

4th European Conference on Prison Health

Independent health care in prison

Side event at LisbonAddiction 2024

October 21-22



«Reducing inequalities through prison-based interventions: from commitment to impact»

Venue : Lisbon Congress Centre (Praça das Indústrias, 1300-307 Lisboa)

EDITORIAL

As we gather for this pivotal European Conference on Prison Health, we unite under a shared commitment to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time: the stark inequalities in health outcomes among incarcerated individuals. This year's theme, «Reducing Inequalities Through Prison-Based Interventions: From Commitment to Impact,» resonates deeply within the fabric of our efforts.

Prisons are not only a reflection of societal inequities but also crucial sites for intervention and change. The health disparities faced by those within our correctional facilities are often exacerbated by their circumstances, including socioeconomic factors, lack of access to healthcare, and prevailing social stigmas. In this context, we recognize the power of prison-based health initiatives as a means of fostering equity and improving health outcomes.

Our gathering brings together a diverse coalition of stakeholders, including health professionals, policymakers, researchers, and advocates. Together, we possess a unique opportunity to share insights, experiences, and innovative practices that can bridge the gap between commitment and tangible impact.

Throughout our discussions, let us remember that reducing health inequalities in prison is not merely a matter of policy; it is a moral imperative. Each intervention we implement has the potential to transform lives, restore dignity, and pave the way for a more equitable society. By addressing the health needs of incarcerated individuals, we contribute to breaking the cycle of disadvantage that too many experience upon reentry into society.

As we embark on this important dialogue, let us foster a spirit of collaboration, creativity, and determination. Let the knowledge we exchange here today serve as a catalyst for meaningful change in the lives of those who are often unjustly marginalized. Together, we can turn our commitments into impactful actions that resonate beyond the walls of confinement.

Thank you for your presence, your passion, and your unwavering dedication to this vital cause. Let us make this conference a landmark event in our collective journey toward reducing health inequalities in prison and creating a more just and compassionate world.

Sincerely,

Dr Fadi MEROUEH
HWB President



Scientific Committee

Fadi MEROUEH: HWB President

Cyril MANZANERA: HWB - France

Michel WESTRA: HWB - Netherlands

Linda MONTANARI: EUDA - Lisbon

Elena LECLERC: ICRC - Geneva

Filipa ALVES DA COSTA: WHO Europe

Marion GUEMAS: I care- Bruxelles

Jorg PONT : Wien

Organization Committee

Fadi MEROUEH: HWB President

Rui MORGADO: Porto

Linda MONTANARI: EUDA



21 October 2024

9 am : OPENING SESSION

Mme Anne FERRER : CHU de Montpellier General Director

Dr Rui MORGADO : DGRSP

Dr Ehab SALAH : UNODC

Mr Denis HUBER : Executive Secretary at the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe

Mr Alexis GOOSDEEL : EUDA Executive Director

Dr João Castel-Branco GOULAO : National Coordinator for Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies

9.30 am : FINAL EVENT OF THE RISE-VAC PROJECT

Welcome and objectives. F Meroueh/L Tavoschi



9.45 am : Vaccination in prison: where do we stand

- RISE-Vac data. E. De Vita
- HIPED data. F. Alves Da Costa
- Situation outside Europe. E. Leclerc

10.15 am : Fostering Vaccination culture in prison

- Codevelopment of interventions for staff and materials developed and available. J. Harper
- Codevelopment of interventions for PLP. M. Gleave / F. Laryea-Adekimi
- Case study 1: Moldova. I. Barbîroş
- Case study 2: France. A. Mieuset
- Case study 3: Cyprus. J. Mavrou / I. Stylianos

11 am : Coffee break

11.30 am RISE-Vac's Guidance document on how to increase VU in prison settings.

L Tavoschi - N. Cocco

Group work

12.30 am RISE-Vac's Guidance document on how to increase VU in prison settings.

L Tavoschi

Plenary return of groups' work

12.45 am Conclusions

1 pm: Light Lunch



CYPRUS NATIONAL ADDICTIONS AUTHORITY



This project grant number '101018353 — RISE-Vac — HP-PJ-2020' was funded by the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020). The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

Background

Globally, the number of women and girls in prison represent between 5% and 10% of the global prison population, although their number has increased between 2000 and 2017 by more than 50 %, compared to a 20 % increase in men in prison.

The lower figures for women compared to men in prison reflect the fact that women tend to commit fewer and different types of crimes than men, and mainly non-violent crimes. Drug related crimes, including offences for personal use, for trafficking and acquisitive crimes are among the most frequently reported crimes leading to women's incarceration.

