the therapeutic community model (TC) implemented by Dianova and also the interventions of local like minded treatment providers and centers such as seLa Coma, Fundacio Ciutat i Valors, Benito Menni Mental health Hospital, Associacion Alba and Espai Ariadna. **Unfortunately according to partners not enough information have been shared on the justice interventions model implemented in Spain have been shared during the study visit.**

According to the feedback provided, the partners identified the following aspects as **best**

practices:

- **Assistance to drug users in prison settings:** Dianova presented the work undertaken by civil society in prison setting, offering assistance to drug user inmates. Both medical programs with substitution drugs and psychological and psychiatric assistance are provided.
- **The Villabona experience and the Therapeutic and Educative Units (UTE).** The Villabona experience, born as a pilot project in Spain in 1992, provided a new model for European prisons, supporting rehabilitation and reintegration program in prison setting for drug addicts. The model is based on the creation of the Therapeutic and Educative Units (UTE) counting with 50% of management by the prison staff and 50% of prisoners in rehabilitation. The participating prisoners have to sign a contract agreeing on cooperating with the program, participating in the activities and engaging in the management. After completion of the sentence, public services and NGOs support the prisoners in their reintegration.

The respondents raised **complaints** on the fact that not enough information were shared on the alternative to incarceration for drug related offences and opportunities for treatment instead of incarceration. They wished to have learnt more on the subject to be able to compare with other national frameworks and interventions.

Overall the Spanish experience as been evaluated as following, according to the project criteria:
Efficacy: 50% of the respondents considered it good, while 25% respectively rated it satisfactory or partially satisfactory

Visibility and sustainability collected the same response: 75% of the partners considered it good while 25% assessed it as partially satisfactory.

Social Impact: the interviewed demonstrated quite a diverse opinion on the matter: 25% of the assessed it respectively as excellent, good, satisfactory and partially satisfactory.

Sweden best practice on justice intervention: the Basta social enterprise model

Basta is a self-sustainable, empowerment-based model, focused on work that integrates vulnerable people in the labor market

Quote from Triple R project partner

Basta is a Swedish user-run social enterprise offering drug rehabilitation to those wanting to leave drug abuse. The unique self-sustainable model had been inspired by the San Patrignano methodology and adapted to the Swedish context. The focus of the study visit was to understand how the organization operates and how it collaborates with social services and with the criminal justice system in Sweden. Work and job placement have a pivotal role in the Basta model as it was shown in the visit of two of the premises in Basta Nykvarn and Basta West - Brunsbo.

Triple R partners highlighted the following aspects as **best practice**:

- **Cooperation with the criminal justice system:** Basta has a close cooperation with the criminal justice system. The organization is selling the rehabilitation program to municipalities that pay for one-year treatment for recovering users. The cooperation is established in the form of a contract treatment signed as a binding agreement between

the user and the Criminal Justice system signed in the District court. As established by the contract Basta will run random drug testing, including urine testing and the Criminal justice system will call regularly to speak with their clients and check up on them.

- **Program in Nykvarn:** in this Basta branch a specific program for users in alternative setting to prison had been put in place and has been identified by partners as a best practice.
- **User run social enterprise model:** Basta structure is a social enterprise and work is the therapeutic tool for self-knowledge, sustainability and social reintegration of users.

The partners raised **no criticalities** partners on the Basta justice intervention model.

Overall the evaluation of the Swedish experience collected quite a diverse feedback:

Efficacy: 33% of project partners rated it respectively as excellent and satisfactory, while 17% assessed it as good and partially satisfactory.

Visibility: the partners expressed a divided opinion on visibility: 33% of them considered it respectively as excellent and good, while 17% assessed it as satisfactory or partially satisfactory.

Sustainability: 66% of the partners evaluated it as excellent, while 17% respectively considered it satisfactory and partially satisfactory.

Social Impact: also got a very diverse feedback with 33% of them assessing it respectively as excellent and good, while 17% assessed it as satisfactory or partially satisfactory.

Trainings

CeIS Rome and the Human Project model

Social justice at CeIS provides all users with equal opportunities

Quote from Triple R project partner

The first Triple R training took place in Rome, organized by CeIS Rome and to illustrate the Italian rehabilitative and reinsertion model based on the Progetto Uomo- Human Project philosophy and the collaboration mechanism put in place with the Italian Judiciary system. Triple R partners visited the CeIS therapeutic communities San Carlo in Castelgandolfo and Santa Maria in Rome. Furthermore, presentations had been given on the double diagnosis intervention model, and the ECO youth project.

The following **best practice** had emerged during the training:

- **Cooperation with the Italian Judiciary System and the Office of the External Criminal Execution UEPE:** partners were very much satisfied with the lecture on the cooperation with the UEPE. The special office is in charge of liaising with CeIS in the implementation of alternatives to incarceration. UEPE supports people serving their sentences outside prison and verify the execution of the sentence and probation.
- **Fostering autonomy and independence for users exiting prison to seek treatment:** CeIS offers a program for users in alternative sentencing and support their path towards autonomy, working on the establishment of an ethical space that could lead and guide them upon completion of the rehabilitation program.

The main criticality raised by partners concerns self –sustainability. CeIS receives public funds for running its program and this makes them subject to instability due to the change of government priorities or funding allocations.

