

*Vulnerable Groups, Addictions
and Health: Reduction of Risks
and Harm*

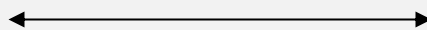
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Policy Study:

Socioeconomic factors



Addictions

- study focuses on mutually reinforcing factors of harmful use of licit drugs and the vulnerable socio-economic status of individual groups
- Implication for health policies and for mental health strategies at the national and EU level
- analysis of existing national strategies: Czech Republic, Poland, Germany
- building on existing evidence
- 12 semi-structured interviews between September and November 2022 in the Czech Republic

Factors - triangle



Vulnerabilities, Mental Health and Addictions:

- *socio-economic stress increase risks of harmful addictive behaviour*
- *Impacts of addictions on social environment (families, workplace, etc.*
- *Health risks multiply social risks*

Vulnerable groups

- ✓ **access to public services**
- ✓ **different sensitivities in association with harmful alcohol and tobacco use**
- ✓ **lower awareness about reducing risks and harm**
- ✓ **lower trust in mainstream sources of information**
- ✓ **addictions and social and economic stress are more interconnected**
- ✓ **mental health illness and addictions – f.e. schizophrenia and nikotin**

„when I really don't have it anymore, like I really don't , I'll borrow it from a girl. But it's not for the alcohol, but for the cigarettes or smaller home consumption“ (Interview)

„Different addictive substances, or gambling, have different levels of harmfulness and it is appropriate to differentiate the level of regulation according to the evidence we already have today“

(Jindřich Vobořil, National Anti-Drug Coordinator)

Recommendations

- ✓ **address social issues in addiction and health-related strategies**
- ✓ **mainstream addiction concerns into social policies**
- ✓ **improve evidence-based policy-making leading to reducing risks and reducing harm to the health of vulnerable groups**
- ✓ **improve access, especially through removing barriers and increasing availability, to public services, especially health care, education, counselling, for socially vulnerable groups**
- ✓ **work on implementation of EP recommendations proposed in its BECA report**
- ✓ **address information deficit**

Thank you

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