

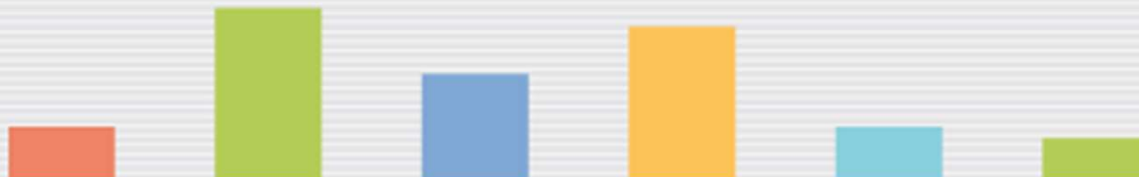


European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Prison and Drugs in Europe: problems and interventions

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(European Monitoring Centres for Drugs and drug Addiction- EMCDDA)

Penological Cooperation (PC-CP) – Council of Europe
12th Plenary Meeting - Strasbourg, 25-27/10/2022



EMCDDA

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

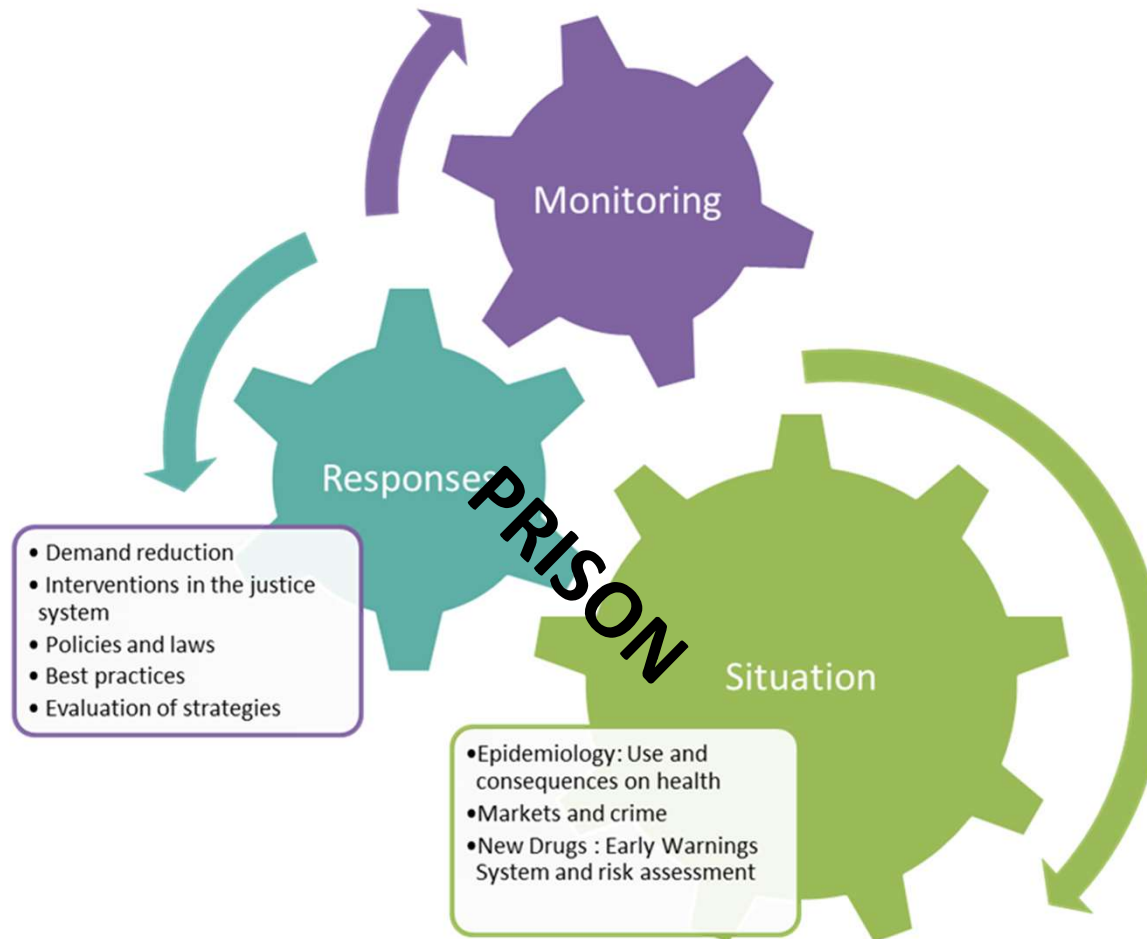
- Decentralised EU agency
- Established in 1993
- Based and operating in Lisbon since 1995
- EU reference point on drugs

Provide the EU and its Member States with factual, objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences on:

- illicit drugs
- poly-drug use
- new psychoactive substances



Working areas



Data sources, collection, validation

Reitox network (27 EU Member States, Norway and Turkey)

Routine and ad-hoc validation process with the countries



Prison and Drugs – Insights publication

- Published in June 2021
- Data 2019 (or most recent)
- On 30 EU countries (27 EU + Norway, Turkey and UK)
- Several data sources
- Available at:
<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/13904/TDXD21001ENN.pdf>
- Recorded webinar available:
https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/media-library/emcdda-webinar-prison-and-drugs-europe-current-and-future-challenges_en



Structure of the Insight

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION: SETTING THE SCENE

CHAPTER 2
PREVALENCE OF
DRUG USE

CHAPTER 3
DRUG-RELATED
HEALTH
PROBLEMS

CHAPTER 4
HEALTH AND
SOCIAL
RESPONSES

CHAPTER 5
HARM REDUCTION
INTERVENTIONS

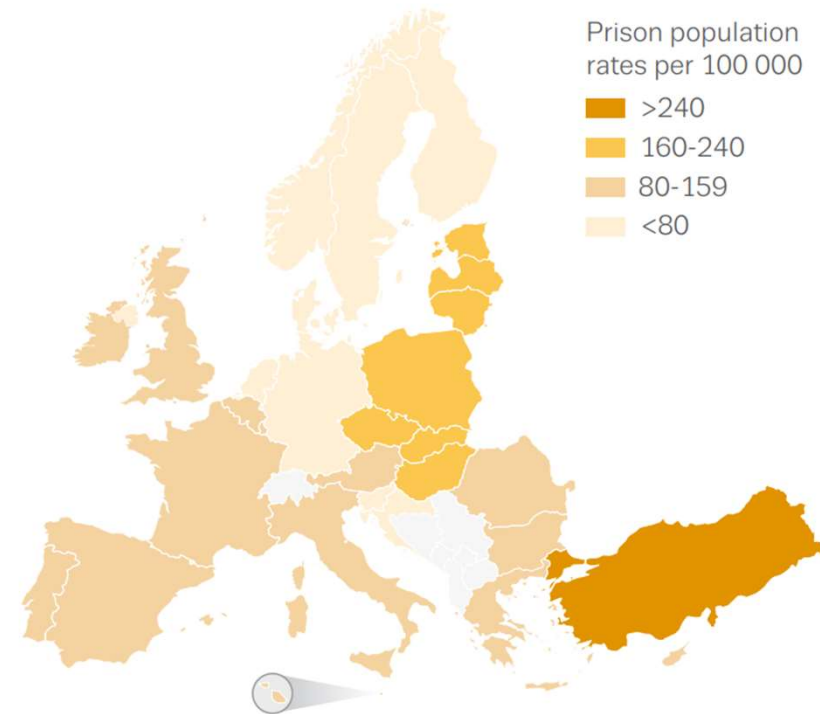
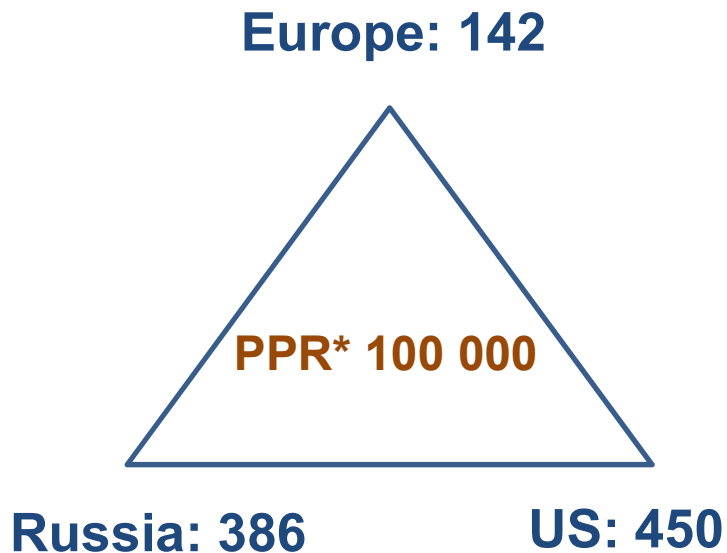
CHAPTER 6
AVAILABLE
EVIDENCE AND
GOOD PRACTICE

