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Integrated System of Drug Prevention Quality Evaluation in the Czech Republic: National Quality Standards



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Standards and Certification

- National `Professional Qualification Standards of Providers of Primary Drugs Prevention Programmes`
 - further on the `Standards`
 - Standards of the specific drug prevention – including legal drugs
- Drug prevention programmes undergo the Certification process:
 - Assessment and formal approval process of a certified prevention programme that meets prevention quality and comprehensiveness criteria
 - When meeting the Standards requirements a programme is awarded the `Certificate`



Brief history of National Standards

- 1999 Phare Twinning project 2000 `Drug Policy`
- 2001 1st official version of the Standards PT final report
 - General discussion of the Standards within professional public
- 2003 strenghtening of the National Drug Policy
 - Government Resolustion no. 549/2003.
- 2004 Final phase of the Standards for the ME
 - First draft of the Certification process
- Aug 2005 official approval of the Standards by the ME
- Selection and training of competent certification workers and...
- consecutive initiation of the Certification process.



Standards description

- The Standards is and extensive document defining in the general and specific part:
 - Basic terms and concept in prevention,
 - Target groups of preventive programmes
 - Principles of effectivity in drug prevention.
- Each quality programme should meet the criteria:
 - eg. accessibility, focus, respect to klients` rights, clients` needs assessment, personal & organizational arrangement of the programme, material & technical background etc.
 - Criteria are scored
- Specific part of the Standards focuses on particular 5 types of programmes to be certified.



Certification process

- Before sending application form to the Certification Agency it is necessary to know:
 - the Certification Code,
 - the Local Investigation Methodology
 - the Standards
 - Inspection of the documentation and preparation of the programme (eval. of preparation)
- Local investigation by the Certification team (CT)
 - 3 trained prevention professionals
 - can also be understood as process evaluation
- Final report is elaborated
- The motion from the CT is finally approved by the Committee for the Certification Conferral of the ME



Certification principles and main benefits

- **Basic principles:**
 - Optionality (expenses participation; 1/3 organisation)
 - The Certification process is transparent and independent
 - The use of professionally defined and generally accepted criteria (the Standards) for the assessment
- **Main benefits:**
 - Only certified programmes are eligible for funding
 - Target groups should prefer certified programmes
 - Continual press on quality and effectivity of certified programmes (Certificate has a limited period of validity)



Evaluation

- Evaluation throughout 2008
- Questionnaires sent to evaluators and institutions who went through the certification process
- Based on outcomes the Standards reviewed & revised
- 18 December 2008 new version of Standards approved
- Change proposed eg.: in person inspection of the programme to be certified as a compulsory part of the certification process



- Focus on drug prevention only
 - Other types of risk behavior are missing → disproportion resulting in circumvention of Standards of PP
 - The Standards are de facto used in NGO sector only
 - eg. Police or other public bodies are not subjected to the certification process
 - Only certified programmes eligible for funding:
 - **But** – only from the ME and the Prague Municipality budgets
- School principals often do not respect certified programmes or do not understand / know of advantages of such certified programmes



- LJMU, UK lead a group working on the **European drug prevention quality standards**



- After pilot implementation and evaluation of the EU Standards comes the crucial phase...



- ...to form on the EU level self-confident and strong network of prevention researchers & professionals & officials...



- ...able to adapt & implement EU Prev. Standards in national levels...
- ...able to introduce EU Prev. Standards into the EU level...



Thank you for your attention 😊

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