



Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Sixty-third session
Family-oriented policies in drug prevention

Side event organized by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Co-organizers:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
Pompidou Group, Council of Europe

Monday, 2 March 2020

13:00 –13:50

Vienna International Centre, Room M7

Concept Note

The side event will discuss the policies, practices and interventions that have proven to exert a positive impact on the prevention of drug use within a family context. Families can play both a negative and a positive role in the onset and development of drug use. More research is needed on the positive role families could play and on the interventions that have proven to be effective and sustainable for family responsive policies and practices.

Evidences from the scientific literature show the role families can play not only in creating the conditions for the onset of drug use, but also in its prevention and in supporting the recovery process. In this regard, the collaboration between families and professionals has been recognized as one of the most effective strategy in both prevention and recovery.

Considering the scale and the evolution of drug consumption modalities, there is a need to identify adequate resources available to family members for early detection of risk behaviors and to provide them with access to evidence based psychological and health care interventions for all affected members. Structural or social barriers may prevent families from accessing health and social services dedicated to drug use prevention and treatment. Stigmatization and the consequent isolation that often affects families affected by substance abuse could be a major deterrent to seeking help. Moreover, little information about available services and lack of adequate financial and socio-cultural resources are other factors that create barriers to families' involvement. In developing countries, further obstacles may also include economic insecurity, geographical distance or unavailability of services. Through a research

study, UNICRI is identifying what significant role families could play in the prevention of drug use and in the creation of pathways to young people's resilience and recovery within the national system of services. The side event aims to provide the opportunity to discuss which are the policy elements that stakeholders consider essential in supporting and consolidating the role of families, including building an efficient system of services responsive to their needs and capable of establishing effective interactions with family support networks.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Welcome remarks (13:00 – 13:15)

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Director, UNICRI

H.E. Ambassador Alessandro Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy to the International Organizations in Vienna (UNOV)

Mr. Gilberto Gerra, Chief, UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch

Expert discussion (13:15 – 13:45)

Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al-Emadi, Ph.D. Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), Qatar

Mr. Francesco Polino, Deputy National Prosecutor, National Anti-Mafia and Anti-Terrorism, Directorate (DNAA) Italy

Prof. Betsy Thom, Head, Drug & Alcohol Research Centre, London Middlesex University, United Kingdom

Mr. Wadih Maalouf, UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch

Q&A Session

Concluding remarks (13:45 – 13:50)

Ms. Laura d'Arrigo, Diplomatic Advisor, Interministerial Mission for Combatting Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (MILDECA), France, Chair of the EMCDDA Management Board

Mr. Denis Huber, Executive Secretary, Pompidou Group, Council of Europe

The discussion will be moderated by Mr. Leif Villadsen, UNICRI Senior Programme Coordinator and Deputy Director

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