CHAPTER 7
DRUG SUPPLY TO
PRISONS

CHAPTER 8 – CHALLENGES, IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY /PRATICE



856 000 people in prison in 2019



Source: Aebi and Tiago, 2020.

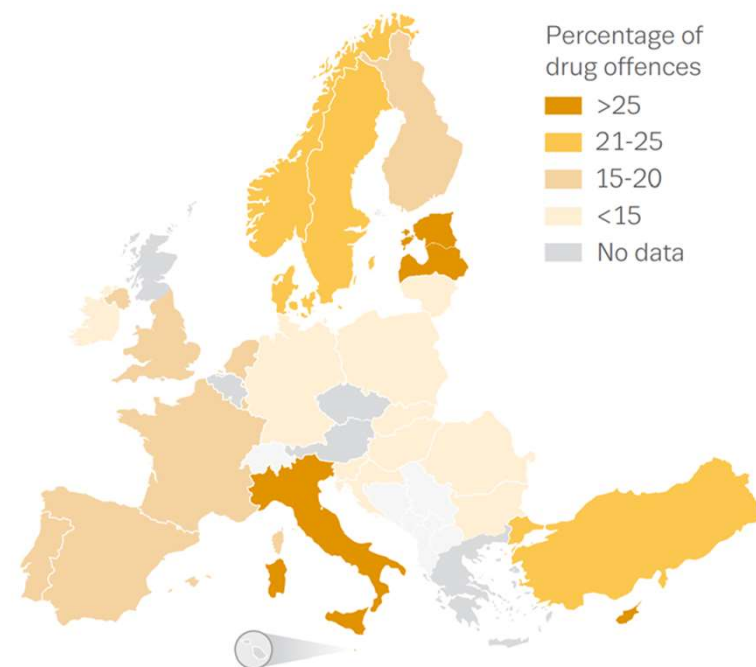
Prison population rate * 100 000 inhabitants in EU Member States, Norway, Turkey, UK, 2019 – (Source: AebiTiago, 2020)



Interconnection between drugs and prison



EU Average 18% DLO (use, possession, trafficking)



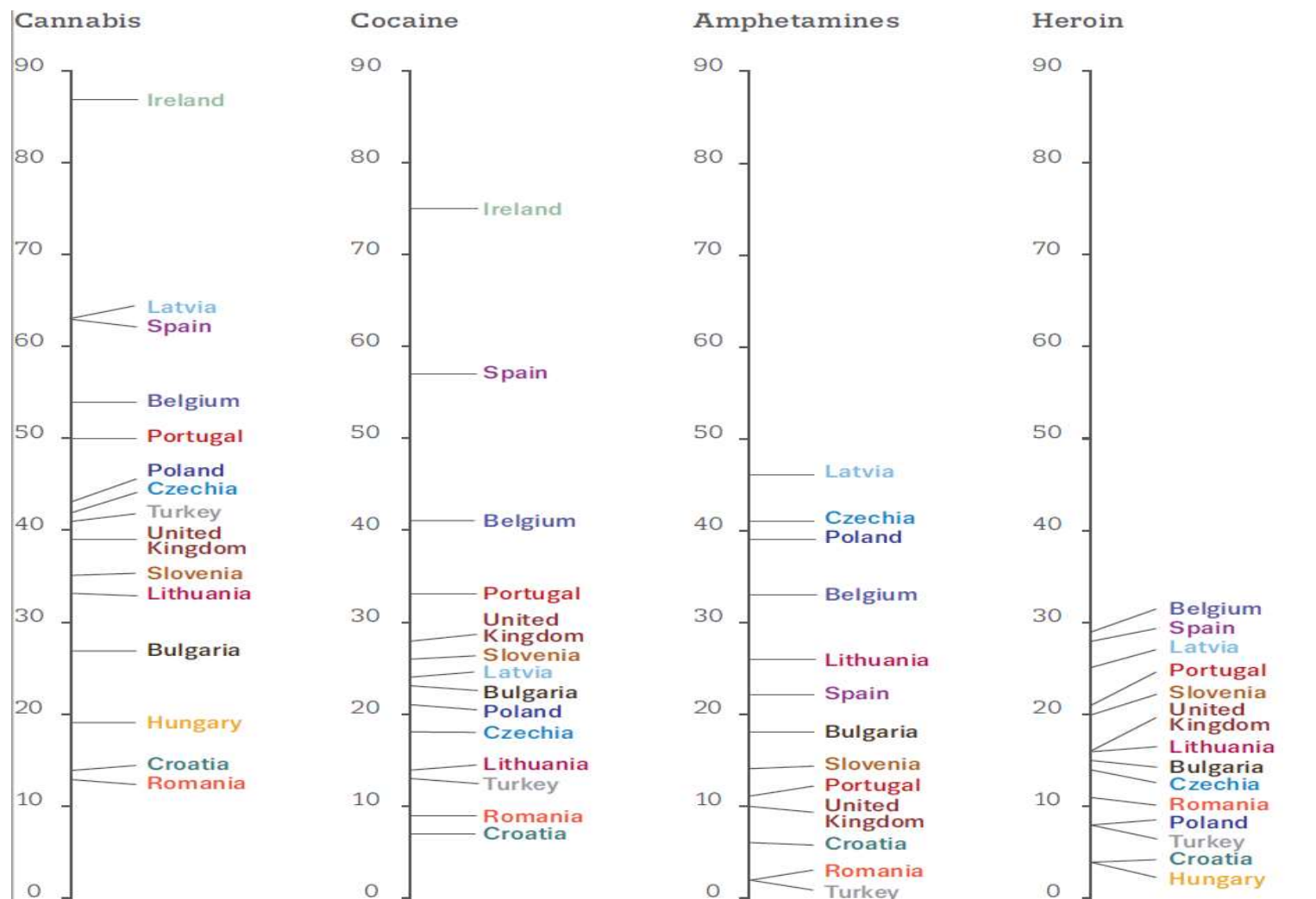
Source: Aebi and Tiago, 2020.

