



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Health and social responses to drug problems: a European guide

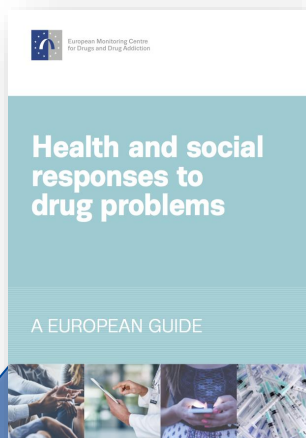
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Popowo, 14 November, 2017

HA-REACT meeting – Work-package Prison



Strengthening the 'public health' element



A comprehensive
European picture to assist
policymakers and
practitioners to develop
and implement policies
and interventions



Background: answers to some questions

- What are the existing responses to drug problems in Europe?
- What is the evidence to support specific interventions and how strong is?
- How evidence can be used in practice?
- How to further develop knowledge with monitoring research, best practices sharing?



Key principles

- Respect of human rights, including right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Respect ethical principles, including informed consent, confidentiality and equity of access
- Promote service use and peer involvement in services design and delivery
- Take a public health approach
- Be based on assessment of needs and be tailored on the specific needs of target population
- Respond to cultural and social characteristics, including gender issues and health inequalities
- Be properly designed and based on evidence, duly monitored and evaluated



How to use the guide



Download guide
Download the full guide



Briefings
Policy and practice briefings



Background papers
Specially commissioned reports by experts



Online resources
Links to useful resources



Press
Launch details for press and media

- Guidebook format NOT textbook
- 'How to respond' NOT 'About problems'
- Action-orientated NOT didactic
- Broad overview – linking to more-detailed resources
- Hard copy / PDF / e-pub / web-focused



Definitions, explanations, descriptions



Evidence, guidelines or good practice



Spotlight on ... important cross-cutting issues or themes



Implications for policy and practice



Further resources

Contents

Introduction

1. A framework for developing health and social responses to drug problems

2. Problems arising from particular types or patterns of drug use

3. Responding to the needs of particular groups

4. Responding in particular settings

5. Supporting successful implementation

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- ✓ Key issues
 - ✓ Effective responses
 - ✓ What's going on in Europe?