Although few in number, women who are in prison are very vulnerable and have very complex social and health profiles. Compared to men and to general female population, women living in prison report higher rates of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis, due to the high exposure to risky behaviours, including sex work and injecting drug use.

Drug use disorders are highly prevalent among people living in prison, particularly among women. Substance use often represent a way to alleviate a past of traumas and abuse. Many have experienced multiple traumas since childhood, including sexual abuse.

Compared with women in the general population and with men who use drugs in prison, women in prison report higher rates of self-harm inside prison and of suicide as the prevalence of mental health problems is high among women in prison, often deriving from past traumas including gender-based violence. Women who use drugs and have been in prison also are at a high risk of drug-related death after release from prison.

The impact of imprisonment on women may be especially damaging for women, both during imprisonment and after release. A big issue for women during incarceration is the isolation and separation from children for whom they are still the main carers. They are more subject to stigma and have more difficulties in social reintegration.

Gender related factors play an important role and may overcome geographical differences, although differences exist between regions and countries. Gender responsive interventions should be implemented to address the need of women during imprisonment and after incarceration.

Purpose of the event:

The purpose of the event is to discuss, better understand and give visibility to the key issues surrounding women in prison, their health and their problems related to drug use and trafficking in different regions of the world. This would be useful to identify their needs and support the health and social services in prison and after release.

Objectives of the symposium

- Highlight and discuss the key issues regarding women in prison, with a focus on drug problems.
- Describe the situation of women in prison and the specific key issues they need to address in different regions of the world.
- Support the promotion of gender responsive interventions for women in prison inside and after prison release.

Target audience:

Health care professionals in prison, social workers, prison administrations, researchers in the field of drugs, gender and prison, governmental officials, NGOs staff.

Structure

The event is organised in three sessions discussing key issues surrounding women in prison, with a special focus on drug problems in different regions of the world; a direct experience of a women who had used drugs and is currently living in prison will conclude the event.

Practical information

The event will be held in person at Lisbon Congress Centre (Praça das Indústrias, 1300-307 Lisboa) on 21 October 2024 from 14.30 to 17.30 – same place as HWB conference .

Speakers are requested to arrive 1 hour before the event starts in order to have the time to upload their presentation.

More info. can be found here: [speakers-corner](#). Coffee breaks and light lunch will be offered.

2 pm : WOMEN, DRUGS, PRISON: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

SESSION 1 – Key issues for women in prison and drug related problems :



Europe, Latin America and Middle East

Chair : Fadi Meroueh, Health Without Barriers (HWB) and Linda Montanari, EUDA - European Group on Gender and Drugs (EDG)

2.30 pm - 3.30 pm Welcome and introduction – Fadi Meroueh

- Women, drugs, prison: key issues, from a European perspective, Linda Montanari, EUDA
- Drug trafficking in female prison population in Latin American countries, Corina Giacomello, Autonomous University of Chiapas, (Mexico)
- Harm Reduction Services in Female Prisons: exploring the situation in the MENA Region, Elie Aaraj, Executive Director, MENAHRA (Middle East & North Africa Harm Reduction Association)

3.30 pm - 4 pm Coffee break

SESSIONS 2 - Key issues for women in prison and drug related problems : Africa, North America, and Australia

Chair : Elena Leclerc, ICRC and Liesbeth Vandam, EUDA

4 pm-5 pm

- Gender based violence and women in prison using drugs in Africa, Fatou Kine Dieng, Médecin Légiste, Médecin chef Administration Pénitentiaire, (Sénégal)
- Addressing drug use and motherhood among women in prison in North America, Hendrée E. Jones, University of North Carolina, (United States)
- Ethnic minorities women in prison for drug related crimes in Australia, Jillian Roberts, (Australia)

SESSIONS 3 – Testimonials : learning from direct experience

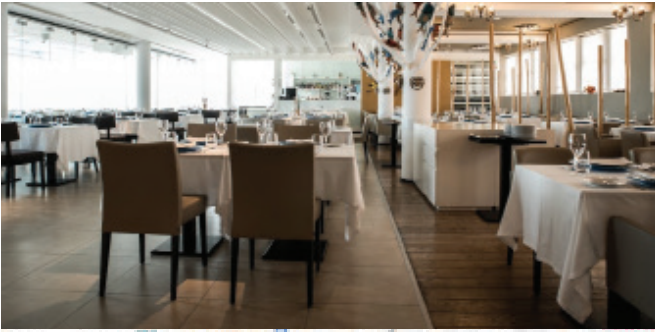
Chair : Sofia Ribeiro, EUDA

5 pm-5.30 pm

- Julia Sheehan, The Hepatitis C Trust

5.30 pm Conclusions Sofia Ribeiro, EUDA

7.30 pm : Gala Diner



ZAMBEZE RESTAURANTE

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Rua Celso de Figueiredo
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RESERVAS
11 51 887 79 48 | 51 829 06 71

