

Evidence based early prevention

as a core human right focused investment needed to reduce the risks for public health and safety posed by drugs



UNODC-WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention played a crucial role in guiding global efforts to prevent drug use and its associated risks, contributing to improved coordination, effectiveness, and accountability in prevention initiatives worldwide. It provided a comprehensive and evidence-based set of guidelines for drug use prevention programs, serving as a global reference point for governments, general public, non-governmental organizations, and practitioners involved in drug prevention efforts. The importance of early prevention gained additional momentum during the 65th meeting of Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna through the adoption of CND 65/4 resolution entitled “Promoting comprehensive and scientific evidence-based early prevention”.

Through adoption of this resolution, Member States sent a resounding message that drug use prevention at the early developmental stages of a child is a priority and that a coordinated, evidence-based response is of vital importance to effectively address this impediment.

The side event will provide an opportunity for Member states to present their achievements in drug prevention and to engage with other Member States and stakeholders on how to enhance cooperation and partnership in promoting early prevention. The side event will also contribute to raising awareness of drug prevention in implementing the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

Room M3, M Building,
Vienna International Centre

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VIRTUALLY



FRIDAY
15. 3. 2024
9:00 – 10:30

Opening remarks:

- Ms **Eva Vodnik**, State Secretary, Ministry of Health of Republic of Slovenia
- Ms **Ghada Fathy Ismail Waly**, Executive Director UNODC (tbc)

Pannelists:

- Mr **Jean-Luc Lemaheu**, Director of Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, UNODC
- Ms **Ellen Rønning-Arnesen**, State Secretary, Norway,
- Ms **Devora Kestel**, Director of Mental Health and Substance Use Department, WHO,
- Ms **Vesna Marinko**, Director-General of Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia,
- Mr **Matej Košir**, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs/Institute Utrip,
- Mr **Denis Huber**, Executive Secretary of the “Pompidou Group”, Council of Europe

Moderators:

- H.E. Ambassador **Barbara Žvokelj**, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna and
- Ms **Vesna Marinko**, Director-General of Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia

ORGANIZED BY SLOVENIA

Co-sponsors: EU, Norway, Belgium, WHO, UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, Pompidou Group, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, UTRIP Institute