Overall the CeIS Rome training has been rated as following:

Efficacy: 50 % of the respondents considered it good, 33% excellent, and 17% not at all satisfactory.

Visibility: 66% of the interviewed considered it good and 17% respectively excellent and not at all satisfactory.

Sustainability: 50% of the partners rated it as good, while 17% assessed it respectively as excellent and not at all satisfactory.

Social Impact: 33% considered it respectively as excellent and good while 17% rated it respectively as satisfactory and not at all satisfactory.

San Patrignano Model

San Patrignano does not differentiate between users and offender users. Everybody is equal and have the same opportunities, following a non-judgmental principle.

Quote from Triple R project partner

San Patrignano is a very unique experience.

Quote from Triple R project partner

The training in San Patrignano offered a unique opportunity to learn and live the recovery and social reintegration oriented methodology of the community in practice. Drug addict offenders are offered the change to commute their sentence in rehabilitation period and work towards their social reinsertion as active members of the society. Triple R partners were hosted in the community premises, participated in job training workshops with the residents, engaged in dialogue with them. Furthermore, they also attended lessons on different aspects of the community including the vocational trainings, the educational options and the social reinsertion planning and implementation.

The following **best practices** on the San Patrignano model emerged during the training:

- **Equality of all the residents.** Disregarding of their past, San Patrignano welcomes offenders and supports them in getting integrated into the community life. All the people in the program have equal status and obligations and are provided with the same opportunities.
- **Job and vocational training:** the community offers trainings and internships in a range of productive activities that boost self esteem of the residents as well as provide top skills for the labor market, preparing for the reintegration phase.
- **Educational opportunities:** San Patrignano supports education as one of the leading tool for empowerment, and encourages residents to resume interrupted studies or to begin new courses earning degrees.
- **Interaction with the judicial system:** San Patrignano liaises with the judiciary system and with the Office of the External Criminal Execution UEPE reporting on the progress of the residents in alternative sentencing to prison

No criticalities have been raised on the San Patrignano justice intervention model.

Overall the evaluation of the San Patrignano experience collected the following feedback:

Efficacy, visibility and social impact: registered the same feedback. 50% considered it excellent, 33% good and 17 partially satisfactory.

Sustainability: partners demonstrated quite a diverse view on sustainability 50% of the respondents considered it excellent, while 17% respectively assessed it as good, satisfactory and partially satisfactory.

General comments on the study visits and trainings

Project partners shared suggestions on the **things that could have done differently** and specifically highlighted the following:

- The activities during the study visits and training could have developed and shaped more visibly around the thematic pillars of the project.
- An introduction or criteria for choosing to visit local organizations during the study visits, would have been helpful in better understanding the context
- A respondent also wished for a bigger variety of organizations working in the drug field to be visited, in order to compare outcomes and efficacy.
- Two interviewed wished for more time for discussion on how to compare the practices and incorporate them in the rehabilitation model.
- Two partners wanted to spend more time with the people in rehabilitation

Furthermore the respondents elaborated on the **aspects that they wished to be further elaborated in the study trips and trainings.**

- A partner wished for more information on the programs and the methodologies of intervention to be shared.
- Two respondents stressed the interest in the governance, rules and public private cooperation and staff trainings, as empowerment tools for their own organization.

Few suggestions were also shared on the **aspects that were missing:**

- One respondent wrote about the lack of a more organized structure to compile and share the information, which could have guarantee a better uniformity to the project exchange
- Another one reiterated the importance of the activities being more explicitly articulated around the project thematic pillars.
- One project partner shared the difficulties in the implementation related to the language problem. English knowledge level differs a lot among the partners and sometime the lack of local experts that could fluently speak in English led to the need of translation and therefore slow down the activities during the visits.

The Triple R MC.CORRE model on justice interventions and alternatives to incarceration

The Triple R MC.CORRE model captured the key concepts emerging from the best practice exchange during the triple R project, and from the comparison of interventions in Belgium, Italy, Spain and Sweden. Appreciating the considerable differences among the national legal framework, however it was possible to consolidate some lessons learnt that might have universal value.

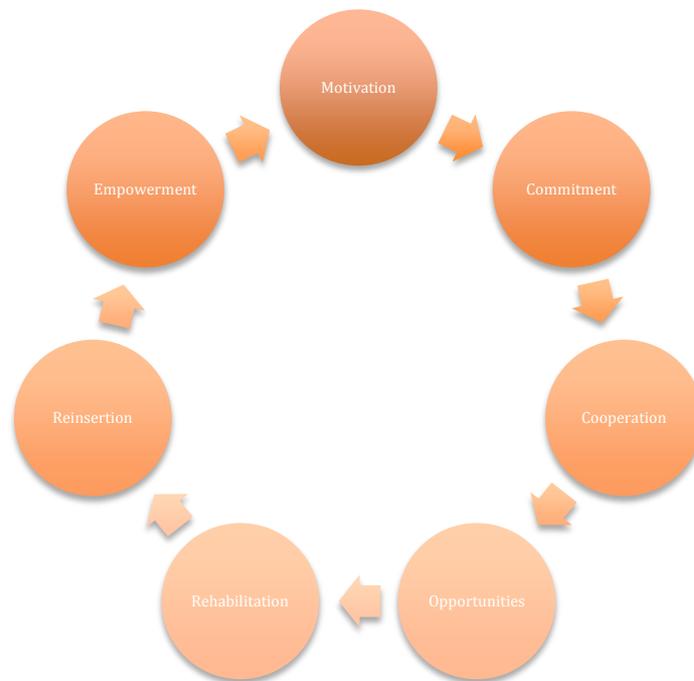
The acronym MC.CORRE stands for:

M-motivation

C-commitment

C-cooperation

O-opportunities
R-rehabilitation
R-reinsertion
E-empowerment



Motivation

All Triple R partners underlined the importance of personal motivation in quitting addiction and looking for a new beginning in life. Once the personal motivation has been established, assistance could be given to identify options according to national legislation and framework to seek treatment and not punishment for the crime committed connected with drug abuse, and make amendments to society. Motivation is the first step that allows drug addict inmates to accept the counseling and assistance that could be offered to them. Even in the cases of compulsory treatment, such as in the Swedish experience, if there is no personal motivation, the results of the rehabilitation might be very poor.

Commitment

Commitment to change is the second fundamental step toward recovery and social reintegration in alternative measures to incarceration and justice interventions. According to Triple R partner experience, there are different approaches to show this commitment. In some cases, like in the Belgian drug treatment court (DTC), the offender is supposed to work through all the areas of his/her life, that need to be changed and prepare a therapeutic plan. In the Swedish experience there is a contract treatment to be signed, that is a binding document among the individual, the judiciary organ and the treatment center of choice, affirming the decision to change. In other countries, such as Italy and Spain, the commitment idea is embedded in the personal choice and should be put into action and proven right during the rehabilitation process and the reintegration phase.

Cooperation

The cooperation among all the stakeholders in alternatives to incarceration is also another aspect that has emerged as a best practice during the Triple R project. The Judiciary system should not

work alone in promoting rehabilitation, treatment and reintegration for drug addict offenders. The synergy with the public health system and with the civil society handling the rehabilitation is essential. In some cases, such as in the Belgian drug treatment court, an ad hoc function has been created, called Liaison, to be acting as a focal point in helping the clients establishing a treatment path and life plan. In the Italian case, there is also a strong cooperation among the public institutions and the civil society, therapeutic communities and treatment centers in the form of the Office for the External Criminal Execution.

Opportunities

During the time spent in prison, inmates with drug addiction problem often realize that they had chosen a wrong path in life. If they are really motivated to get socially reintegrated in the society, they have to work on the root causes that brought them to drugs and crime and take action to prevent relapse in addiction and recidivism. The national constitutions and the national ministries and Triple R project partners underline the importance of the prison time to rehabilitate people for good. These suggestions should be further implemented and actions should be secured to provide real opportunities for inmates to change their life: facilitating entering into treatment, getting job training and education as appropriate, supporting the individual to choose alternatives to incarceration and be accompanied in the social reintegration phase with housing support. Furthermore, San Patrignano, Basta and the Belgian DTC emphasize the importance of work and developing a professional carrier as an important component of the rehabilitation process, fostering self-esteem, motivation and providing a living while counteracting the feeling of emptiness associated with the addiction. Having a purpose in life and feeling useful is a powerful trigger for recovery from drug, avoiding recidivism in criminal activities and fostering for social reintegration in the long run.

Rehabilitation

Effective justice interventions for drug-addicted offenders should prioritize access to treatment for the individuals. Although compulsory treatment has proven to be less effective than voluntary treatment, a system should be established to facilitate access to treatment, offering a range of options to choose upon. Individuals need some counseling about the situation in each country, according to the national legislation and provision, but each drug addict inmates, should be presented with the best opportunities to get help in quitting addiction and embrace recovery, if so desired.

Reinsertion

Reinsertion is complementary to recovery and the two works hand in hand. Incarcerated drug addicts are experiencing a dilemma following the question on what is coming after prison. In order to break the vicious cycle of drug and crime, it is essential to plan social reinsertion and recovery as an integral part of the rehabilitation programs and secure that appropriate attention is given to both, once the decision of the individual is explicitated. This imply, creating a referral mechanism and a close cooperation among all the stakeholders to secure the best implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation.

Empowerment

Empowerment is the leading principle and the final aim of the recovery process for drug addicts and it is also the inspirational concept that should guide the justice interventions. Empowered offenders, who are able to overcome their addiction, plan and implement a successful social

reintegration, are valuable contribution to the society and not a burden or a cost for the taxpayer. They are not a threat to security but active members in their families and communities. All the stakeholders should keep in mind that punishment is a fruitless intervention; treatment, care and support are needed to achieve positive results in the long run and provide actual opportunities for a change.

Evaluation on Dissemination events and activities

Triple R dedicated events

Spring 2017

Two main events have been organized in March 2017 with the purpose to disseminate the highlights on the triple R project and launch the guidelines on recovery, justice intervention and alternatives to incarceration and social reintegration:

Highlights on the Triple R project – 13 March 2017 United Nations, Vienna, Austria organized by San Patrignano

Launch of the Triple R publications – 20 March 2017 Norway House, Brussels, Belgium co-organized by San Patrignano and ECAD

The Vienna program featured thematic presentations on the 3 main Triple R pillars, illustrating the HERMESS model on recovery, the MC CORRE model on justice intervention and ARES model on social reintegration, reaching out Members States as well as international expert and fellow NGO colleagues following drug policy issues at the United Nations Vienna Headquarters.

