

Developing Services for Female Drug Users

Training Contents

In seven training modules participants are introduced to the special situation that female drug users find themselves in and discuss reasons for a gender-sensitive approach.

The modules cover issues such as:

- Cross cutting issues affecting female DU
- Addressing female drug users
- Gender-sensitive outreach skills
- Integrating female DU in existing services
- Creating special services for female DU
- Referral and adherence
- Women drug users in prison
- Effects of drug use in pregnancy
- Domestic violence
- Methamphetamine, women, and harm reduction
- Harm reduction for sex workers who use drugs
- Harm reduction, drug treatment, and pregnancy
- Gender-sensitive drug treatment
- Participatory needs assessment and planning
- Impact-oriented monitoring and evaluation
- Advocacy and community support

The training seeks to convey firsthand experience, tools and tips and encourages participants to contribute their own experience in working with women drug users. Discussing critical points and possible risks and drawing on practical experience with different approaches are important aspects of the training.

The general structure of the training follows the logic of assessment, trust-building, planning and implementation. However, variable modules may be selected according to the interests of the participants. Regional or national trainings of trainers are offered through international master-trainers. The training manual is available in English and Russian.

Special sessions focus on the situation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. These modules were developed by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) and the Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub.



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Developing Services for Female Drug Users

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Harm Reduction Network –
Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub





Developing Services for Female Drug Users

In recent years, harm reduction service providers across the world have noted a perplexing trend: even as the number of women drug users grows, their access to services remains decidedly low.

How can we provide women drug users with the services they need?

This new training programme for governmental and NGO service-providers developed by GTZ in cooperation with the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network and Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub is specifically tailored to meet the service needs of female drug users. The training deals explicitly with female drug users' needs around pregnancy, childcare, child custody, domestic violence, rape, marital rape, sex work, PMTCT, drug treatment, methamphetamines, and incarceration.

Participants will tackle the topic of where and how to access women drug users, because outreach to women needs special skills given the different settings and patterns of female drug use. They work on integrating services for women who use drugs into existing services – depending on the services that are already available and learn about components of a successful multi-stakeholder referral system.

The modules can be individually tailored to the needs and interests of the participants of each workshop.

Background

Grounded in an exhaustive literature review, face-to-face interviews with women drug users and service providers conducted over the past two years and the experience of experts around the world, this innovative training course highlights the specific needs of female drug users and introduces strategies by which service providers can meet them. It deploys a dynamic, interactive teaching methodology that effectively communicates strategies to service providers and allows for expedient implementation on the ground.

The Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) developed modules for this training that are specifically adapted to the needs of EECA countries. They are based upon long-standing experience and needs assessments and offer special insight on issues crucial in this region (see modules 2 and 3).

The course focuses on building the capacity of services to increase the uptake and adherence of female drug users and improve the quality of the services provided to them. It guides participants through the process of addressing female drug users, adapting harm reduction approaches to their needs and livelihoods, developing an outreach and referral system and follow-up, and advocating for strategies and services designed for the needs of female drug users.

In Eastern European and Central Asian countries, the training is conducted by master-trainers in cooperation between GTZ and EHRN.

Training Outline

Module 1	Welcome and Introduction
Module 2	Why focus on women drug users Cross cutting issues – overview
Spotlight:	Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Module 3	Optional cross-cutting issues: - Domestic Violence - Methamphetamine, women and Harm Reduction - Harm Reduction for Sex Workers who Use Drugs - Harm Reduction, Drug Treatment and Pregnancy - Gender-Sensitive Drug Treatment - Drug Using Women in Prison
Spotlight:	Effects of Drug Use in Pregnancy
Module 4	Addressing Female Drug Users - Outreach to Female Drug Users - Integrating Women Drug Users in Existing Services - Creating Special Services for Female Drug Users
Module 5	Referral and Adherence
Module 6	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
Module 7	Wrap Up, Feedback and Closure

The **Eurasian Harm Reduction Network** is a regional network supporting, developing, and advocating for harm reduction approaches in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Balkans.

The **Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub** for Europe and Central Asia provides technical assistance for programs and services which aim to serve the health and rights needs of people who use drugs.

GTZ is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations working for the German Federal government and other national or international clients, public or private sector. GTZ funds the Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub together with WHO since 2004.