

## Drug consumption room in Europe: Maintain the momentum in the face of the major challenges of the 21st century 2<sup>nd</sup> European symposium, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, Strasbourg



DCR Argos managed by the association Ithaque, July 2016 @

The health and social damage associated with the use of licit and illicit psychotropic substances fully justifies the urgency of supporting the development of a supported harm reduction policy, even more so with the Covid19 epidemic making the most vulnerable more vulnerable. More than ever, in the face of such challenges, it is necessary to strengthen risk reduction strategies at local, national, and European levels.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, the second European symposium on Drug consumption room (DCR) was held in Strasbourg, « Maintaining the momentum in the face of the major challenges of the 21st century », with the aim of **sharing the wealth of experience**, supporting existing rooms and **contributing to the development** of such harm reduction schemes in European countries. It is about being at the heart of issues that combine human rights, tranquillity, and public health.



Plenary session of the symposium in the hemicycle of the Council of Europe, July 2021 @



Worldwide geographical origin of registrants for the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 symposium

Organised by the City of Strasbourg, the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, and the Ithaque association, manager of the Argos Drug Consumption Room in Strasbourg, in partnership with the Mildeca, the ARS Grand Est, the EFUS and the Correlation Network, this symposium brought together more than **300 participants** from **33 different countries**.

*"The presence of elected representatives from many French cities at the symposium in Strasbourg is a very positive sign, as is the work underway in Lille, where a DCR project was recently approved, in Marseille, where the project is ongoing, and in Paris, where the mayor has reiterated her request to open other low-risk drug consumption rooms on her territory"* (Jeanne Barseghian, mayor of Strasbourg and Alexandre Feltz, deputy mayor of Strasbourg).



European geographical origin of registrants for the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 symposium



Inauguration of the DCR Argos accommodation as part of the symposium ; July 2021 @

On this occasion, Olivier Véran, France's Minister of Health and Solidarity, gave his support and congratulations to the City of Strasbourg for the work undertaken on harm reduction through the experimentation of the medical-social care and accommodation facility linked to the Argos DCR. This experiment was authorised by the Regional Health Agency in June 2021 and is a first in France.



New accommodation at DCR Argos, Strasbourg, July 2021: treatment room @



New accommodation at DCR Argos, Strasbourg, July 2021: one of the rooms @

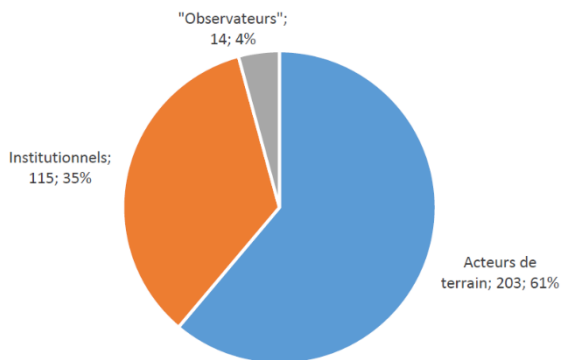
The reflections focused on the **evolution of DCR** since the 2019 symposium. Then, in workshops, the participants discussed on:

- The **impacts of covid-19** and the **responses provided** by DCR
- The **opportunities** and challenges of opening a DCR from the point of view of professionals
- How to **get around the political, legislative, or material obstacles** to the creation of a DCR

A brainstorming session with the aim of creating a European network of DCR closed the symposium.



One of the workshops of the symposium at the Council of Europe, July 2021



One of the **strengths of the symposium** was the joint expression of actors in the field (Caarud, associations, collectives) and the presence of political, elected and institutional figures.

The **co-organisers** (Alexandre Feltz, deputy in charge of health in Strasbourg, Denis Huber, executive secretary of the Pompidou Group, Gauthier Waeckerlé, director of Ithaque), would like to thank each registrant for their interest in this symposium, the participants for the quality of the exchanges, the speakers for the quality of their speeches, and the partners for their unfailing support