Share of prison population sentenced for drug offences in EU Member States, Norway, Turkey, UK, 2019



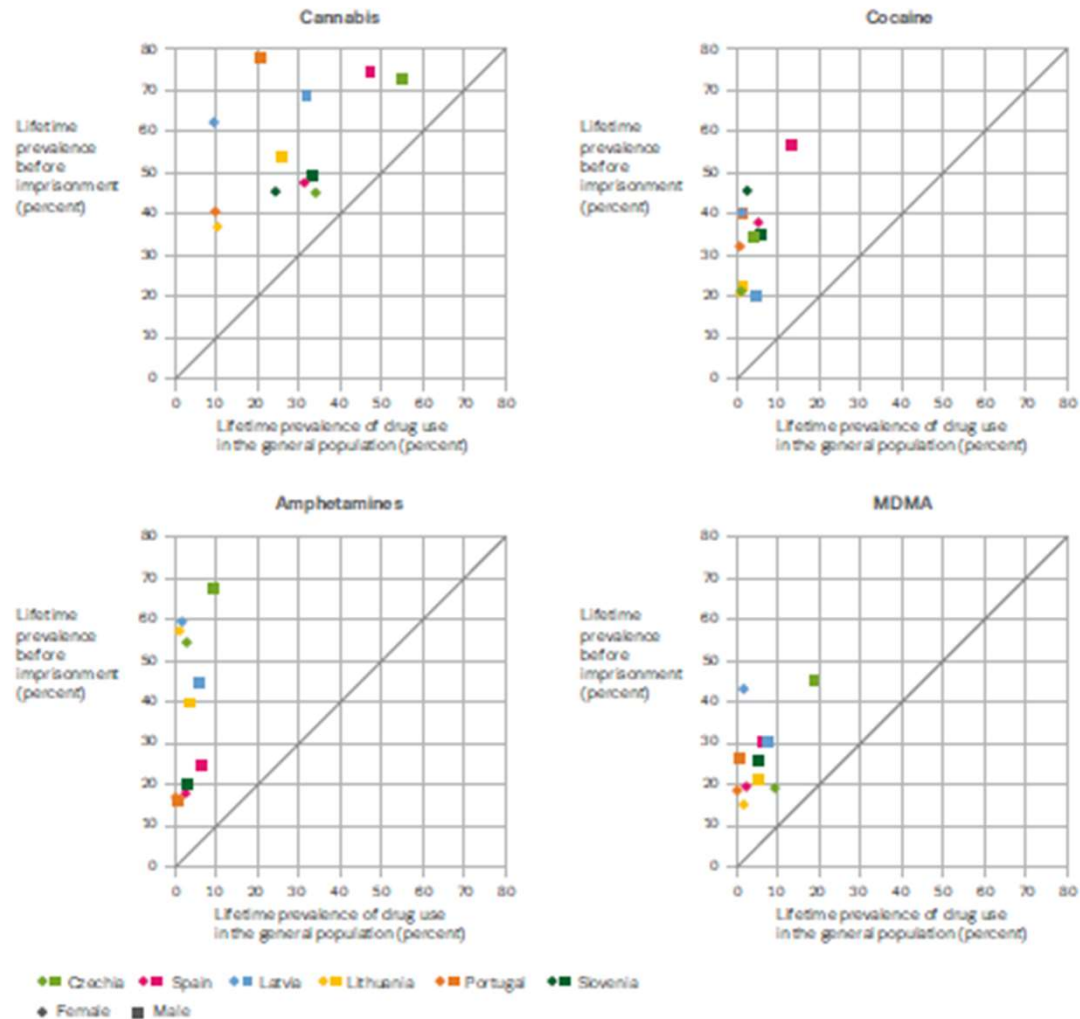
EMCDDA (2021), Prison and drugs in Europe: current and future challenges, Luxembourg.

Lifetime prevalence of drug use among people in prison



EMCDDA (2021), Prison and drugs in Europe: current and future challenges, Luxembourg.

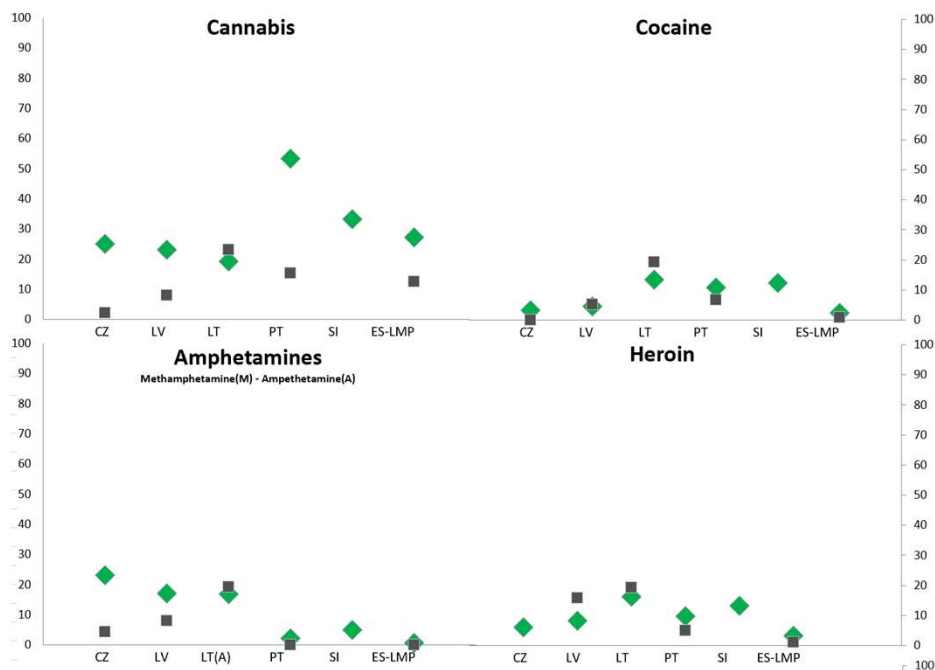
Excess in drug use compared to the general population



Source: EQDP 2019.



Drug use and injecting inside prison (11 countries)



Life time prevalence in 6 countries:

Cannabis: 2% - 53%

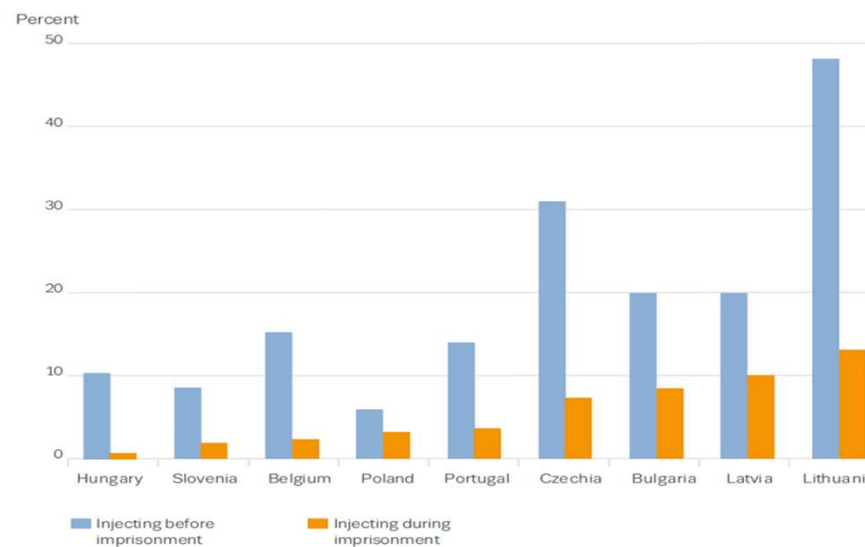
Cocaine: 2%-19%

Amphetamines: 0%-23%

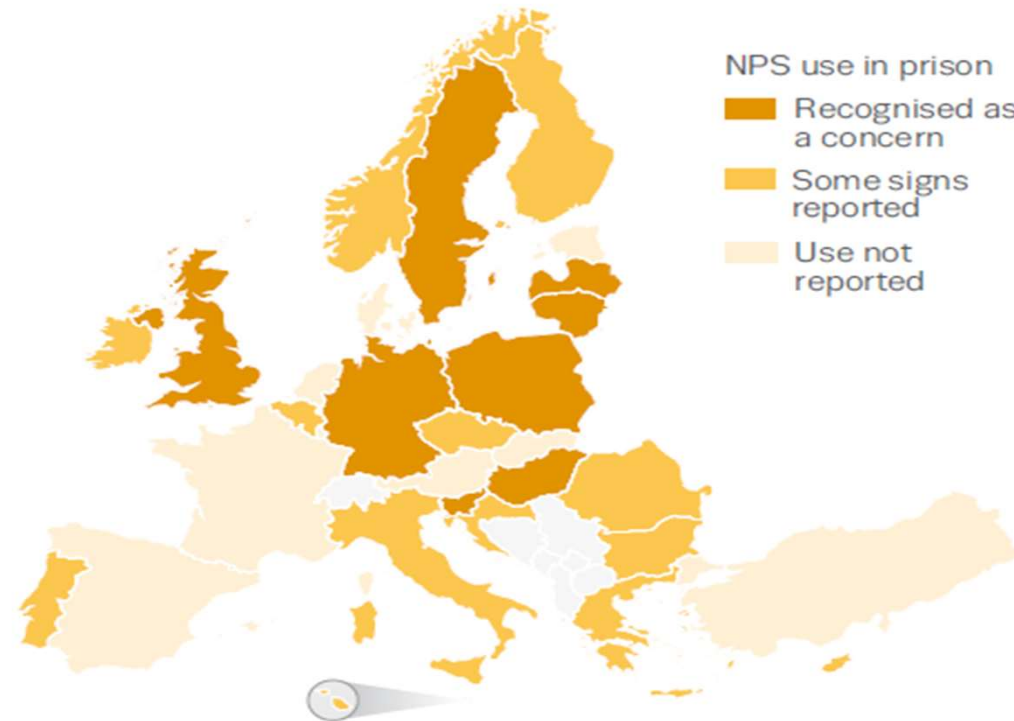
Heroin: 1%-16%



Life time injecting inside and outside prison in 9 countries between 2000-2019



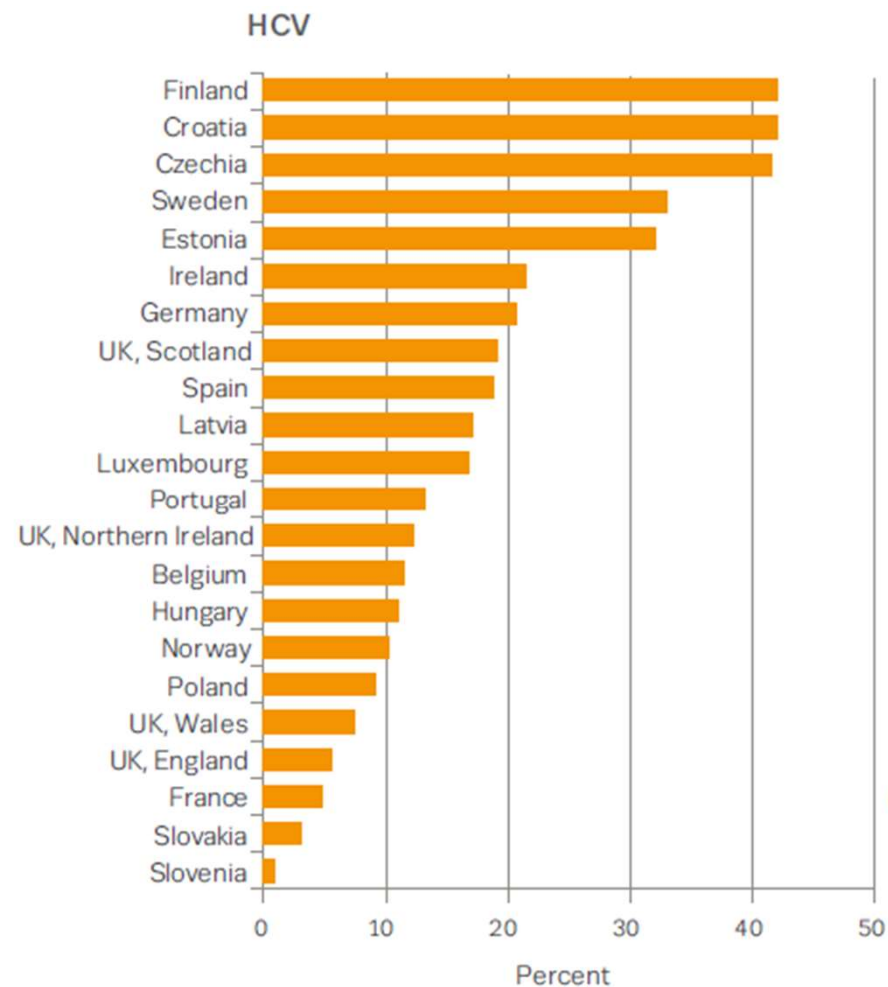
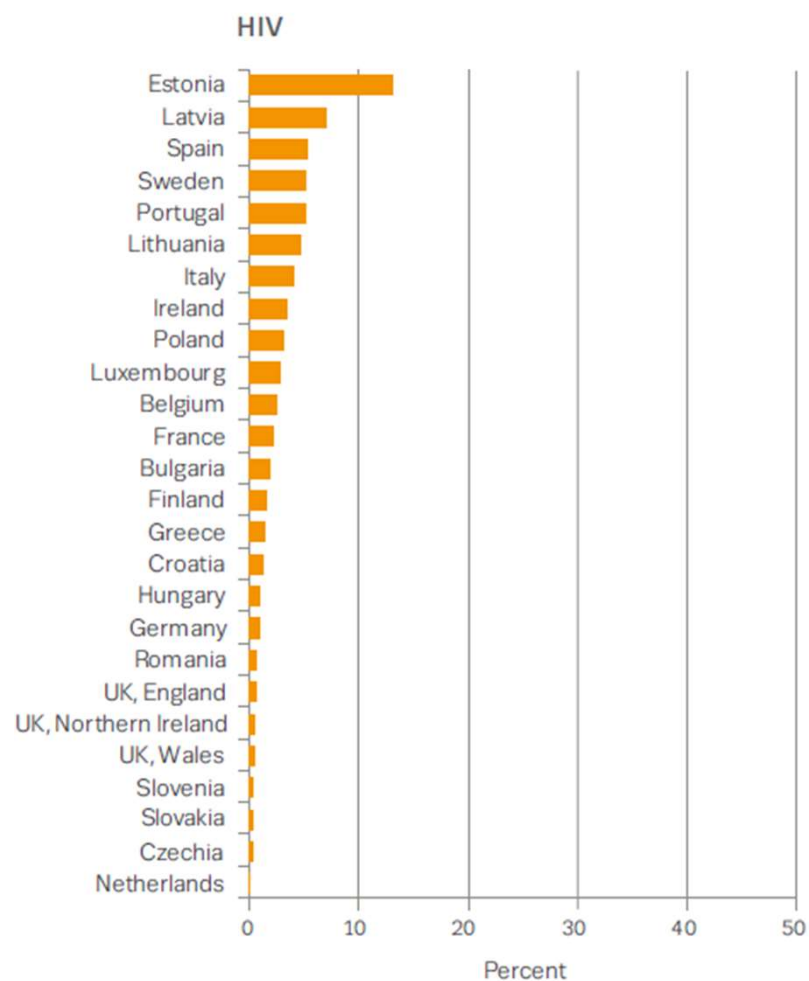
Use of NPS inside prison (2018) (22 countries)



Source: EMCDDA, 2018.