The Brussels seminar launched the guidelines on the 3 main Triple R pillars, providing a comprehensive overview of the HERMESS model on recovery, the MC CORRE model on justice intervention and ARES model on social reintegration and presenting the related suggestions for policymakers and practitioners in the drug field.

Both events registered a good attendance, the Vienna side event at the United Nations premises counted with 35 participants, and the Brussels seminar at the Norway house gathered 24 attendees.

The participants at the side event in Vienna included 8 member state delegations (Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Italy, Slovenia, Thailand and United States) 14 NGO representatives and 6 International networks. Overall 15 countries had been represented (Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, The Netherland and United States).

The participants at the seminar in Brussels were mainly Belgian based organizations and project partners, but they covered 6 countries (Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Spain and Sweden), and included governmental and non-governmental organization and international networks.

The evaluation questionnaire was distributed after the 2 events via SurveyMonkey and collected **18 responses**, representing **11 countries** (Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Italy, The Netherland, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and United States), and three types of stakeholders (15 NGOs, 1 Member state and 1 international organization).

According to the feedback provided, **39% of the respondents participated in the Vienna Event, 33% to the Brussels seminar, and 28% to both events.**

The main reasons to participate in the side event were the following:

Triple R partners combined the attendance to a project meeting and the participation at the side events (5 participants)

Interest in the project and in learning about the best practices and the project findings (5 participants)

Networking among like minded organizations

Having a role as speaker (2 participants)

The majority of the respondents (67%) declared to be interested in all the **3 thematic areas of the project: 1) Rehabilitation and recovery, 2) Justice interventions and alternatives to incarceration for drug addict offenders and 3) Social Reintegration of recovered drug users.** Some attendees expressed just one specific area of interest: 22% chose Rehabilitation and recovery 22% Justice interventions and alternatives to incarceration, while 17% Social reintegration.

The interviewed expressed a strongly favorable opinion on the **presentation on rehabilitation and recovery. 71% of them rated that as very interesting** while 29% as quite interesting

The presentation on justice intervention obtained a more diverse feedback: 53% considered it very interesting, 29% quite interesting, 12% interesting and 6% not so much interesting.

The presentation on social reintegration also got quite a positive rating with 53% of the respondent assessing it as very interesting, 41% as quite interesting and 6% as interesting.

The participants to the seminar in Brussels also express a good level of satisfaction on the presentation on the feasibility study and piloting in Croatia: 42% considered it very interesting, 33% quite interesting and 25% interesting.

Some of the respondents demonstrated interest in learning about **additional aspects of the Triple R project that could have been more elaborated:**

- **The work on motivation to keep people in the program:** tools and methodologies to foster motivation in entering rehabilitation and in retaining people in recovery
- **Justice interventions:** more information on the national programs run by project partners.
- **Public access to the Triple R movie:** the movie had been shown just in the Brussels seminar, due to the length of the movie, it was not fitting in the Vienna side event. The Triple R movie on recovery is currently available on the Triple R website.

The large majority of the attendees (95%) declared that they are **planning to download and read the publications from the Triple R website**, while just 5% shared that they would not look for further information.

Among the respondents who were interested in the publications, 82% declared they would download and read the Manual on rehabilitation and recovery, 82% the Handbook on social reintegration and 71% the Handbook on justice interventions.

Overall the majority of the respondents (78%) considered the Triple R project findings interesting. They are looking forward to reading more on it on the project website in the future and they are likely to speak about it with colleagues.

22% declared that the Triple R project findings are interesting, that they already got all the information they need but they might have a look at the project website in the future.

Collateral events where the Triple R project was presented

Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden - April 2017 organized by WFAD

Project publication had been distributed at the conference. The project was mentioned from stage, but not in detail, just that it exists and that they could have material from it.

The conference registered 129 participants, most of them Swedish but in total there were persons from 7 countries. Most of them were from local and regional structures in Gothenburg, but also people from the civil society, both Recovered Users network (RUN) members and also members from the civil society in Gothenburg.

ECAD conference in Kaunas, Lithuania- June 2017- organized by ECAD

During the ECAD annual conference in Kaunas, the organization disseminated the Triple R publications and raised awareness on the project findings and development. The manual and the handbooks gathered quite an interest. The attendees were 130, representing 23 European cities and 9 countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Sweden and US) and covered governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Seminar in Gotland, Sweden- July 2017

ECAD organized a seminar devoted to disseminating the results of Triple R and providing information on the project. Approximately 20 Swedish professionals attended and received the Triple R publications.

Event in Eskilstuna, Sweden- September 2017

The event in Eskilstuna was a huge success, Åke Setrèus presented the Triple R movie on Recovery and some highlights on the project. The 300 participants came from Iceland, Bosnia, Norway and Sweden and hard copies of the Triple R publications were made available for them to take home.

Additional dissemination activities

San Patrignano, both as project leader and in its private capacity as international advocacy organization for recovery, reached out to professional and organizations, visiting the community, illustrating the pillars and lessons learned from the Triple R project implementation.

120 among experts in the drug field, professionals and students visited the community in the biennium 2016- 2017 receiving information on Triple R and the thematic publications. Among the countries represented: China (7), Japan (1), Norway (61), Sweden (44) and the US (7).

