Objectives

The main objective of the Eurosider Project is to contribute to a better Hepatitis C policy and practice by developing the transferability of an effective community-based intervention to people who inject drugs in different political contexts with the aim to reduce the risk of HIV-HCV transmission.

The individually-tailored support and education for safer injection (ITSESI) intervention consists in offering educational supervision of the different injection phases, from pre- to post-injection and in providing tailored education for each risky act, prevention messages related to HIV/HCV transmission and information about access to screening and care for HIV and HCV.

To achieve these objectives, the project partners will:

- assess the national and local context of services working in the area of HIV/HCV prevention
- implement and evaluate the ITSESI intervention to reduce risks of (re)infection for PWID’s in Bucharest, Sofia, Athens and Lisbon
- prepare and disseminate validated tools for effective HIV/HCV risk reduction under PWID’s
- advocate on policy level for implementation of these ITSESI tools.

 Outputs

The project will produce a number of tools and publications to disseminate, promote and support the implementation of the method and practice. Target groups include addiction, care and prevention services, drug user groups and associations, national policy maker and European agencies such as EMCDDA. In particular, the project will:

- Produce a European training manual, which will be developed based on the evaluation of the ITSESI implementation in the four countries, and directed at field workers and peers with a view to increasing their HCV prevention capacities.
- Produce scientific publications based on the outcomes of the evaluation of the implementation in the four countries, directed at European stakeholders including researchers, policy makers and policy implementers, in order to increase their awareness and knowledge about the efficacy of ITSESI in harm reduction.
- Organize a European workshop to discuss opportunities for and barriers to implementing the intervention on a wider scale in other European countries. A workshop report will address the main outcomes and recommendations to further advocate the intervention.

Eurosider publications:
Promotional leaflet
Assessment report
Training Manual
Scientific Publication

Eurosider events:
Eurosider meetings
Eurosider trainings
European workshop

Eurosider address:
INSERM U912 - ORS PACA
IHU - Faculté de Médecine
27, bd Jean Moulin
13335 Marseille
Tel: (+33) 04 13 73 22 78
carine.magen@inserm.fr
EUROSIDER is an European project, financed by the European Union DG Home programme, supporting initiatives in the field of drugs policy and operates 2018 – 2019. The project is developed by the French Research Institute INSERM and supported by Aides, France, and the Correlation Network, the Netherlands.

The INSERM research team, U1252 unit - SESSTIM, is internationally known in the field of addictions and public health. The team has coordinated many studies among PWID, the MANIF2000 cohort of 467 HIV persons infected by injecting drug use, the ANRS-AERLI project which led to validate the individually-tailored support and education for safer injection (ITSESI) intervention and is currently evaluating a new harm reduction service that just opened in France, the drug consumption rooms.

AIDES is a national, community-based association fighting HIV and Hepatitis, mobilising over a thousand volunteers and salaried militants. AIDES was a central partner in the ANRS-AERLI research. It is, amongst others, involved in needle exchange programmes, community testing and outreach activities as well as research and advocacy work at local, national and international levels (e.g. via the Coalition Internationale Sida – PLUS).

Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network - works on capacity building, harm reduction, monitoring and advocacy on European level and coordinates the Hepatitis C Initiative and the International Network on Drug Consumption Rooms.

The four local partners have long standing experiences in the field of harm reduction policy and practice and have the capacity to promote outcomes of the intervention on a national level:

- Aras, Romania (Initiative for Health)
- Praksis, Greece (PRAKTIK)
- Praksis, Greece (PRAKTIK)
- GAT, Portugal (GAT, Portugal)

Access to needle syringe programs (NSP) and to opioid substitution treatment (OST) is well known to reduce unsafe HIV/HCV transmission practices and seroconversion in people who inject drugs (PWID). However, in certain contexts, this access is limited or inadequate, leading to many drug injection-related complications (e.g. HIV and HCV infections, abscesses, cellulitis and other skin infections).

In order to reduce these risks, an individually-tailored educational intervention for safer injection, provided by peer educators, nurses and trained social workers will be implemented in the 4 partner countries Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal and Romania.

The educational intervention has already been validated in the French context for harm reduction programs after showing a significant reduction in unsafe HIV/HCV transmission practices and local complications at injection sites. The project proposed here aims to transfer the French intervention to other contexts (outreach, semi-urban environment, other countries with less access to prevention and care) and more particularly to study the feasibility and the effectiveness of its implementation at a European level.


Background

Access to needle syringe programs (NSP) and to opioid substitution treatment (OST) is well known to reduce unsafe HIV/HCV transmission practices and seroconversion in people who inject drugs (PWID).

In order to reduce these risks, an individually-tailored educational intervention for safer injection, provided by peer educators, nurses and trained social workers will be implemented in the 4 partner countries Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal and Romania.

The educational intervention has already been validated in the French context for harm reduction programs after showing a significant reduction in unsafe HIV/HCV transmission practices and local complications at injection sites. The project proposed here aims to transfer the French intervention to other contexts (outreach, semi-urban environment, other countries with less access to prevention and care) and more particularly to study the feasibility and the effectiveness of its implementation at a European level.