Prevalence of HIV and HCV among prison population 2000-2017

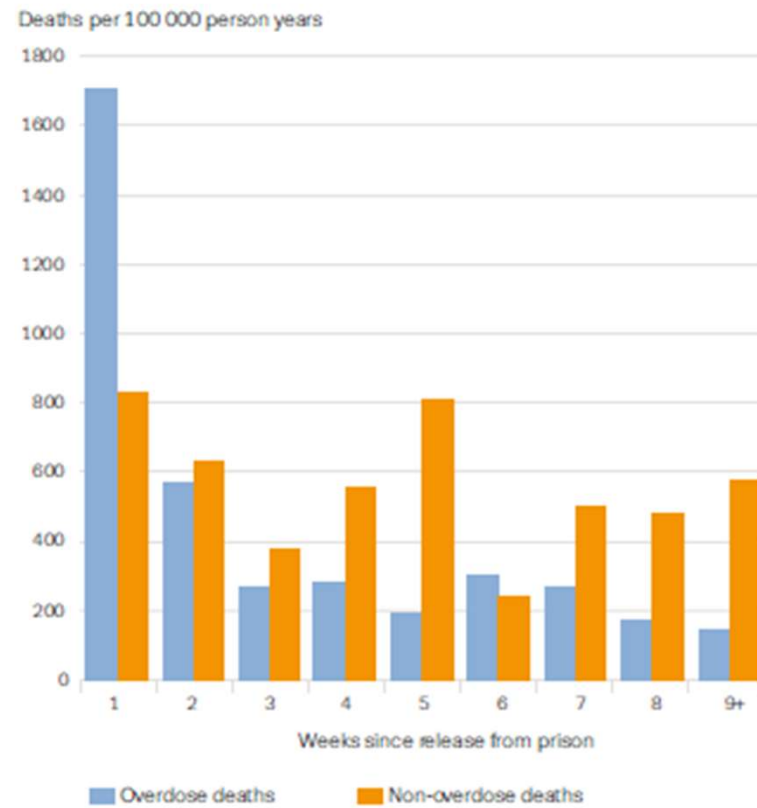


Mortality among people in prison

Mortality inside prison

- EU 10.5 (*10 000) deaths VS 1.5 in the general population
- Suicide leading cause of death
- 78% of deaths are for violent cause
- 1 in 10 of those violent deaths are due to intentional or accidental drug overdose or intoxication

Mortality after prison release

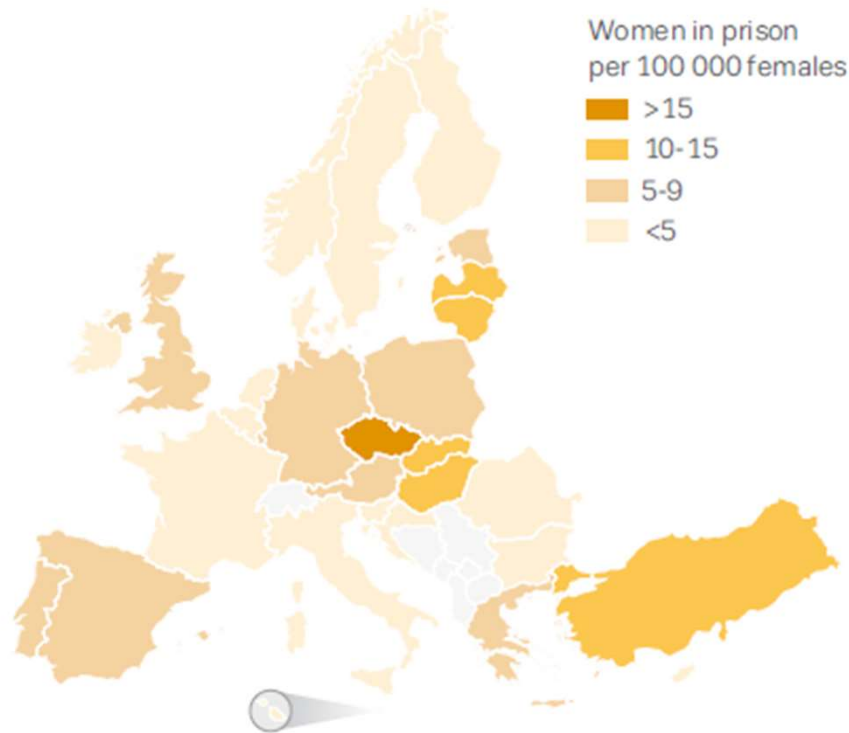


Source: Binawanger et al., 2013.

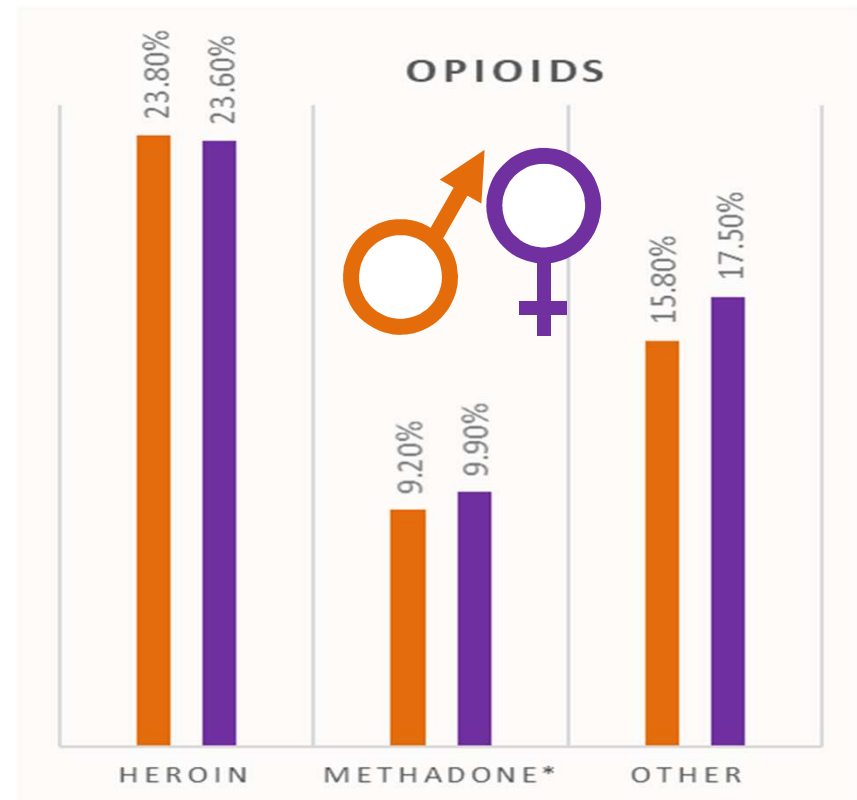


Women in prison and drug use

- 5 % of EU prison population
- 5% (BG) to 40% (ES) in prison for drug law offences
- High level of substance use and mental health disorders



Source: Aebi and Tiago, 2020.