During the 8th and 9th International Workshops held in San Patrignano in 2017, 12 experts and professionals including CEOs from NGOs, social workers nurses and students, got a chance to learn about the Triple R project results and were provided with the publications. Among the countries represented: Australia, The Netherland, Norway, UK and US.

Triple R Website

A website dedicated to Triple R has been created as **a dissemination tool to provide information**

on the project. The Triple R website was launched in February 2016 and since that has been updated regularly with news on project implementation and to share news on the implementation and results.

As of September 2017, the website registered **a monthly average of 87 visits**. Some of the users looked up the website twice for an average navigation of 1,30 minutes. **The most visited page is the one of the publications**, demonstrating a great interest about the Triple R content.

The visitors accessing the website were from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

Electronic dissemination

Triple R partners sent out the link to the Triple R Project website and publications to their mailing list of international contacts, including both individual and organizations, and also used the international networks they belong to disseminate the information on the project to all the affiliates and members.

Presentation to the Horizontal Drug Group of the European Union in Brussels, November 2017

In occasion of the Civil Society Forum of the EU, when the Horizontal Drug Group of the European Union meet with Civil Society representatives annually in Brussels, the Triple R project was presented to the high level drug focal point of the EU member states. It was a unique opportunity to highlight the project publications, guidelines and results. The country representatives were very interested, especially the current Estonian EU presidency and the up-coming Bulgarian presidency. The member states commented the achievement of Triple R and seemed interested in learning more.

Evaluation on Triple R handbook on social reintegration

Work on the Triple R publications

The work on the Triple R publications had been a shared effort and the partners contributed actively, organizing their input according to the format provided by the project coordinator. Each partner designated a focal point in their organization with the purpose to coordinate the collection of the information and compiling a preliminary draft contribution.

Staff meeting, interviews and focal groups have been created to respond to the dedicated questions of the survey. Material has been collected and some of 5 partners established an internal working group to facilitate the task of the drafting.

In terms of work, 2 out of 7 partners dedicated more than 50 working days to the drafting, 3 contributors allocated 1 full month to it and just 2 partners declared to have devoted 10 days or less to the task.

Partners' expectation on the publications

The partners had quite **a positive feedback**: 43% declared that they expected the publications to be greatly relevant, 28,5% replied that they would be extremely relevant and other 28,5% satisfactory relevant.

57% expected the publications to be greatly relevant for their daily work, while 14 % respectively foreseen them to be extremely, satisfactory and somehow relevant.

The feedback on the importance of the project results at the international level has also been very positive: 43% of the partners assessed it as extremely and greatly relevant and 14% as satisfactory

relevant.

A strong consensus had been recovered on the importance of the project results at the international level: 57% of the partners agreed they would be extremely relevant and 43% greatly relevant.

The partners also had very positive feedback on the importance of the Triple R publications for the **professionals in the field of the recovery**: 57% expected them to be greatly relevant and 43% extremely relevant.

Even a more positive assessment was shared for the relevance of the publication for **professionals in the social reinsertion field**: 72% declared that it should be greatly relevant and 28% extremely relevant.

The same positive feedback had been shared for the importance of the publication for **professionals in the justice intervention field**: 72% declared that it should be greatly relevant and 28% extremely relevant.

Regarding the relevance of the **publication in improving the current services**, the overall feedback was quite positive.

In the field of **recovery**, the partners assess the contribution as extremely relevant (57%), greatly relevant (48%) and satisfactory relevant (14%).

Regarding **social reintegration**, the judgment was the following: extremely relevant (43%), greatly relevant (43%) and satisfactory relevant (14%).

On **justice interventions**, the feedback was extremely relevant (57%), greatly relevant (28%) and satisfactory relevant (14%).

Furthermore the partners shared some comments on the **possible feedback on expectations from the readers who at had not been involved in the project**.

They believed that they could expect some of the following:

- Reading on the project best practices,
- Finding some practical tools,
- Finding national overviews and study cases,
- Sharing knowledge on recovery and providing real and feasible models and replicable examples,
- Gathering information on how to replicate recovery models,
- Learning on other intervention models and implementation in all the 3 thematic pillar of the project,
- Reading drug policy suggestions promoting recovery, and
- Learning about evidence based approaches and study cases.

Feedback on the publications based on the Triple R publication satisfaction survey

The survey checking on the level of satisfaction with the Triple R publication has been disseminated after the launch of the publication via Survey monkey, reaching out project partners, NGO colleagues and attendees to the Triple R events.

Furthermore, the link to access the questionnaire has been posted on the Triple R website, in the same page where the manual and handbooks are available for download, with the purpose of stimulating an interest in responding to the survey.

The survey has been up for 4 months and was officially closed at the end of August 2017.

The response to the questionnaire was lower than expected showing some disengagement after the initial interest in the project. It seemed that both project partners and attendees felt already

satisfied with the events and the information gathered during the dissemination of the project and did not feel the need to answer to the questionnaire. Furthermore the timing of the survey during the holiday season combined with the questionnaire fatigue produced a low level of responses.

However, according to the feedback collected, the following conclusion on the level of satisfaction can be drawn.

13 organizations responded to the survey representing civil society, project partners, and institutions.