ENTRE EM CONTACTO

9 am : Session Addiction: OFDT/EUDA

Chairs : Denis Huber (Pompidou Group), Michel Westra (HWB)



- Drug use in French prisons. Results of the ESSPRI survey

Caroline PROTAIS (OFDT)

- The emergence of synthetic opioids Daan van der Gouwe (netherlands)
- Implementing Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine (LAIB) into Correctional Centres in NSW, Australia Dr Jillian Roberts (Australia)
- Impact of long-acting depot buprenorphine post-release from custody– Early findings from the Release Study Adrian Dunlop (Australia)
- Experiences of Introducing Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine as an Opioid Dependency Treatment to Scottish Prisons; Craig Sayers (UK)
- RDR awareness project within the Brussels prison cell: PIRATE project; Kris Meurant (Belgium)



11.10 am : Coffee break

11.40 am SESSEION EUDA / ECDC/ INHSU



Welcome and scene setting:

Yumi Sheehan, The Kirby Institute, UNSW, (Australia)

EMCDDA models of care

Thomas Seyler, EUDA, (Portugal)

European toolkit for the elimination of viral hepatitis in prisons (EUROHePP)

Olivia Dawson, INHSU, Australia

INHSU Prisons advocacy toolkit

Yumi Sheehan, The Kirby Institute, UNSW, (Australia)

Panel discussion

(Chaired by) Erika Duffell, ECDC, Sweden

1 pm Light Lunch

2 pm : Session UNODC

Chairs : Ehab Salah (UNODC), Jorg Pont (HWB)

Introduction : Ehab Salah (UNODC)

Gender-based violence and access to health in prison. Jérôme Mangelinckx (PRI)



2.30 pm : Session EPLN/Human Rights

Chairs : Hugues de Suremain (EPLN), Lucia Mihailescu (HWB),

Introduction : Julia Krikorian (EPLN)



- Health disparities and overrepresentation of First Nations people in prison. Michael Doyle, (Australia)
- During the implementation of the project on the return of Ukrainian prisoners who were illegally transported from the Kherson region to Russian prisons. Yanina Stemkovska, (Ukraine)
- Closing the gap: Human rights standards and the provision of harm reduction in prisons worldwide. Cinzia Bentrari, Marcela Jofre, HRI, (UK)

4 pm : Health

Chairs : Filipa Azvedo (WHO), Aurélie Mieuset (HWB)



- « Innovative approaches to health promotion in belgian prisons » - Mélody Stilmant, Charlotte Beco, I.Care, (Belgium)
- Multidisciplinary competency framework for practice And intervention in correctional settings. Samuel Blain – Montreal, (Canada)
- Reference and interprofessional collaboration platform in correctional settings: my Connected Community in Social Inclusion (MC2IS). Valérie Jodoin - Montreal, (Canada)

5 pm : Continuity of care / Corner

Chair: Marion Guemas (HWB)

- Voices inside: exploring the perceptions of imprisoned people with the “RadioATIVIDADE” artistic intervention program, Isabel Silva (Portugal)
- Continuity of healthcare during entry and release of prison: the situation in Belgium, a quest for innovative initiatives to tackle the issue» - Rachelle Rousseaux, I.Care, (Belgium)
- Menstrual poverty and gender inequalities in a prison context: Nisa, Andreia, (Portugal)

23 October 2024, 9 – 11 am

Prison visit



SPEAKERS



Mr. Elias Al Aaraj

Founder and Former Director of the Association Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire-SIDC, which was established in 1987. Elie Aaraj completed his Maitrise degree in Community Health at the St Joseph University, Lebanon after going on to complete BS Nursing at the Lebanese University in 1982. He worked in 2 hospitals in Lebanon, before becoming the Director of the Nurse-Aid Technical School at Hayek Hospital, Beirut.