Moving on: responding effectively to drug problems in Europe

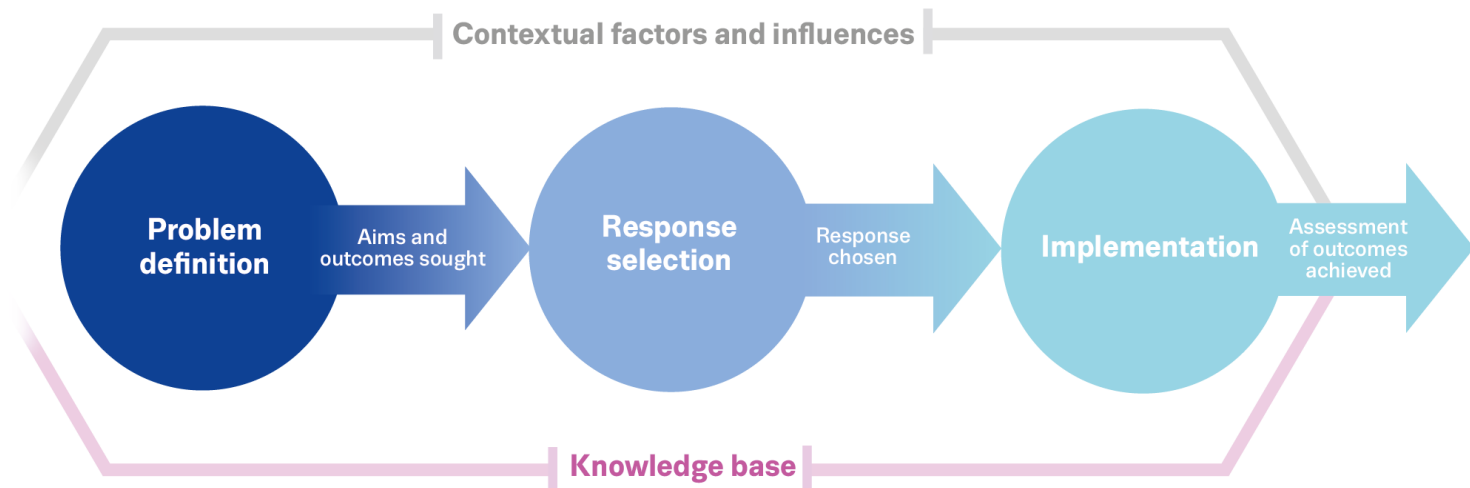


1. A framework for developing health and social responses to drug problems

WHO?

WHAT AND HOW?

WHERE?



The evidence rating



High quality evidence

One or more up-to-date systematic reviews that include high-quality primary studies with consistent results

- Evidence supports these interventions within context in which it was evaluated



Moderate quality evidence

One or more up-to-date systematic reviews that include a number of primary studies of at least moderated quality with generally consistent results

- Evidence suggests these interventions likely to be useful in the context in which they have been evaluated but further evaluations are recommended



Lower quality evidence

Where there are some high or moderated primary studies but no reviews available OR there are reviews giving inconsistent results

- Evidence is currently limited, but what there is shows promise
- These interventions may be worth considering, particularly in the context of extending services to address new or unmet needs, but should be evaluated



2. Responding to problems arising from particular types or patterns of drug use



2.1 Cannabis



2.2 Opioids



2.3 Opioid-related deaths



2.4 Injecting drug use



2.5 Stimulants



2.6 New psychoactive substances



2.7 Misuse of medicines



2.8 Polydrug use

Effective responses

- Opioid substitution treatment effective in keeping people who are dependent on opioids in treatment
- Reduces illicit opioid use, related risk behavior and mortality
- Methadone, buprenorphine, slow-release morphine are commonly used medications
- Heroin-assisted treatment is effective for those who do not respond to methadone