Being allowed multiple choices regarding their **main area of interest**, **46 %** chose **rehabilitation and recovery**, while **38%** preferred **social reintegration**, **31%** gave their preference to **justice intervention**, **8%** demonstrated interest in **research on addiction** and **23%** chose **other subjects such as drug prevention**, start up of TC communities in their own countries or developing personal motivation in addicts who want to quit addiction.

All three publications got a very positive feedback. 62% of the respondent shared that they are **interested in all of them**, **23%** express a **particular interest respectively in the Manual on rehabilitation and recovery and the Handbook on justice interventions and alternatives to incarceration**, while **8%** preferred the **Handbook on social reintegration**.

The **majority of the respondents (54%)** stressed that **all the part of the manual and handbook where relevant for their work**. More specifically the recommendations for policy makers have been recognized to be **very useful by 38%** of the interviewed. **15%** of the respondents found the **recommendations for practitioners** and the Triple R model **equally useful**, while **8%** considered the study cases more relevant.

In general terms, **54%** of the interviewed considered the Triple R publications **greatly relevant for their organization**, **31%** extremely relevant and **16%** satisfactory relevant.

54% of the respondents rated the Triple R publications as **greatly relevant 38%** satisfactory relevant and **8%** extremely relevant **for their daily work**.

Quite a good feedback was collected regarding the importance of the Triple R publications for policymakers at national level, **38%** declared it was satisfactory relevant, **31%** greatly relevant, **23%** extremely relevant and only **8%** somehow relevant.

A similar response but with even more positive feedback was gathered regarding the relevance of the Triple R publications for policymakers at the international level: **39%** of the respondents considered it satisfactory relevant, **31%** greatly relevant, **23%** extremely relevant only **8%** somehow relevant.

Specifically in the field of social justice, the publications were considered by the interviewed as greatly relevant (**46%**), extremely relevant (**31%**), and satisfactory relevant (**23%**) **for professionals working in the field**. In **improving the current services** in the field of social justice, the respondents highlighted that the publications are **46%** greatly relevant, **23%** extremely relevant, **30%** satisfactory relevant.

PHASE II (2017)

Croatian assessment and piloting

The Croatian partners worked with the evaluator in identifying key features in the Croatian reality and providing a shared understanding of the current needs of the drug treatment service providers with the aim of designing a feasibility study on recovery-oriented programs based on the Triple R guidelines.

The needs assessment has profiled the diversity of Croatian needs for treatment, including rates of morbidity and mortality (for example, infection with blood borne viruses), the degree of treatment saturation or penetration, and impact of treatment on individual health, public health and offending. The approach has benefited from a clear understanding of the socio-demographic profile of Croatian drug users, including their children and families, as well as examining the referral routes into treatment, levels of effective engagement with the treatment, reintegration and recovery system, recovery based programs and successful completion and outcomes from treatment interventions.

The needs assessment has taken local action in Croatia to suggest Triple R inspired services with different Croatian stakeholders. It has been able to shed light on the key questions of employability and housing needs amongst the Croatian drug treatment population.

Methodology

Qualitative analysis and quantitative sources of information

Drug services and interventions are based on both qualitative and quantitative data, forming evidence-based methodologies. Needs assessment involves the collection of data from a number of sources. In some cases, data already exist in the form of routinely collected data sets, the results of local population surveys, and published or unpublished research papers. Other information has been collected through, for example, focus groups or one-to-one interviews with practitioners and service users.

In this Feasibility Study, evaluators selected fundamentally Qualitative analysis of primary data, with quantitative analysis of secondary data (Reports and Memories). Half-structured interviews, combined with Focus groups have been used for compiling information.

A considerable range of qualitative approaches use semi-structured and unstructured interviews. All qualitative and semi-structured interviewing has certain core features in common:

1. The interactional exchange of dialogue (between two or more participants, in face-to-face or other contexts).
2. A thematic, topic-centered, biographical or narrative approach where the researcher has topics, themes or issues they wish to cover, but with a fluid and flexible structure.
3. A perspective regarding knowledge as situated and contextual, requiring the researcher to ensure that relevant contexts are brought into focus so that the situated knowledge can be produced. Meanings and understandings are created in an interaction, which is effectively a co-production, involving the construction or reconstruction of knowledge. (Mason, 2002)

As a social event, it has its own set of interactional rules which may be more or less explicit, more or less recognized by the participants can discover, uncover or generate the rules by which they are playing this particular game. The interviewer can become more adept at interviewing, in terms

of the strategies which are appropriate for eliciting responses (Holland and Ramazanoglu,1994). Both interviewers and interviewees can learn more about certain aspects of themselves and the other, with or without this being an explicit part of the interactional exchange.

In general, academic researchers often favor the convenience sample – available by means of Accessibility. To assurance the accessibility in the current research, evaluators contacted the relevant stakeholders, sending out an invitation letter, having the Croatian partners Stijena, San Patrignano Association Split and Institute following up to organize the interview.

A major characteristic of qualitative research then is that it is theoretically driven, and this also applies to the construction and selection of the sample in a qualitative interview study. A more general way of thinking about theoretical sampling in qualitative research is that selection is made on the basis of relevance for the theory to be confirmed, producing example validating the theory. These emerging examples will be both theoretical and purposive, selecting particular exemplary cases for the needs of your study. The current study included different categories for this sampling of relevant stakeholders in Croatian network;

- Public and private organizations working in national, regional and local level;
- Public and private organizations with political and/or technical participation into the network
- Public and private organizations with long-term knowledge about the evolution of drug social problem in Croatia.