He is the Founding President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon
Council member of the Municipality of Sin El Fil for 2 terms (1998 & 2004)

He is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association-MENAHRA, a regional NGO working towards promoting and advocating for harm reduction within the MENA region. President of the Regional/Arab Network Against AIDS-RANAA (2008 – 2018).

Mr. Aaraj has undertaken more than ten major pieces of research on HIV, drug use prevention and Harm Reduction and the role of civil society organizations.

Mr. Aaraj is currently a member of the Developing Country NGO Delegation (DCNGO) at the Board of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and a member of the advisory board at the faculty of health sciences at Sagesse University.

Holder of “Medaille Marcelle Hochar” Award (2005) from the Lebanese Red Cross Nursing Association, the National Rolleston Award (2011) from Harm Reduction International. The “Kim Mo IM” Award for policy innovation and Impact, International Council of Nursing (2019)



Filipa Alves da Costa

Filipa Alves da Costa is a public health consultant for the Alcohol, Illicit Drugs & Prison Health Unit, WHO Regional Office for Europe. Most work focuses on prison health information systems, including: the development of the WHO prison health framework; subsequent periodic evaluations of performance feeding into the Health In Prisons European database and ad-hoc evaluations in specific areas including HIV and viral hepatitis in partnership with other WHO teams upon country requests; surveillance system for COVID-19 monitoring in detention settings triggering response at country level; educational programmes to support the prison health workforce, jointly with SEICHE centre for Health and Justice, Yale University. Filipa is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, where she leads a research team “Public Health & Medicines Use”.



Irina Barbirosh

Irina Barbirosh has a Master’s Degree in Public Health Management. Since 2009, she has held different jobs in health care department of the prison service of the Republic of Moldova. Currently she is Head of Medical Directorate of National Administration of Penitentiaries of Republic of Moldova. Her main fields of activity and project development expertise are related to increase the quality of prison health services, methadone substitution treatment, reducing the transmission of communicable diseases and reducing drug-related risk behaviour through the implementation of the prison needle exchange programme. She is HIV prevention coordinator in the prison administration system. She has gained project experience by participating in and leading several health care projects implemented in the prison service of Republic of Moldova.

Charlotte Beco

nurse practitioner specialized in Public Health. She is currently working for the health promotion project Care.Connexion within the non-profit organisation I.care.

Topics of interest: health promotion, outreach work, empowerment



Samuel Blain

a family and public health physician, is the head of the general medicine department for social inclusion and addiction at the CIUSSS de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec. As the Executive Director of the Université de la Rue, he promotes the creation of partnerships that foster social inclusion and overall health. Samuel is also a consultant for organizations focused on social inclusion and Indigenous health. His commitment as the coordinator of the Office of Social Accountability and strategic advisor at the Faculty of Medicine of the Université de Montréal reflects his influence in the field.



João Castel-Branco Goulão

João Castel-Branco Goulão is currently the National Coordinator for Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies and Chair of the Institute on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (Ministry of Health), the national governmental structure within the Health Ministry responsible for the coordination of policy on illicit drugs, alcohol and other dependencies without substance (gambling, internet).

A medical doctor by profession, Dr. Goulão has over 25 years' experience regarding drug-related issues, working in this field since 1987 as general practitioner and since then all his professional life has been devoted to addictions and health.

He was also a member of the Portuguese Committee which, in 1999, prepared the report on which the first Portuguese Drug Strategy was based and that included the Law on decriminalization, into force since in 2021.

He has a long experience in addictions field at international level, not only at the European level, but also in the United Nations context. He is the Portuguese representative at EUDA Management Board and he was Chairman of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EM-CDDA) from 2009 to 2015. He was the Chair of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe for the period 2019-2022 and Chair of the Horizontal Drugs Group during the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union in 2021.



Erica De Vita

Erica De Vita, MD, is a researcher at the University of Pisa, affiliated with the Department of Translational Research and New Technologies in Medicine and Surgery. She is actively involved in teaching and research in the fields of hygiene, preventive medicine, and public health. Her work encompasses various aspects of epidemiology, microbiology, and infectious disease prevention in several specific population, including people living in prison. Additionally, she contributes to seminars and public discussions on gender discrimination in healthcare, showcasing her commitment to addressing broader social issues within the medical field.



Olivia Dawson

Olivia Dawson is the Program Manager for the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU). With an educational background in International Relations and European Languages, Olivia has over 8 years' experience in the design, development and delivery of education programs related to viral hepatitis. She has managed complex international projects since 2017, developing multi modal blended education and training programs for health care providers across Europe, North America, Australia, and the Pacific.



