

New trends in harm reduction in Europe: progress made – challenges ahead

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Based on monitoring data from 30 countries, this presentation will give an overview of trends in the provision of harm reduction measures, highlighting the range and availability as well as the level of coverage of selected interventions in the European region. Important differences in harm reduction service provision between countries and sub-regions will be addressed. New trends in the level of provision of harm reduction services following saturation of demand for services in some countries and policies of economic austerity in others will be described. A growing evidence base requires for the broadening of the 'service portfolio' of harm reduction facilities, for example by integration and/or co-location of diagnostic testing and treatment of infectious diseases. New and not so new psychoactive substances and the increasing heterogeneity of the target group(s) for harm reduction poses additional challenges for developing new outreach concepts and communication channels, such as social media and the internet.