The information has been compiled in a 1st analysis, with a 2nd analysis done 5 months later, with a deeper and focused study on proposals and programs concretely planned for Croatian reality and context. The objective of this analysis done in two phases has been to collect information to compile a Croatian network needs assessment and compare the information in a focus group later on, achieving a higher level of understanding and providing concrete proposals.

The number of interviews collected in this study has been 22 (20 in 1st analysis, 2 in 2nd analysis). These interviews have been done in Croatian, English, Italian and Spanish. Croatian partners (Mirjana Vojinović, Darko Condic and Sinisa Panic) served as translators, whenever necessary, to facilitate communication.

Additional qualitative information has been collected with the inclusion of focus groups. Traditionally, focus group research is “a way of collecting qualitative data, which—essentially— involves engaging a small number of people in an informal group discussion (or discussions), ‘focused’ around a particular topic or set of issues” (Wilkinson, 2004, p. 177). Focus groups are less threatening to many research participants, and this environment is helpful for participants to discuss perceptions, ideas, opinions, and thoughts. Multiple types of data were collected during focus groups, including audiotapes of the participants from the focus groups, notes taken by the moderator and assistant moderator, and items recalled by the moderator. The focus groups developed during the Study visits were:

- 1st analysis: Professional staff of social services, in Zagreb (20/04/2017), 5 participants.
- 1st analysis: Drug users in harm reduction program, in Pula (25/04/2017), 9 participants.
- 2nd Analysis: representatives of Government Office of Fight Against Drugs, Ministry of Justice and University.
- 2nd Analysis: Drug users in harm reduction program, in Pula (25/04/2017), 9 participants.

Review of existing sources of information

The aim of data collection is to build up a picture of the overall size and nature of the need in a local area for a range of harm reduction and treatment interventions. An initial task is to bring together information that is available in the local area and prison establishment about the delivery of services that form the local treatment, reintegration and recovery system. The aim of gathering this information is to establish the range of needs currently being met by services (including their capacity and accessibility), thus bringing into focus the gap between the needs of the target population and current service provision. This analysis will then enable key questions to be asked, for example:

- Does the range of provision meet identified local needs?
- Is there evidence of unmet need which remains to be addressed?
- Can what has been commissioned be improved upon in terms of accessibility, effectiveness and cost-efficiency?

Transcript-based analysis represents the most rigorous and time-intensive mode of analyzing data. This mode includes the transcription of videotapes and/or audiotapes. These transcribed data can then be analyzed alongside field notes constructed by the moderator and assistant moderator and any notes extracted from the debriefing of one or more members of the debriefing team. Another mode for analyzing data from a focus group is tape-based analysis, wherein the researcher listens to the tape of the focus group and then creates an abridged transcript. This transcript is usually much shorter than is the full transcript in a transcript-based analysis. Notwithstanding, this type of analysis is helpful because the researcher can focus on the research question and only transcribe the portions that assist in better understanding of the phenomenon of interest. Note-based analysis includes analysis of notes from the focus group, the debriefing session, and any summary comments from the moderator or assistant moderator. Although the focus group is audiotaped and/or videotaped, the tape is used primarily to verify quotations of interest to the researcher, although the tape can be used at a later date to glean more information. Finally, a memory-based analysis is the least rigorous because it involves the moderator recalling the events of the focus group and presenting these to the stakeholders.

Keywords-in-context: The purpose of keywords-in-context is to determine how words are used in context with other words. Furthermore, the contexts within words are especially important in focus groups because of the interactive nature of focus groups. Thus, each word uttered by a focus group member not only should be interpreted as a function of all the other words uttered during the focus group, but it should be interpreted with respect to the words uttered by all other members of the focus group. Keywords-in-context involves a contextualization of words that are considered central to the development of themes and theory by analyzing words that appear before and after each keyword, leading to an analysis of the culture of the use of the word (Fielding & Lee, 1998).

To make the analysis of concepts and categories we made a previous selection of these categories, in order to manage the information and structure the results.

Triple R keywords used in the research have been:

Recovery, rehabilitation, social integration, types of drugs, social structure, education, specific groups, legal system, probation, drug treatment, harm reduction, substitution treatment, network, profile, patterns, health, social services, employment, NGO.

For analysis, these keywords have been integrated in several categories:

- Category Profile/patterns: types of drugs, social structure, education, specific groups
- Category Treatment network: drug treatment, harm reduction, substitution treatment, health, social services, employment, NGO
- Category Recovery/Rehabilitation/Social Reintegration: Recovery, rehabilitation, social integration, legal system, probation,

For Qualitative analysis, evaluators have used the tool ATLAS.ti V8. ATLAS.ti is a computer program used mostly in qualitative research or qualitative data analysis. The purpose of ATLAS.ti is to help researchers uncover and systematically analyze complex phenomena hidden in unstructured data (text, multimedia, geospatial). The program provides tools that let the user locate, code, and annotate findings in primary data material, to weigh and evaluate their importance, and to visualize the often complex relations between them.