Dr Fatou Kine DIENG

Dr Fatou Kine DIENG is military doctor (Major Dr), medical chief officer in penitentiary administration since April 2024.

I am in charge of 37 nurseries in prisons of Senegal.

I am specialized in medical emergency field and was medical chief officer in emergency medical unit at Ouakam military hospital for 03 years.

I am also specialized in medical forensic / expertise and personal injury.

I have been deployed in MONUSCO as medical officer in 2013 ; in MINUSMA in 2016 as medical officer ; and, in MONUSCO 2022 as MILOB.



Associate Professor Michael Doyle (Ph.D)

is a Bardi man (Aboriginal) his homeland is in the remote northwest Kimberly region of Australia. He has worked in Aboriginal health since 1998, first in health service delivery roles and then moved into research in 2008. Michael is a mixed-methods researcher. His research aims to improve health service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have alcohol and other drug use issues involved in the criminal justice system.

Michael is an active member of the Aboriginal community and has served on Aboriginal community-controlled organisation boards. He is also the co-chair of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW's Human Research Ethics Committee.



Adrian Dunlop

is Director and Senior Staff Specialist for Drug & Alcohol Clinical Services, Hunter New England Local Health District and Conjoint Professor, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle. He is President of the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, chair of the NSW Drug and Alcohol Clinical Research Network and was the Chief Addiction Medicine Specialist, NSW Health (2014-2018).



Corina Giacomello

Professor at the Autonomous University of Chiapas, Mexico and consultant of the Pompidou Group in the project «Children whose parents use drugs». She has 20 years of experience in advocacy-oriented research and development of legal, judicial and public policy proposals at the national and international level. Her lines of research include women deprived of their liberty, adolescents in conflict with the law, children with incarcerated parents, drug policies and families with substance dependence. She has published extensively on these topics. Her last publication for the Pompidou Group is the guide «Integrating gender and children's rights in services for families affected by drug use».



Marion Guémas,

head of advocacy and research at I.Care.

Specialised in human rights, she has worked on various topics: police, justice, places of deprivation of liberty and the rights of migrants and refugees.



Joe Harper

Joe Harper works as a public health specialist (international health) in the health and justice team for UKHSA and is the UK programme manager for Rise-Vac. In his previous role, and in the wake of the conflict in Ukraine, Joe worked to improve the health of refugees and asylum seekers by working with system partners to achieve more equitable access to a range of health interventions including vaccines as well as to the wider determinants of health such as housing and transport. Since completing his MSc. in public health and health promotion, Joe has focused his work on reducing health inequalities and protecting public health. Whilst working for the British Red Cross he led an innovative team working to improve patient flow in an emergency department by tackling the social determinants of health such as loneliness and deprivation. During the Covid-19 pandemic he worked as a health protection practitioner where he focused on developing systems and processes for outbreak management as well as directly working with within outbreak control teams. In this role, Joe took a lead on the children and young people stream of work where he was able to work with key stakeholders to manage outbreaks at scale.



Denis Huber,

Denis Huber a commencé sa carrière diplomatique en janvier 1990, au ministère français des Affaires étrangères, avant de rejoindre le Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe en septembre 1993. Il y a notamment acquis 10 ans d'expérience au Secrétariat du Comité des Ministres, agissant en tant que conseiller politique de 18 présidences successives du Conseil de l'Europe (de la France en 1997 à la Fédération de Russie en 2006).

Entre 2006 et 2012, il a été en poste à Belgrade, comme Représentant spécial du Conseil de l'Europe, puis à Lisbonne, en tant que directeur exécutif du Centre Nord-Sud, avant de revenir à Strasbourg, au Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux.

Depuis juillet 2018, il est le Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe de coopération internationale du Conseil de l'Europe sur les drogues et les addictions (« Groupe Pompidou »). À partir de janvier 2022, il a également été chargé de superviser les activités de coopération du Conseil de l'Europe dans les domaines de la police et de la détention..

Denis Huber est l'auteur du livre « Une décennie pour l'Histoire : le Conseil de l'Europe 1989-1999 » et le directeur (et co-auteur) de l'ouvrage collectif "Artisans de l'Europe» publiés en septembre 1999 et septembre 2019 respectivement.