3. Responding to the needs of particular groups



3.1 Older people

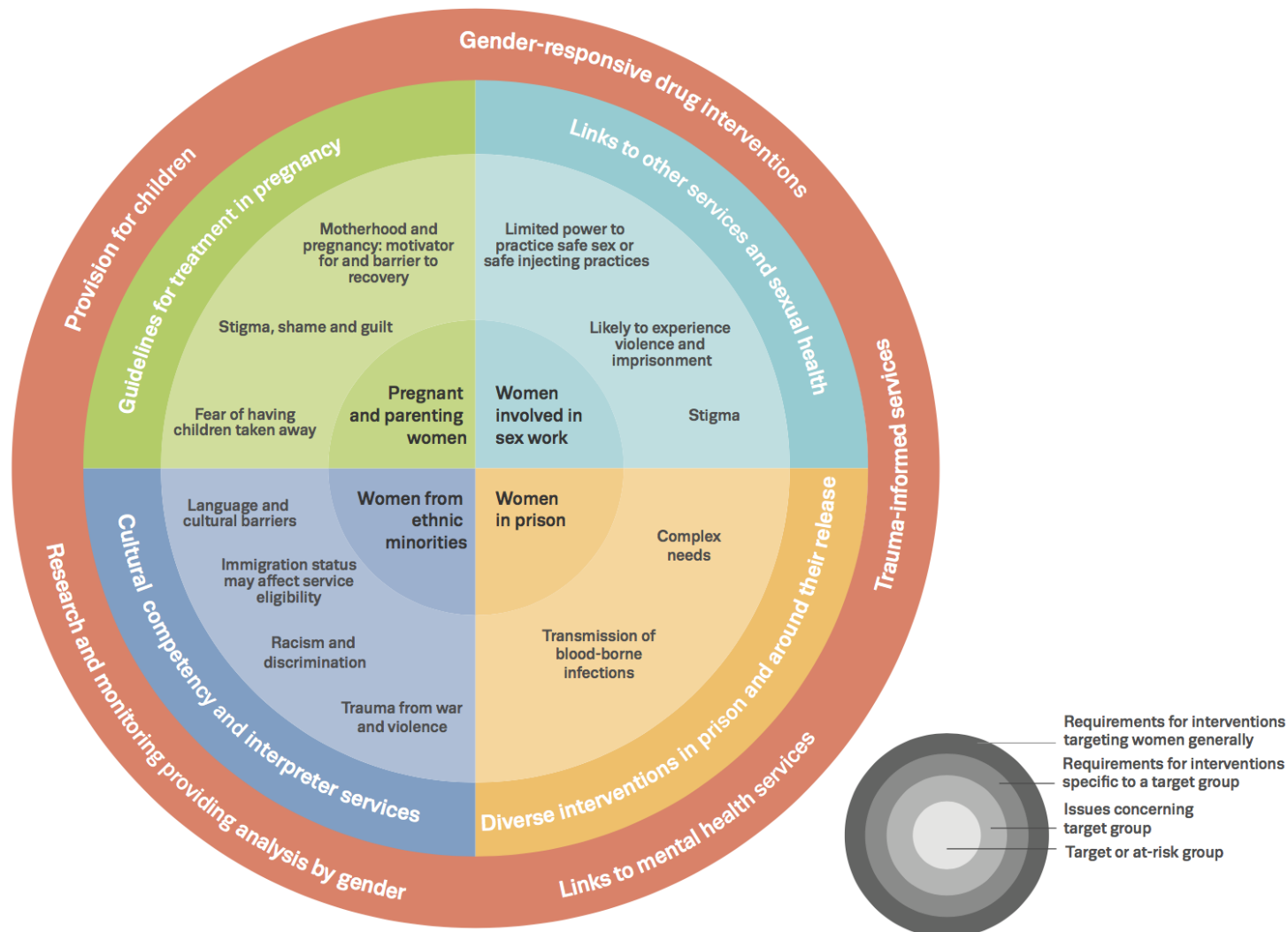
3.2 Women

3.3 Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

3.4 Vulnerable young people

3.4 Adult family members of people with drug problems

Responses to specific needs



4. Responding in particular settings



4.1 Prisons



4.2 Nightlife and festivals



4.3 Workplace



4.4 Schools and colleges



4.5 Local communities

Key issues

- Vulnerable population
- Drug users overrepresented in prisons
- Complex health needs: infectious diseases and psychiatric comorbidity
- Imprisonment increase risk of drug-related infection transmission and relapsing drug use
- High mortality rate in prison (suicide) and after prison release (overdose deaths)



Effective responses

From the two basic principles to evidence



- Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST)
 - protective against death in prison for opioid-dependent prisoners
 - important in reducing injecting risk behaviors
 - to prevent overdose death in the period directly following prison release