EMCDDA (2021), Prison and drugs in Europe: current and future challenges, Luxembourg; EQDP data from 6 countries CZ, LV; LT, PT, SI, ES (1365 F- 10225 M)

Available evidence on drug related interventions in prison

✓ Five desired outcomes

- Behavioural changes
- Prevention and control of communicable diseases
- Prevention of post-release mortality
- Social reintegration
- Legal and structural contexts

✓ Evidence rating

- Beneficial/likely to be beneficial/unknown effectiveness

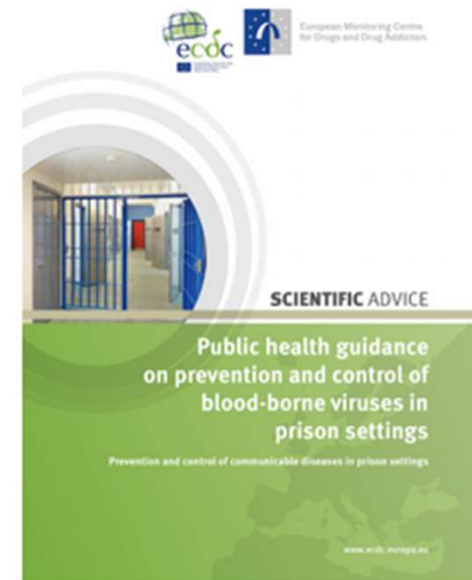
✓ OST and test and prevention and treatment of infectious diseases

- Most evidence exists

✓ Lack of evidence for many other interventions

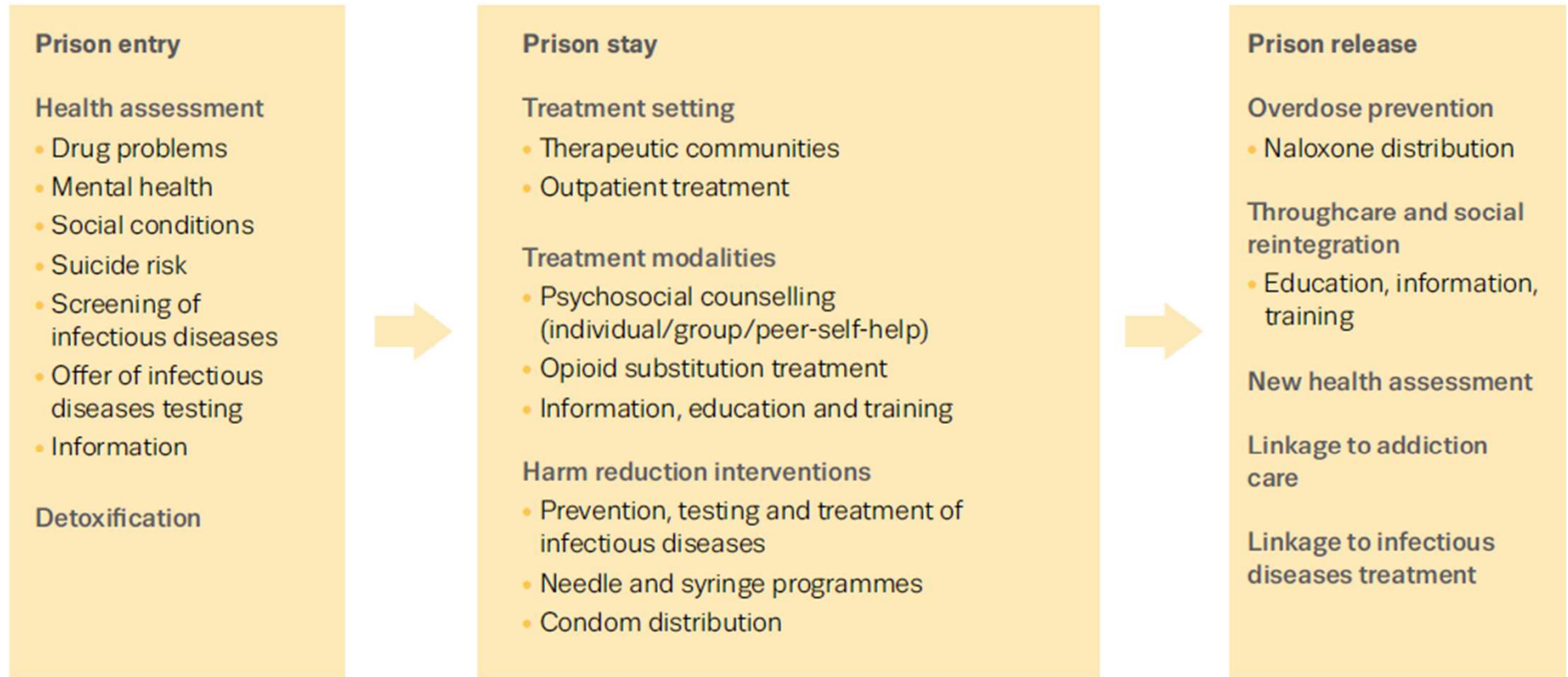


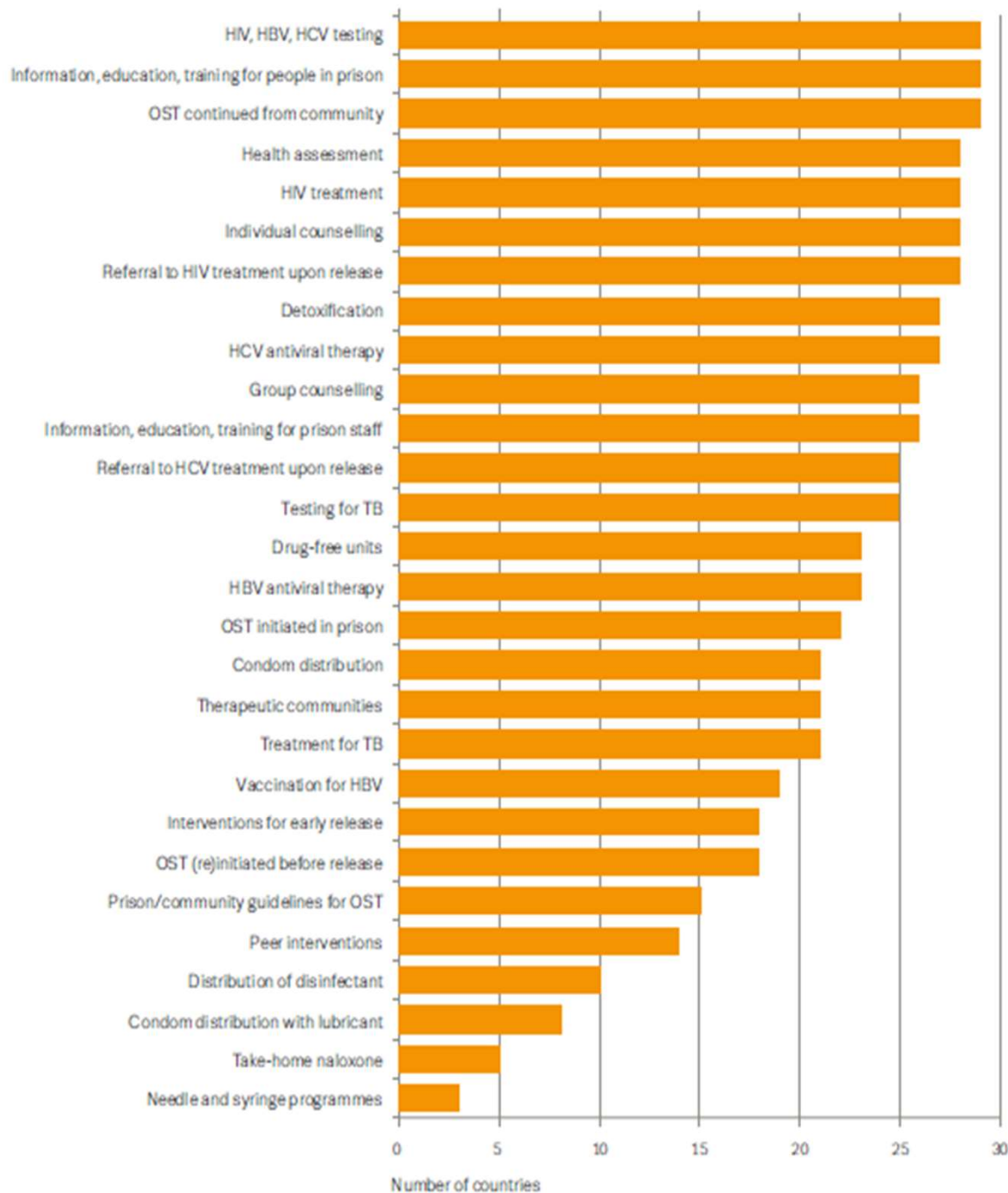
EMCDDA (2021), Prison and drugs in Europe: current and future challenges, Luxembourg.