Valérie Jodoin

Valérie Jodoin is a family physician with a certification in emergency medicine. She is currently Chief Medical Officer of Provincial Correctional facilities for the city of Montreal and also co-manager of Correctional Services for the CIUSSS of the North of Montreal. Her mandate is to develop and improve the quality of care for incarcerated individuals. Also as a medical advisor for the correctional component of the CPMD, a medical practice committee on addictions, she has contributed to the development of addiction care programs and harm reduction initiatives in different detention facilities in Quebec.



Marcela Jofré

Marcela Jofré is an Analyst with the Human Rights and Justice Team at Harm Reduction International (HRI), working across projects.

Marcela has a background in criminal law and holds an MSc in Human Rights and Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has over four years of experience in criminal and strategic litigation in Chile and in the civil society sector, working to advance the human rights of people deprived of liberty.



Hendrée Jones,

Hendrée Jones, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist and Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the School of Medicine at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Dr. Jones is also a top world expert in neonatal abstinence syndrome and opioid-related disorders. She has written more than 250 peer-reviewed publications, and 17 courses for adult learners on topics of substance use disorder treatment (WISE, CHILD, PEERS, AL-LIES etc). She has also co-authored multiple national and international guidelines on the topic of caring for women as well as children with substance use problems including those published by SAMHSA, the United Nations and the World Health Organization.



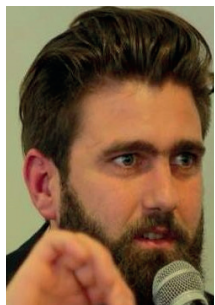
Julia Krikorian

is director of programmes at the European Prison Litigation Network, a INGO founded by prisoners, law practitioners, researchers and civil society activists to reinforce prisoners' judicial protection across the European continent. In 2019, she initiated the Prison Health & Rights Consortium, formed by former prisoners, people who use drugs and prisoners' rights defenders from France, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Russia and Georgia. She coordinates in this frame research and advocacy actions in cooperation with the NGOs UnMode, Harm Reduction International and Health without Barriers for the independence of healthcare in prison, access to harm reduction in prison and the release of persons whose health condition is not compatible with detention.



Dr Elena Leclerc

Dr Elena Leclerc is the Head of Health in Detention at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and responsible for the implementation of the programme in over 40 countries around the world. Over her career, Dr Leclerc held various operational positions in different countries and at the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva. She has written and contributed to the development of several ICRC manuals and practical guides on health in detention. Dr Leclerc is a medical doctor and holds a master's degree in Humanitarian Leadership.



Jérôme Mangelinckx

Jérôme Mangelinckx is Global Policy Manager at PRI with extensive experience in drug policy, penal reform, and human rights. He co-founded the Research Centre on Drugs and Human Rights (CIDDH) in Peru and developed legal aid training for women imprisoned for drug offences. He holds a Master's in International Relations from the Catholic University of Murcia and a Graduate Certificate in Community Health and HIV from CLACSO.



Dr. Fadi Meroueh

In recognition of his remarkable contributions to improving health in prisons, Dr. Fadi Meroueh has been honored with the prestigious Johannes Feest Prize. This esteemed award acknowledges his outstanding efforts as a Hospital Practitioner and Head of the Health Unit at Villeneuve-les-Maguelone prison, as well as his role as the president of Health Without Barriers (HWB). Dr. Meroueh's accomplishments include the successful elimination of Hepatitis C within the prison, a groundbreaking achievement in Europe and North America. Despite facing administrative obstacles, he has been unwavering in his commitment to providing equitable and comprehensive care to his patients, which includes implementing a needle exchange program. His expertise is sought after by various French and European organizations, where he serves as an esteemed consultant. The Johannes Feest Prize celebrates Dr. Meroueh's exceptional dedication and impact on prison healthcare.



Kris Meurant

I have worked for the non-profit organization Transit since 2002. I worked there for years as a social worker then social coordinator of the crisis center. Today I am operational director of the psychosocial, accommodation and prison center.

The crisis center is a day reception and emergency accommodation center for very marginalized drug users.

I have always worked with and in Brussels prisons and worked to develop projects with people deprived of their liberty. I have the ambition to participate in the implementation of RDR projects in prison, in a concrete way. The PIRATE project is an opportunity to achieve this.

In parallel with my activities within the non-profit organization Transit, I am a founding member and president of the non-profit organization I.Care.

I also represent FIDEX (Brussels Federation of Institutions for Prisoners and Ex-Detainees) and the objective of this federation is to support a coherent vision of the offer of assistance to litigants in the Brussels region and defend external services on the ground, therefore in prison.