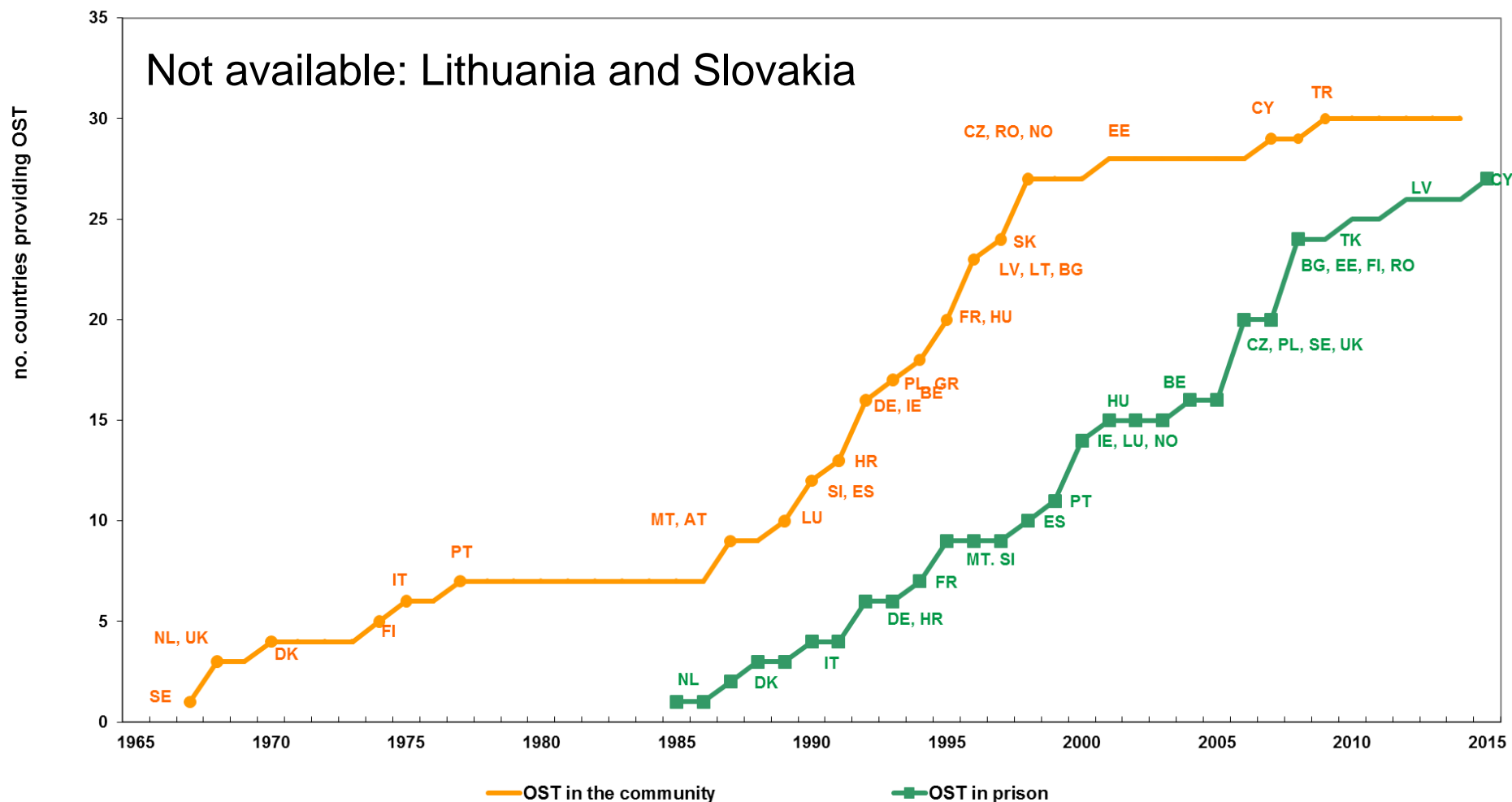
- Psychosocial treatment reduce re-incarceration rates in female drug-using offenders
- Use of naltrexone seems to help to reduce re-incarceration rates in opioid dependent offenders
- Education and training interventions with take-home naloxone provision help to decrease overdose-related deaths after release from prison
- Drug court programmes (US) can help people in social reintegration
- Quasi-coercive treatment can be as effective as voluntary treatment



