

## **2<sup>nd</sup> European Harm Reduction Conference Basel, Switzerland | May 7-9, 2014**

### **Mission Statement**

#### **The Context**

Switzerland has a world-renowned reputation for pioneering harm reduction approaches. Nevertheless harm reduction in Switzerland faces the same political pressures as those in other countries. This pressure combined with the ongoing economic crisis has created a critical time for harm reduction in the region.

Focusing on these key areas for harm reduction the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health FOPH together with the European Harm Reduction Network (EuroHRN) are organizing the 2nd European Harm Reduction Conference in Basel in May 2014.

#### **Involved Institutions**

This conference is organized by the European Harm Reduction Network (EuroHRN) and the Federal Office of Public Health FOPH. The Swiss Office for the Coordination of Addiction Facilities (Infodrog) and the canton of Basel-City are also involved in the organization of the conference.

#### **Target Group**

The European Harm Reduction Conference is aimed primarily at professionals that work in the areas of harm reduction, treatment, prevention, medicine, research, law enforcement, and politics. This event will be of interest to practitioners working in the field of harm reduction and drug policy as well as decision makers.

#### **Aims of Conference**

Above all, the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Harm Reduction Conference will aim to promote at a professional level, and further develop the concept of harm reduction in the different European countries. The latest harm reduction research results, as well as, current developments and challenges posed to the harm reduction movement will be presented and widely discussed at this event. The conference will also focus on the impact of drug policy reform upon harm reduction, present existing regulation models in different countries and ensuring barrier-free support to services for people who use drugs. The conference will advocate for an evidence based drug policy which reduces harm both to individuals and society. The conference demands that harm reduction plays a central and vital role in national drug action plans and will therefore stipulate the need for a broad offer of harm reduction services throughout Europe. Furthermore, the conference is an appropriate platform in which to create a link between national and international developments in drug policies in general whilst considering the “United Nations General Assembly Special Session on drug policy” in 2016, and also allow for the promotion and exchange of knowledge between relevant key stakeholders

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Harm Reduction Conference will also be a fantastic opportunity for delegates to network; dialogue and discussion around models of good practice from around the globe will be actively encouraged in an environment which is conducive to knowledge exchange.

## **Major Topics of Conference**

The programme was developed in cooperation with a Swiss and an International Steering Committee, ensuring a wide range of expertise in research, harm reduction programming and politics. The programme will focus on two areas:

- *Innovative harm reduction practice*  
Day one of the event will examine the key values of harm reduction as well considering new challenges and responses.
- *Drug policy reform and harm reduction*  
Day two will focus on the political context in which harm reduction operates and on the fast changing context of drug policy reform.

Starting with questions about the future of harm reduction followed by the actual challenges and needs of the praxis of harm reduction and the political conditions for a successful drug policy the conference will be closed by showing ways of successful advocacy for a human drug policy.

An interactive programme will combine presentations with workshops and trainings and side visits of harm reduction programmes in Basel.

For more information: [www.harmreduction.ch](http://www.harmreduction.ch)