



The CPT at 25:
taking stock and moving
forward

Health care in prisons

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Conditions of detention – can EU act?

- *Detention issues - the responsibility of Member States*
- *Support to a number of prison related activities via different financial programmes*
- *EU action: combating communicable diseases, addressing drug problems and mental illnesses*
- *Lifestyle issues: nutrition, diet, tobacco and alcohol use*



Communicable Diseases: Monitoring & Surveillance

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC):

- TB in prisoners -> joint WHO/ECDC „Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring“
- HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C services in prisons -
> “Monitoring of the implementation of the Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia”



Communicable Diseases: Policy Action

EU Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries: 2014-2016

- Recognizes prisoners as high risk group
- Targeted and integrated prevention and treatment to most at risk populations
- Improved access to prevention and integrated HIV, and co-infections treatment including in prisons settings (in priority regions)
- Implementation of harm reduction measures for people who inject drugs, including prisoners



Communicable Diseases: EU funded Actions

EU Health Programme support:

- "Connections": HIV and drug prevention policies/services in criminal justice systems (2007-2010, EC contribution: €850 000)
- "HPYP": Health Promotion for Young Prisoners (2010-2013, EC contribution: €500 000)
- Joint Action "HA-REACT": Harm reduction amongst people who inject drugs, including integration of social, health and prison health services (2015-2017, EC contribution: €3 million)



Substance abuse in prisons

- *Inmates experience of illicit drugs is very high compared to the general population*
- *10-50% male, 30-60% female are dependent on or used drugs in the month before imprisonment*
- *Cannabis use is most frequent, followed by cocaine and heroin*



Health risk behaviours and their consequences in prisons

- *Injection in prison often aims at maximising effects to overcome scarcity of drugs*
- *Close association between injecting drug use and risks of blood borne infections as well as overdose*
- *Prevalence of HIV (10-40%) and Hep C (10-90%) is 2-3x higher than in injecting drug users outside prison*



EU policy on substance abuse in prisons

- *Council Recommendation on the prevention and reduction of health-related harm associated with drug dependence (2003)*
- *Report on the Council Recommendation (2013)*
- *EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020*
- *EU Action Plan on Drugs 2013-2016*



Health Programme projects addressing substance abuse in prisons



- **Health Promotion for Young Prisoners (2009)** resulting in a toolkit for prison staff addressing health related factors like infectious diseases, sexual health, mental health, **prevention and treatment of drug use**.
- **Joint Action – HA-REACT** for improvement of HIV and co-infection prevention and treatment in priority regions and priority groups in the European Union - to start in 2015 with a focus on the improvement of the provision of integrated HIV, HCV, TB and **drug treatment** services in prisons settings.



Mental health and suicide prevention

- *Mental disorders - some of the most common health problems among prisoners*
- *Major depressive disorder - among the top three causes of disability in every EU-Member State in 2010*
- *Mental disorders can be a cause or a consequence of being in prison*





Mental health: EU funded Action

- *A Joint Action (JA) Mental Health and Well-being (2013-2016)*
- *First results - interventions on depression / suicides, targeting prisons and prison staff*
- *Proposals for the transition from institutional to community care*
- *A first version of the report and policy recommendations: <http://www.mentalhealthandwellbeing.eu/>*



EU-Compass for Action on Mental Health and Well-being

- *The EU-Mental Health Compass - a website with good practices on mental health*
- *In 2015 - it will be developed into an interactive instrument*
- *Stakeholders could include information about their activities with regard to mental health issues and suicides rates in prisons*