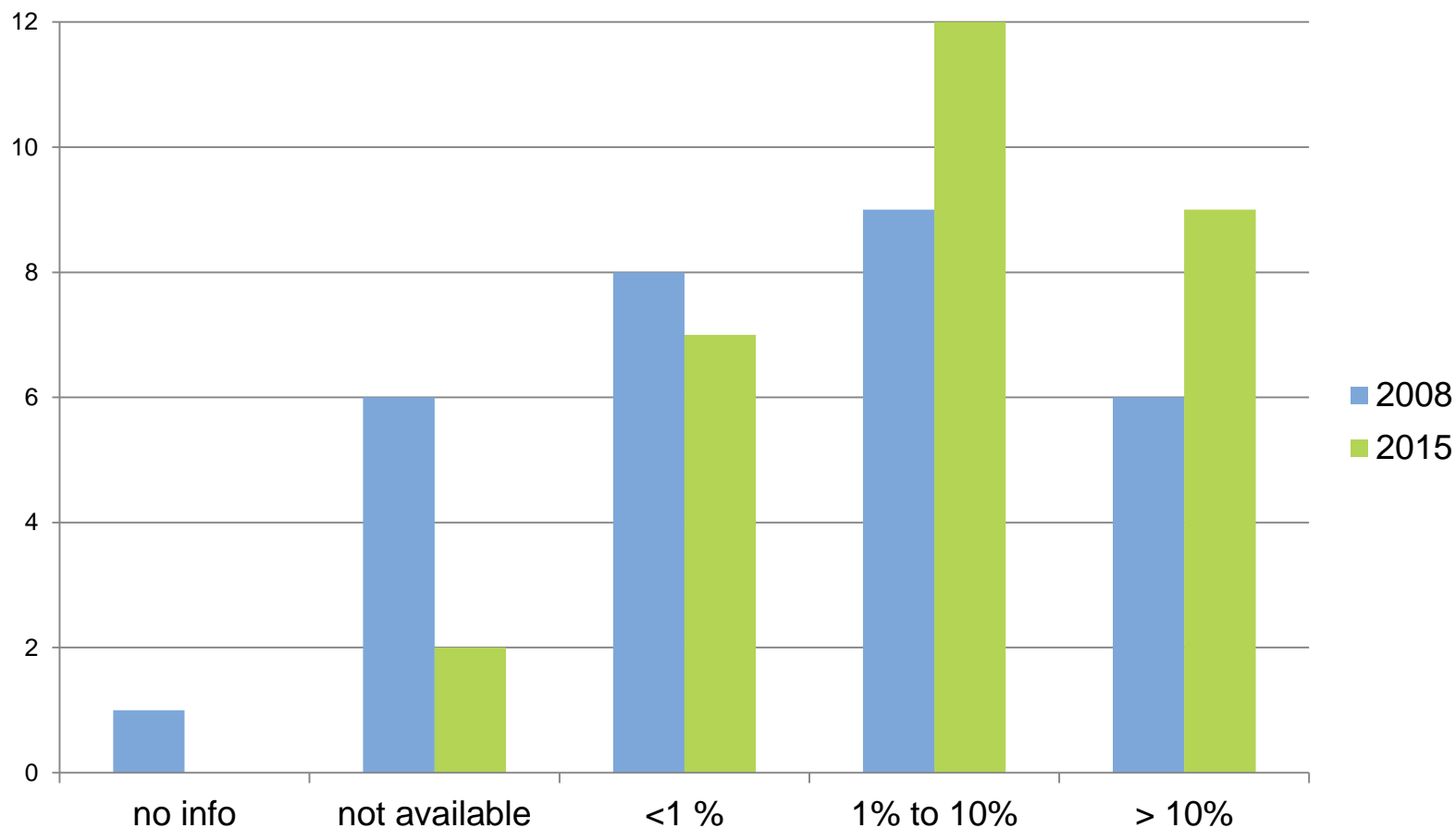
What's going on in Europe?