The dimension of networking in a trans-sectoral manner has always been at the center of the activities and projects that I carried out this by maximizing the bridges with all the operators concerned, including the management of the Brussels penitentiary establishments.

I have always been keen to work with the most disaffiliated groups and I have learned a lot by working with these women and men in their environment.



Dr. Aurélie MIEUSET (France)- MD

Aurélie MIEUSET has been a hospital practitioner working as a general practitioner in the prison healthcare service of the Montpellier University Hospital since 2016.

She holds a university diploma (DU) in tobacco addiction and addictionology.

Since 2023, she has been the coordinating physician of the healthcare unit at the release support structure (SAS) in Montpellier, and she divides her time between the healthcare units of Villeneuve Lès Maguelone prison and the SAS.

She is committed to providing quality care to individuals under judicial supervision, particularly in terms of prevention, screening, and support towards health autonomy.»



Linda Montanari

Linda Montanari is a health sociologist working at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) a principal scientist since 2000. Within the centre, she is coordinating the area of prison and drugs (and drugs and: gender and mental health).

She has been responsible of the publication "Prison and Drugs in Europe: Current and Future Challenges"; released by the EMCDDA in 2021. She is coordinating a European Groups of experts working on drug monitoring and prison : EQDP group.



Andreia Nisa

graduated in Law, Postgraduate in Economic and European Criminal Law, Master in Legal-Criminal Sciences from University of Coimbra, and also graduated in Psychology from Piaget Institut. She began her professional activity in advocacy, followed by community intervention work. Currently, she coordinates several projects in prison context and in harm reduction party settings (Associação Existências). She's also a member of the Insight: Piaget Research Center for Human and Ecological Development.



Caroline Protais

« Caroline Protais has a PHD in sociology. She is specialized about the relationships between the criminal justice and mental health. As a research officer in the french monitoring for drugs and drug addiction, she is responsible for monitoring studies about people in the justice system, about vulnerable groups and professional practices in addictology. She also contributes to the unit's cross-disciplinary analyses (others specific groups, TREND, etc.).



Sofia Ribeiro

Medical doctor, she is working at the European Union Drugs Agency as Project coordinator of the COPOLAD III project in the International cooperation sector- Reitox and external partners unit. She is working as Public health specialist with 8+ years of experience as a consultant and 10+ years of international experience in executive positions related to external relations, health policy development and monitoring for international non-profit boards. Lived in 10 countries and visited 103



Rachelle Rousseaux, project officer at I.Care.

Former researcher at UCLouvain university, faculty of public health, health promotion research service.

Topics of interest : health promotion, hepatitis C, continuity of care, health literacy in prison.



Dr Jill Roberts

Dr Jill Roberts has dual specialist qualifications, Fellow of Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, RACP and Foundation Fellow of the Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine, RCPA. She has over 25 years' experience working in health services in the correctional system in NSW Australia, where she was Clinical Director, Drug and Alcohol Services, Justice Health.

Jill has been very involved in postgraduate and undergraduate medical training and been member of numerous committees/EWG within NSW Ministry of Health including Quality in Treatment and developing Clinical G/Ls Substance Use in Pregnancy and Clinical Management Opioid Dependency. She was a member of the expert working group for the NSW clinical guidelines for the use of depot buprenorphine in NSW and a Principle Investigator on the UNLOC-T study, a clinical trial assessing the safety and feasibility of depot buprenorphine in NSW custodial settings leading the organisation to quickly translate research into practice resulting in significant improvement access to Opioid Agonist Treatment. Jill's passion has also involved substance use in pregnancy, where she is also an investigator in ongoing research studies. She is an Investigator on Post Release Study and is currently working Hunter New England Local Health District, including providing continuity of care for men and women recently released from custody.

Jill has 27 years' experience providing health care to incarcerated men, women and adolescents and participants in court diversion programs in NSW and is committed to engaging patients in treatment as part of a rehabilitative endeavour.



Dr. Ehab Salah, ehab.salah@un.org

Prisons and HIV Advisor, HIV/AIDS Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Headquarters in Vienna.

Ehab is a medical doctor specialized in Medical Epidemiology, with more than 20 years of hands-on experience in communicable disease research, prevention and control. Prior to joining the HIV/AIDS Section in UNODC, Vienna, he was coordinating UNODC's HIV and Health in Prison Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ehab has a long working experience in advocating for, developing, and implementing rights based, evidence-informed and gender responsive public health policies and programs, with particular focus on health of people in prisons at global, regional and country levels.