Public health guidance on prevention and control of blood-borne viruses in prison settings

Drug related interventions in prison

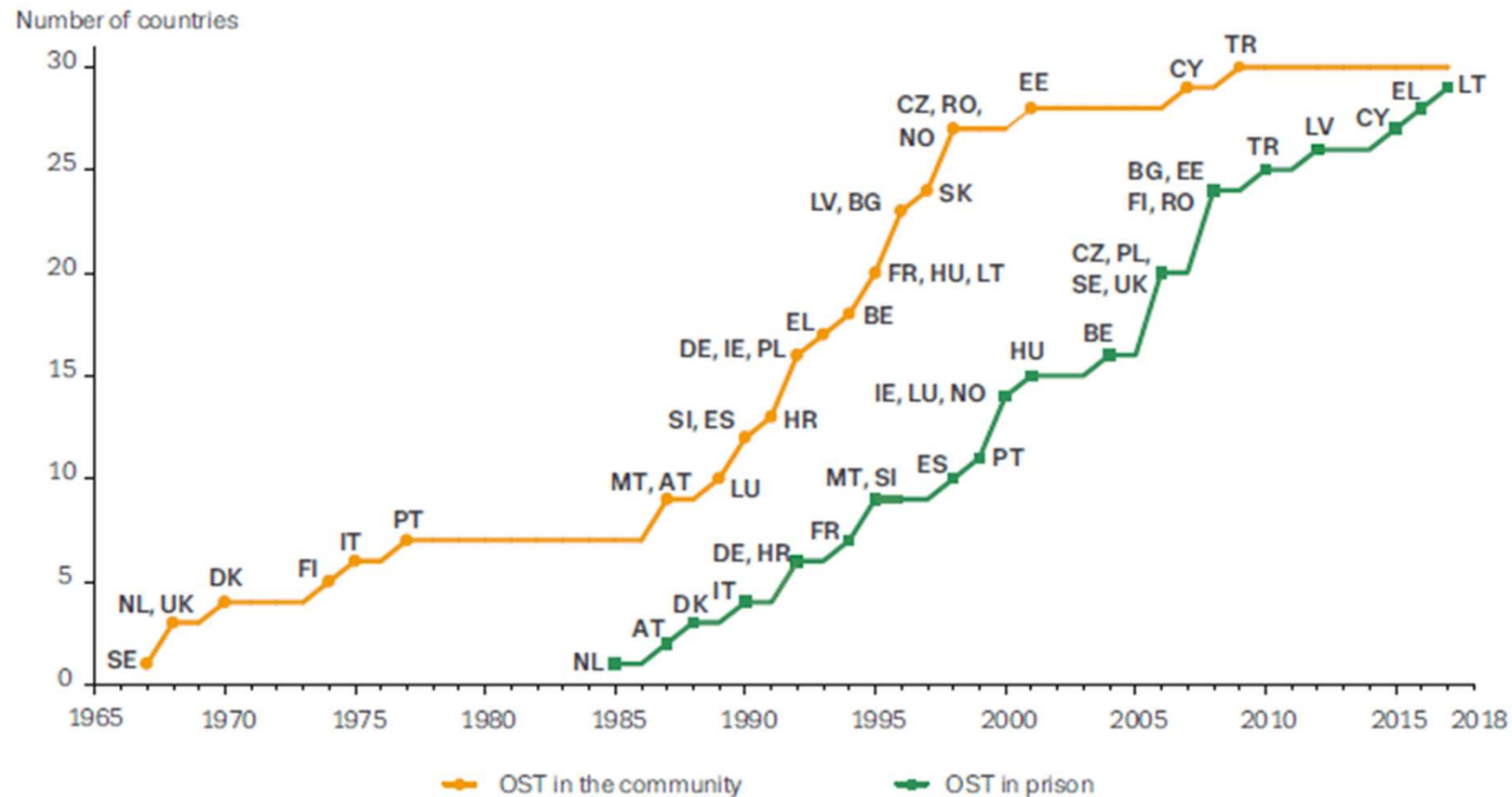




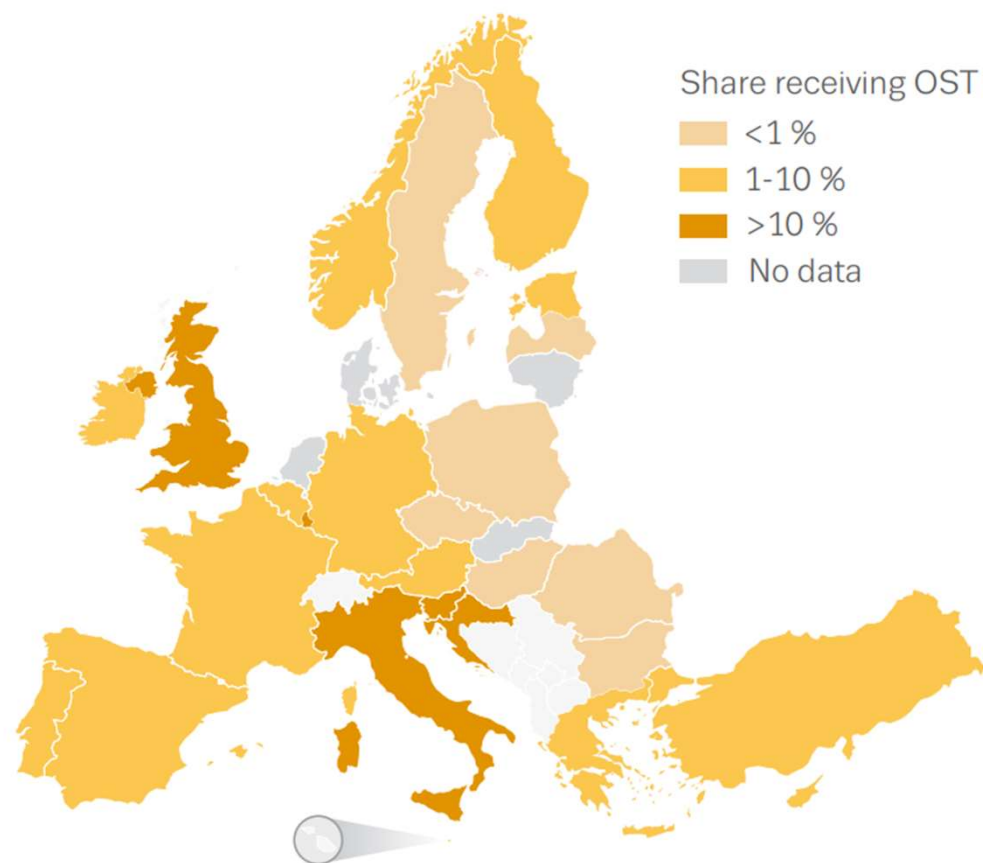
**Interventions
available but later
than in the
community and with
low coverage.**