Opioid Substitution Treatment in community and prison

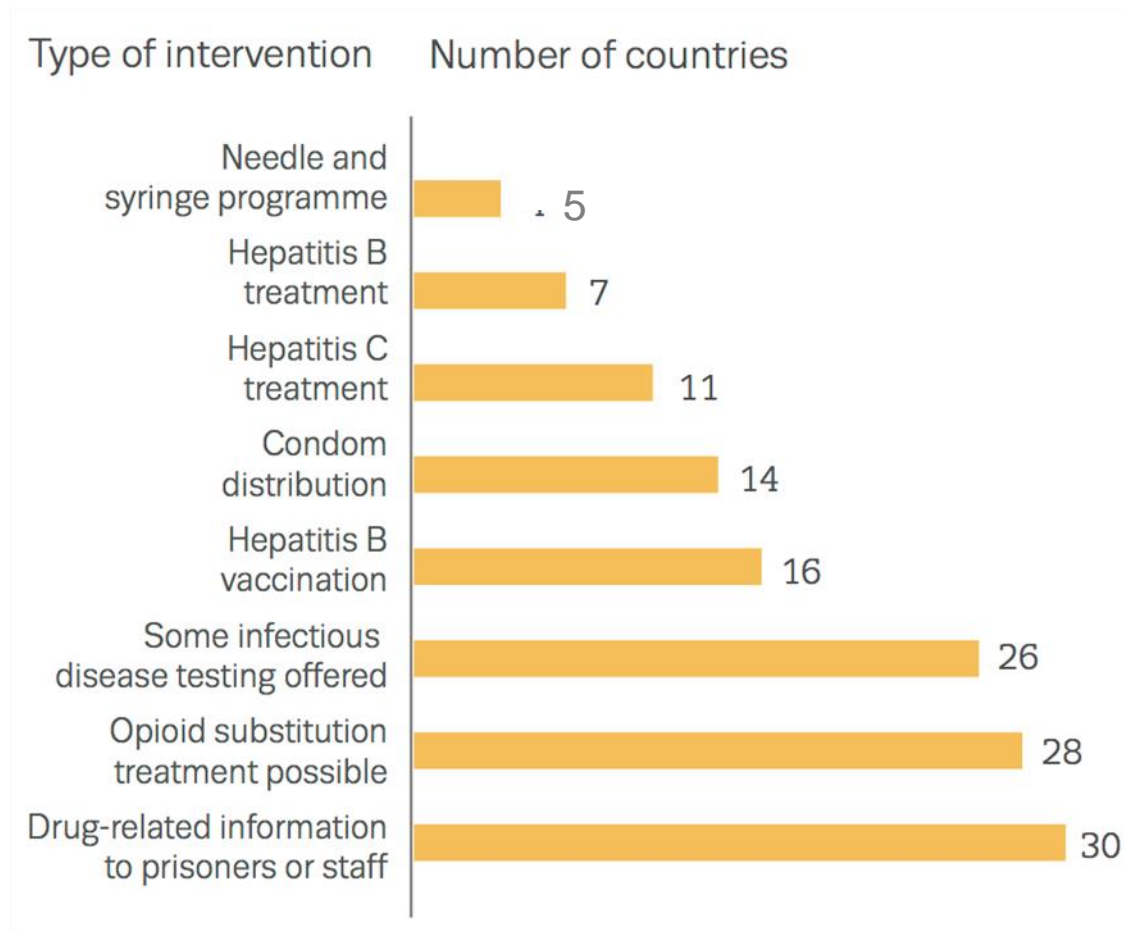
Cumulative number of 28 EU Member States, Norway and Turkey



Increasing trends in OST in prison



Availability of harm reduction interventions in prisons in Europe, 2015/16



Needle and Syringe Programmes in prison

Country	Date of introduction	Implementation /modality	Syringes distributed
Germany	1996	1 prison with 7 machines	NA
Spain	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All prisons - Distributed by sanitary staff - Hygienic kit with syringe, disinfecting towel, distilled water, condom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 1997 more than 200.000 2015: 4.500 syringes in 17 prisons (<2014)
Luxembourg	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On request by prisoner and provided by nurse - Kit of two syringes 	2015: 1807 and 40 kits
Portugal	2007	No activity	-----
Romania	2009	No activity	-----

Source: EMCDDA 2017: EDR 2017 - Workbooks Prison 2015-2016



Summary

- Responding to drug problem is complex issue, as the problem is complex and many actors involved
- To respond to a drug problem is necessary to identify its, considering specific contextual factors
- The selection of appropriate responses should be done on the basis of evidence, international guidelines and good practice
- Regardless of the evidence that exists, a response is unlikely to be effective if it is poorly implemented
- An effective implementation include three actions: put evidence into practice, implement partnerships, carrying out monitoring and evaluation



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www.emcdda.europa.eu/responses-guide

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