Craig Sayers

Studied at University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1993. Began working in prisons within Scotland in 2000 and have been the Clinical Lead for Prison Healthcare for NHS Forth Valley since that time. Also worked in a Community Addictions setting from 2002 until 2009. Since 2021 I have been appointed as the Clinical Lead for the National Prison Care Network for Scotland. Areas of interest include Pain Management and the treatment of Substance Misuse Disorder



Yumi Sheehan

Yumi Sheehan is a public health researcher at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, in Sydney Australia. Yumi's research focus is on hepatitis C in the prison setting, where she leads several prison-based hepatitis C research studies both nationally and internationally. Yumi is also an Executive Committee member for the Australian National Prisons Hepatitis Network (NPHN) and the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users – Prisons Network (INHSU Prisons).



Julia Sheehan

Julia has 9 years' experience of working with people at risk of viral hepatitis – people in prison, substance users, homeless and migrants. Passionate about the rights of and equality for women affected by the criminal justice system, Julia joined the Hepatitis C Trust in 2018 as the Women's Prison Peer support lead, in 2019 Julia took over the lead role and today is the Women's National Criminal Justice Manager. Julia has lived experience of drug use, incarceration and hepatitis C. Julia cleared the virus in 2017 after taking DDA's.



Isabel S. Silva

PhD, in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Family Psychology and Family Intervention from the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Coimbra. She is an assistant professor and coordinator of the Psychology Degree at the Piaget Institute—ISEIT in Viseu, and an integrated member of the Insight: Piaget Research Center for Human and Ecological Development.



Yanina Stemkovska

2022-2024 - UnMode country representative in Ukraine

2020-2024 - Full Member, Unmode Activist

2019 - 2024 - consultant of the Prison Health and Rights Consortium project

2021-2022 - paralegal of the national project «Women who are not visible» - legal support for women who were released from prison.

since August 2021 - Director of the NGO “Eastern Resource Center of the Ukrainian Network of People who Use Drugs (VOLNA) “Meridian” - a human rights organization

2018 to the present moment I am the regional representative of the Ukrainian Network of People who Use Drugs (VOLNA)

Mélody Stilmant,

projects coordinator in health promotion and care for drug users in 3 prisons in Wallonia, southern Belgium.

Former educator specialising in psycho-educational support.

Topics of interest: social inequalities, precariousness, overall health, drug use, social minorities.



Iakovos Stylianou

Mr Iakovos Stylianou is the Cyprus Prisons Department education coordinator .He has graduated from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in communication and mass media, with a Bachelor Degree in July 2004. After that, he graduated from San Francisco State University, in the area of Management of Special Needs Education Institutes and after he obtained his Master degree in Criminology from the University of Nicosia. He has more than 10 years of experience in adult education and has been partner of Ministry of Education and Culture and Cyprus parental schools. He is also active member of researches, relevant with youth offenders and prevention of crime. He was member of Europris Prison Education Expert Group.



Lara Tivoschi

Lara Tivoschi, is associated professor in Public Health at the University of Pisa. She worked for the Italian National Institute of Health and the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control on translational research and evidence-based public health, being based in South Africa for more than 5 years. Her areas of research are prevention and control of communicable diseases, including viral hepatitis and STIs with a focus on people in prison and other vulnerable groups.

Essential bio

Lara Tivoschi is associated professor in public health in the Department of Translational Research and New Technologies in Medicine and Surgery of the University of Pisa. She holds a MSc in Medical Biotechnology, a PhD in Poverty-Associated Diseases, and MSc in Public Health. She worked for the Italian National Institute of Health on translational research with a focus on HIV and other STIs, being based in South Africa for more than 5 years. She served in the scientific advice section of the ECDC, focusing on blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections. She coordinated the development of European guidance documents on prevention and control of HIV and viral hepatitis. Currently she coordinates regional, national and European projects on primary and secondary prevention of blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections, and access to care for vulnerable populations, including people living in prison. She is member of the WHO Health in Prison Project Steering Group and of the Italian National Health Committee on HIV/AIDS.



Liesbeth Vandam

Liesbeth Vandam holds a master's degree in European criminology and criminal justice systems and a PhD in Criminology, focusing on drug use among people released from prison (Ghent University, Belgium). Liesbeth joined the European Union Drugs Agency in 2011 as scientific analyst and since 2017 has been head of the support to policy sector within the agency's public health unit. She has (co-)authored several scientific publications on illicit drug monitoring, cannabis policies, drugs and prison, drug policy evaluation and drug related crime.



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