Data analysis

Types of drugs, social structure, education and specific groups

In the interviews, the decrease of “traditional” opiates drug users (actually using GPS), and the increase of cannabis and NPS users, especially in young population (culture of Rave Music) were reported. The current Croatian drug scene presented two different profiles of drug users:

- Poli-toxicomania/ polydrug users, especially opiates and opium derivatives, and
- NPS users (fundamentally THC+ smart drugs; legal highs)

Actual drug users in Croatian health system are Male drug users, adult people.

The decrease of heroin users is linked in the interviews with the spreading of substitution treatments in Croatian health services, embedded in the national strategy based on harm reduction interventions. Methadone and buprenorphine maintenance program are in place. The efficacy of this harm reduction strategy has been very high for epidemiological and social aspects of heroin use, fundamentally in infection diseases: HIV, HC+, HB+ rates are controlled, even when there are no needle exchange programs in Croatian public health system.

There are two emergent problems in addictive behaviors profiles and social structure in Croatia:

- Dual pathology patients in health care services, normally drug users with personality disorders, mood disorders and/or psychotic disorders;
- Binge use of NPS and binge drinking in young people, with one peculiar characteristic in this problem: there is same proportion male/female in binge use of addictive behaviors.

That is one of the reasons why next national strategy against addiction will include tobacco, alcohol, and behavioral addictions. In this new national strategy, Recovery is going to be one of the aim for the pilot, especially for non-opiates users.

Under the Category Legal system: treatments, probation

Speaking about interventions in the legal system for drug users and consequences of drug use in delinquency patterns in Croatia, there is a difference between prison or closed settings and open

interventions or probation programs.

-In prison: in closed settings psychosocial support it is offered with Long-Term Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (17-34 weeks of treatment) that includes relapse prevention. Some limitations in the programs apply: only 7 person can access treatment in prison; only 1 facility offers adapted program for drug users, a modified TC in Zagreb. Using information from the Ministry of Justice, Guidelines for psychosocial support in prison system, based on European Best Practices and Standards are provided.

During the study, evaluators discovered some limitations about motivational treatments and autonomy programs in closed settings in Croatian system. The lack of motivational treatment has been identified as a global problem in the network, along with the limited access to Autonomy programs, including relapse prevention programs, especially life skills programs, to avoid and or decrease relapses and revolving door prevention. Also, a recognized advantage in the network is the active participation of NGOs in prison system and facilities. Efficacy of treatment and adherence to aftercare services are proven to be better when NGOs provide information aftercare programs to inmates.

The need to increase treatment options for drug users in prison was also recognized by stakeholders.

In the Croatian probation system drug users are allowed to use the benefit of suspended sentence or substitution with public utility community works.

23 state organizations, including 5 NGOs are handling probation services, under the Probation Act, quoting the Law ("Probation tasks in Republic of Croatia: Law of Probation 01/01/2013"):

"Probation tasks shall be carried out in order to protect the community from criminal offenders, to re-socialize criminal offenders and to reintegrate them into the community by influencing the risk factors relating to committing criminal offences, which are of special interest to the Republic of Croatia"

Croatian Probation Service was set up as an administrative organization under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia

According to the information shared by the Ministry of Justice, there have been some problems with judges in the application of substitution and alternative sentences. Stakeholders reported that there is not enough use of probation system in Croatia in general. Other limitation in the implementation is the absence of specific programs for drug users in probation system.

Feasibility study and proposal for Implementation of pilot project

Project partners supported the evaluator in collecting project findings on unmet need, summarizing the demographics of unmet need, the potential harms emanating from unmet need, potential numbers and whether or not they are more or less likely to be in touch with services. Following the gap analysis stage, partners created a mapping of the needs of the local area target population and used the findings of their expert group to audit and quality comparing existing services and identified needs and, where necessary, simplify services and develop new services that will go towards meeting newly identified or emerging needs.

After this assessment the following proposals emerged:

Concrete suggestions for pilot project under the category legal system and probation

Proposal to include the concept “integral treatment” as substitute of “medical treatment” in Croatian law about drug intervention in closed settings. Currently, the only defined treatment is medical treatment, despite of the shared needs for psychotherapy, psychosocial support, social reintegration, cognitive behavioral and relapse prevention.

Recovery based programs and after prison services: occupational therapy and job counseling programs for drug users that have been in Croatian prisons. Additional funds and resources are needed in order for NGOs to implement such programs.

Proposal for collaboration synergies for NGOs working in the probation system: substituting the actual list of services and organizations, which has been considered as non effective procedure by the stakeholders. From the interviews one common idea emerged. There is a need of managing the engagement of the NGOs in the intervention process. Especially in the probation system there is the need to unify the access to information and create synergies among NGOs and other institutional stakeholder to ameliorate the services. Areas of improvements identified: topics of intervention, active programs and proposal for collaboration with probation system.

Autonomy programs for inmates are needed, especially focused in life skills and relapse prevention.

As a consequence of Triple R project, Institut Pula is starting a project of Housing and Autonomy for drug users that have been in Croatian prisons. This project is connected with the topic of this study and the objectives of Triple R project, so it can be considered an output of the development of *HOME/2014/JDRU/AG/DRUG/7092 -Triple R: Rehabilitation for Recovery and Reinsertion*