



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
CONSUMERS, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD EXECUTIVE AGENCY

Health Unit



RE: Exchanging Prevention practices on Polydrug use among youth In Criminal justice systems (EPPIC)

I am writing to provide some background information regarding the EPPIC project funded by the European Commission Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020): through the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea).

The EPPIC project focuses on drug prevention interventions for young people aged between 15 and 24 who have been in contact with the criminal justice system in six European countries. It aims to exchange information on drug prevention approaches and 'good practice' and to foster the development of collaborative networks of practitioners, policy makers and researchers.

We would like to request your support for the project. Collaboration will entail granting permission to approach a small sample of professionals and young people with a request for interview. Professionals will be asked for their views on interventions for young people who use drugs and are in touch with the criminal justice system. Interviews may be face-to-face or by telephone and will last around 30 minutes. Young people will be asked to discuss their drug use, their experiences of interventions and their views on the services they receive. The interviews will be face-to-face and will last no longer than 30 minutes. Full information about the project will be provided and informed consent obtained. Interviews will be arranged at a time and place convenient for the interviewee.

The project is co-ordinated by the Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK) and includes partners from Change Grow Live (UK), Aarhus University (Denmark), Eclectica (Italy), European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Austria), Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (Poland). The project will run from January 1st 2017 – December 31st 2019.

The overall objectives are:

1. To gather knowledge, exchange best practice and identify transferable innovations and principles of good practice on interventions to prevent illicit drug

- use, the development of polydrug use and use of NPS among vulnerable young people in the criminal justice system.
2. To develop a set of guidelines adapted to the development of initiatives aimed at the target group based on European Drug Prevention Quality Standards¹.
 3. To initiate a European knowledge exchange network for practitioners and stakeholders working with young people in the criminal justice system.

The project will use a range of qualitative methods to achieve its objectives. These will include: collection and analysis of existing knowledge as well as the generation of new knowledge from research involving focus groups and interviews with young people and relevant stakeholders; examination of existing European drug prevention quality standards, assessment of the relevance of existing standards for the development of prevention initiatives for the target group and the development of a new set of guidelines; working collaboratively with practitioners and other stakeholders relevant to the criminal justice system and to drug prevention work with young people; setting up systems to encourage knowledge exchange and communication across disciplines and across European countries. The collection of experiential evidence through interviews with professionals and young people is a vital element in meeting the project objectives.

The project conforms with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27th April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. The Regulation established a harmonised data protection framework across the EU. (http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/reform/index_en.htm).

In addition, the project conforms with ethical regulations to ensure respect for project participants in accordance with university and local ethical requirements and with regard to other ethical guidelines such as the RESPECT Code of Practice (<http://www.respectproject.org/code/>). Where informants are younger than 18 years of age, care will be taken to comply with local regulations and requirements regarding informed consent and to ensure safety and proper conduct towards this group.

More information can be found on the project website: <https://www.eppic-project.eu>

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¹ European Drug Prevention Quality Standards: <http://prevention-standards.eu/>