**Disruption during
COVID-19**

Year of introduction of OST in prison and in the community



Share of prison population in OST in prison in EU, Norway, Turkey and UK

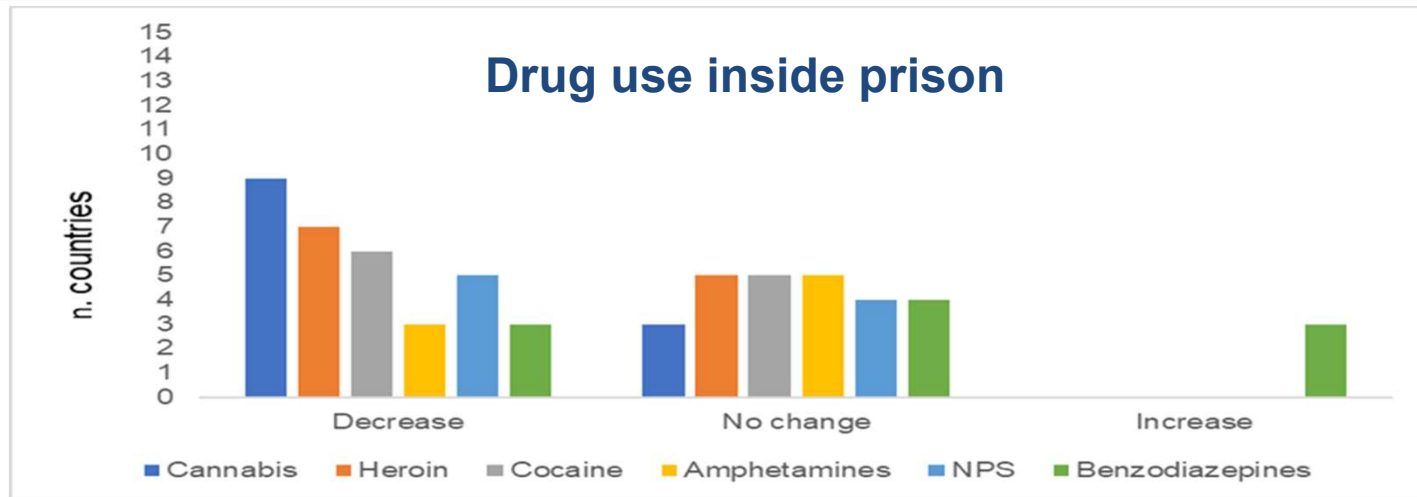


Data are for the year 2017 or the most recent available. UK data are for England only.

Source: 2018 EMCDDA Reitox monitoring data; 2016 SPACE statistics.



Impact of COVID on drugs and prison (March-June 2020)

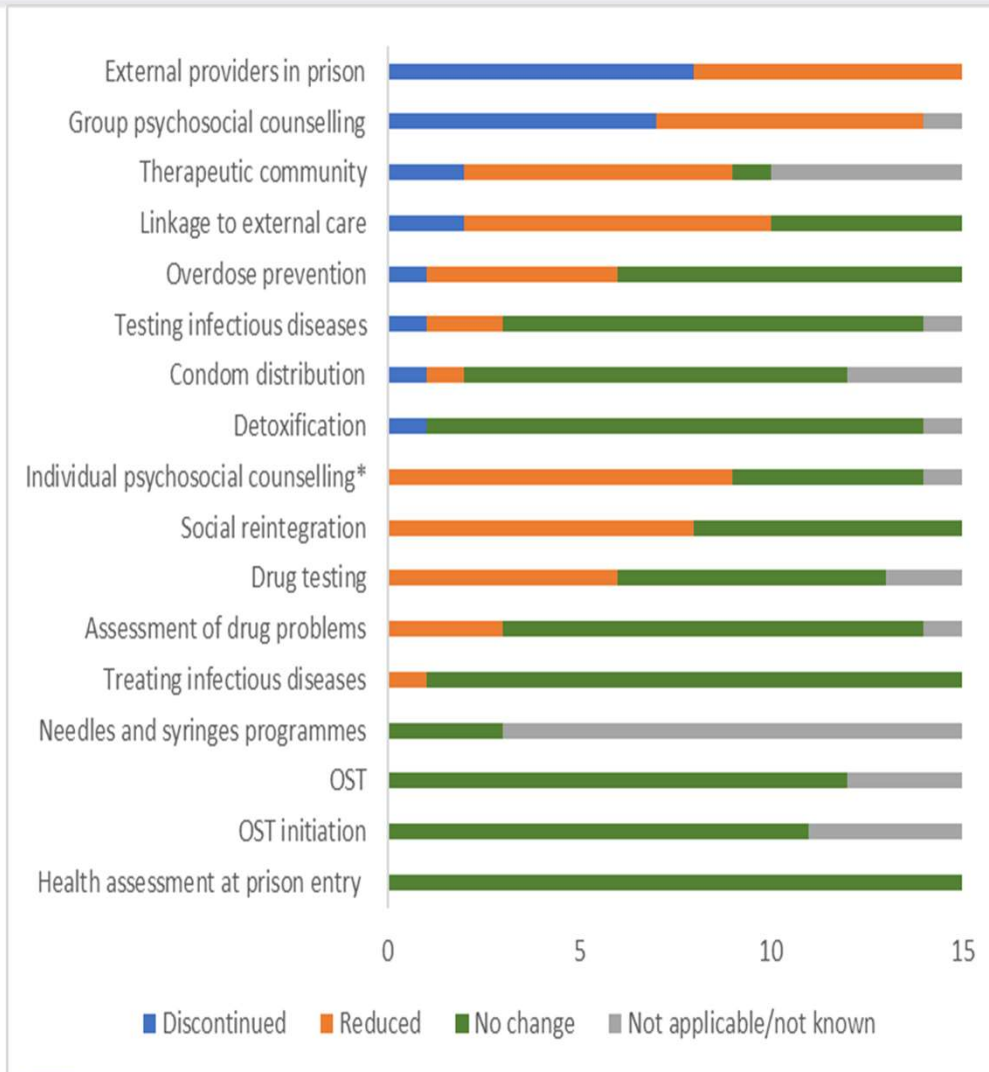


- Disruption of drug trafficking routes into prison
- Reduced drugs availability inside prison
- Riots and violence
- Over the prison wall
- Use of new technologies: drones
- From June 2020 some routes restored



Source: EMCDDA (2020), Trendspotter briefing. Impact of COVID-19 on drug services and help-seeking in Europe; EMCDDA (2021), Impact of COVID-19 on drug markets, use, harms and drug services in the community and prisons

Impact of COVID19 on prison drug services



- Rapid assessments (2020 and 2021) using Trendspotter methodology
 - Literature (limited)
 - Online surveys
 - Focus groups
 - Data/information from Eu countries



Source: EMCDDA (2020), Trendspotter briefing. Impact of COVID-19 on drug services and help-seeking in Europe; EMCDDA (2021), Impact of COVID-19 on drug markets, use, harms and drug services in the community and prisons

Implications for policy and practice

Prison and social vulnerability



equity of care

Prison and community



continuity of care

Care and control



whole of government
responsibility

Low interventions coverage



key interventions to
scale up

Alternative approaches



balance the
cost/benefit of prison

Scarce information



improve evidence,
research and monitoring



Ongoing projects

- Continuous improving Monitoring.
- Further development of the model questionnaires (EQDP; EFSQ-P).
- Training on prison and Drugs for prison officers and national health managers in prison.
- Models of care for hepatitis elimination in prison.
- Use of prison indicators to inform the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025
- *Other issues that should deserve more attention from the point of view of prison administration?*



https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/prison-and-drugs-in-europe_en



Thank you!

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